

TEN MYTHS ABOUT FULBRIGHT

Fulbright Scholar Program



MYTH 1 Fulbrights are only for senior faculty.

There are opportunities for scholars at all levels. Grants vary in their requirements. Some countries require senior scholars, but many seek and accept a range of scholars, including adjunct faculty. In fact, some countries encourage participation by junior scholars and offer special awards for them. There are also Fulbright Scholar awards suitable for college and university administrators and for artists and professionals such as lawyers, journalists, musicians, filmmakers, scientists and engineers.



MYTH 2 Accepting a Fulbright means leaving your family behind.

Fulbright Scholar benefits often include maintenance and travel funds for accompanying dependents. In some parts of the world, a tuition allowance is available for the education of accompanying school-age children. A Fulbright grant can provide unparalleled opportunities for the whole family.



MYTH 3 A Fulbright Scholar award provides little benefit to the scholar's home institution.

Fulbright Scholars act as catalysts in internationalizing an entire campus by linking their U.S. home institution with the host institution in a long-lasting partnership, attracting foreign students and scholars to their home institution, and inspiring their U.S. students to study abroad. SRI International (2002) surveyed a random sample of 1,004 U.S. Fulbright Scholar alumni and found that nearly three quarters of returning scholars have initiated educational exchange between home and host institutions and incorporated aspects of the Fulbright experience into courses and teaching methods.



MYTH 4 Only faculty from large universities are awarded Fulbrights.

Faculty Fulbrighters come from large and small universities, liberal arts and comprehensive colleges and community colleges. Indeed, currently the program is mounting special outreach efforts to attract more applicants from liberal arts colleges, community colleges and minority-serving institutions.



MYTH 5 Fulbrights are only for research.

Just 24 percent of Fulbright Scholar awards are for research only. Most Fulbrights are for lecturing or combined lecturing and research.





MYTH 6 You have to speak a foreign language fluently in order to apply.

Only some Fulbright Scholar awards require fluency in a foreign language. Most grants—especially lecturing grants—require English, although research awards may require knowledge of the host country language. Francophone Africa, however, generally requires French, and Latin American countries usually require Spanish or Portuguese.



MYTH 7 Fulbright grants require an invitation from a host institution overseas.

This is true for some countries, but not for others. Applicants should check the award listing to confirm if an invitation is needed. CIES, in collaboration with overseas Fulbright Commissions and Public Affairs Sections at U.S. embassies, can help you make connections with possible host institutions, if the country requires it. Directories of past Fulbright Scholars on the CIES Web site are another resource for learning about prospective hosts.



MYTH 8 Fulbright awards are all for one academic year.

Awards range from two months to an academic year. Awards for less than one year are increasingly common. It is also possible in some cases to extend a Fulbright award for another term or year.



MYTH 9 You have to be on sabbatical to afford a Fulbright Scholar award.

While you're not likely to get rich on a Fulbright stipend, it is possible to live comfortably on stipends for a number of the grants offered. Stipends and benefits vary from country to country. You can get information on stipends and benefits for awards you are interested in before you apply from the CIES Web site or Fulbright Awards Catalog.



MYTH 10 Applying for a Fulbright is a time-consuming, grueling exercise.

You will have to devote some quality time and energy to preparing a successful application, but most grant programs require a similar effort, as we streamline our online application. You can request a printed version of our Fulbright Awards Catalog on our Web site by clicking "Request Info". In addition, we have created Tips for Applying for a Fulbright, which is also available on our Web site.



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