



Focus on: Fulbright Research Grant

Happy Friday!

For those of you interested in a full grant, you will need to write a proposal for what you plan to do. A Fulbright full grant provides funding for you to carry out the project of your choice. That project could be an extension of work you are already doing or something new, provided you have the qualifications to carry out the work. Many students find projects by consulting with faculty with whom they are currently researching or by talking with faculty whose work interests them.

Remember that faculty are usually familiar with the people who are working on their topics domestically and internationally and can be an amazing resource for you. Internet searches on your topic can also be useful. Who is publishing on the topic? What are the top universities in your chosen country doing on this topic?

In this document you will find information about 1) what the proposal includes; 2) a link to tips on strengthening your proposal. Many UIC students are successful with full grant applications, so start working on developing your proposal now!

The next post will follow up with details about letters of affiliation, which many candidates obtain from their proposed sponsoring unit. If you want assistance with planning a proposal, please follow up with Beth Powers at bpowers@uic.edu.

THE PROPOSAL BASICS:

This 2-page document outlines the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of what you are proposing for your Fulbright year. If you are pursuing a research project, developing a strong, feasible and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright application. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the program summary for your host country in order to verify the type of grant you can propose. Depending on the country, applicants may also propose to complete a graduate degree program. Some countries have specific arrangements or awards for graduate study and applicants may propose to complete a graduate degree program. In this case, applicants should focus on demonstrating the reasons for pursuing the proposed program at a particular institution in the host country.

Whether you are applying for a research project or a degree program, the proposal should indicate a clear commitment to the host country community and a description of how you will engage with it. (copied from <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/academic>)

Format: single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins

PAST UIC FULBRIGHT AWARD WINNER PROPOSAL TITLES:

Rebecca Liebman "Understanding Barriers to Saving Preterm Babies Born in Slum Areas in India" (India)

Aqsa Durrani "Access to Health Services Amongst Syrian Refugees in Jordan" (Jordan)

Lan Dam "Vietnamese Perceptions of Health Related Stigmas" (Vietnam)

Tomas Glizewski "Cross-Cultural Study of Advertising by MNCs in Warsaw" (Poland)

Oisin Kenny "Analyzing Climate Change Adaptation in Tamil Nadu" (India)

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OR RESEARCH:

General considerations

It is important that you have adequate formal training for the study that you wish to pursue and that your language skills be commensurate with the requirements of the project. The advice below can guide you in pulling together a proposal. Also, check out the Fulbright website advice: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips/academic>

- Graduating seniors often attend regular university lectures, but they can also carry out independent research. They should describe what they plan to study and how they wish to study it in terms as specific as possible.

- Proposals may include research in archives, interviews, oral histories, translation, lab work, attending university classes, running data, individual lessons or tutoring, language study, internships, participant observation, pilot studies, case studies, and other methods of learning about the proposed topic.
- Undergraduates should not expect close academic supervision, and should be prepared to supplement lectures with independent work.
- Graduate students, as well advanced-degree candidates proposing research for theses and dissertations, will be expected to work independently without close supervision.
- Ph.D. candidates should indicate when they expect to complete preliminary or comprehensive examinations, and whether their project statements have been accepted or approved as dissertation proposals.
- Candidates in the creative and performing arts should submit projects indicating their reasons for selecting a particular country, the form their work will take and the results they hope to obtain.
- To submit a proposal of the highest quality it is highly advisable for you to find a faculty mentor at UIC to offer advice as you refine your proposal or seek affiliations abroad. OSSP can provide direction in finding a mentor if you are unable to find one.

In other words, if there could be any question regarding the feasibility of your project or your background or ability to conduct the project, address the issue directly. Enrolled students are urged to consult professors in their major fields and their FPAs about the feasibility of their proposed projects.

What to include:

The best proposals begin with good ideas. Start by putting your ideas on paper, and list the goals and objectives of your project. Share your ideas with your Fulbright Program Adviser, your academic adviser and professional colleagues in your field. As you work on your proposal, consider the following questions and remember your audience. Avoid discipline-specific jargon. You will need to explain your methodology and make it clear why you are the person to undertake this study. Be as specific as you can be about the institutions, individuals and programs with whom you will be affiliated. Make certain to address why this is a significant topic to study and why the host country is the best place to study this topic. The individuals reading your proposal want you get to the point about the "who, what, when, where, why and how" of the project. In a direct and persuasive manner address the following:

- With whom do you propose to work?
- What do you propose to do? What is exciting, new or unique about your project? What contribution will the project make to the Fulbright objective of promoting cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding?
- When will you carry out your study or research? Include a timeline.
- Where do you propose to conduct your study or research? Why is important to go abroad to carry out your project?
- Why do you want to do it? What is important or significant about the project?
- How will you carry out your work? All students should discuss methodology and goals in their statements.
- How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
- How will the culture and politics of the host country impact your work?
- How do the resources of the host country support your project?
- If employing such research methods as extensive interviewing and the use of questionnaires, how will you get locate your subjects?
- Is your language facility adequate? If not, how will you accomplish your work?
- How is your project of value to the host country?

If you will be interviewing subjects or doing other work related to human subjects and hope to eventually publish this work, you should contact the university's IRB office for information on what types of approval might be needed for your project.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Best wishes,

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