

J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

2017 Annual Report



The rapprochement of peoples is only possible when differences of culture and outlook are respected and appreciated rather than feared or condemned, when the common bond of human dignity is recognized as the essential bond for a peaceful world.”

Senator J. William Fulbright



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Front Cover Photo: Naqsh Mansoor, a 2017-2018 Fulbright Foreign Student Program grantee from Pakistan pursuing a master's degree at Boise State University's Micron School of Materials Science and Engineering, is working to create better materials for water filtration systems. Mansoor is Boise State's first graduate student to use two-dimensional materials to improve water filtration technology. | *Photo courtesy of Allison Corona*

Back Cover Photo: U.S. Fulbrighters to Germany and other European countries visit the Berlin Town Hall (Rotes Rathaus) during the March 2017 Berlin Seminar



Letter from the Chair



I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. I have had the pleasure of meeting with many Fulbrighters over the past decade, as U.S. Ambassador to Australia and now as Chair of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, and I continue to be amazed each year by the sheer talent that Fulbright attracts, the scope of Fulbrighters' work, and their impact on the world. The Fulbright Program is more than just the largest and most successful educational exchange program in the world; it is an economic engine, a force for peace, and a window into the future.

In 2017, the Fulbright Program has continued to deepen our partnerships, and prepare us for a dynamic and rapidly accelerating future. Throughout the world, Fulbright reflects and advances America's most cherished values of liberty, equality, and open exchange of ideas.

Since the Fulbright Program's establishment in 1946, it has been a catalyst for attracting students and scholars from around the world to the United States through both government and private exchange programs. International educational exchange produces extraordinary benefits for the United States, and Americans are receiving an enormous return on their nation's investment in building individuals' relationships, knowledge, and leadership skills. In 2016, international exchange students brought \$39 billion into the U.S. economy.

U.S. Fulbright students and scholars study, teach and conduct research overseas, thereby developing their skills, learning languages, and preparing themselves to succeed in a global economy. Our partner nations invest nearly \$95 million per year to send accomplished students and scholars to American colleges and universities through the Fulbright Program. Every day in the United States and around the globe, Fulbright grantees and 380,000 alumni apply their unique perspectives, intellects, and creativity to address such issues as cyber security, public health, education, environmental sustainability, and food and economic security. U.S. Fulbrighters build businesses that create new jobs across the United States, and Fulbrighters from around the world create new opportunities in their home countries.

Fulbright also keeps us safer. As Secretary of Defense James Mattis said while commanding our forces in Afghanistan, “If you don’t fully fund the State Department, then I need to buy more ammunition.” The Fulbright exchange is an invaluable means of keeping us secure, and is far less costly than conflict. Fulbright agreements have helped normalize relations with former adversaries, and have served as a cornerstone of many of our alliances and partnerships. For example, the very first treaty between the United States and Australia was Fulbright. Fulbright links our ambassadors personally to the host governments and provides a positive source of collaboration between individuals from different nations. Because of Fulbright, future leaders learn to solve common issues, and in the process dissolve stereotypes, including anti-American sentiments, and build understanding.

After 71 years, Fulbright represents and reaffirms America’s long-term, commitment with other sovereign nations. Historically, America has built its strength not only on wealth and military power, but also on keeping its word and respecting the rule of law. This helps deepen our relationships around the world. In fact, 37 foreign heads of state or government have come to know America as Fulbright participants. It has also inspired other nations to invest millions of dollars in Fulbright over several decades, knowing we made these long-term investments together.

This year’s report presents profiles of a number of Fulbrighters who have performed exceptional service during their exchange. Their actions – ranging from teaching English to North Korean defector students to volunteering to assist those affected by natural disasters in the United States – provide a snapshot into the service aspect of the Fulbright Program worldwide. We are also profiling a number of Fulbrighters who are U.S. military veterans or who graduated from U.S. service academies. The stories of their service to communities around the world and their quests for knowledge, understanding, and progress, demonstrate the important legacy of the Fulbright Program.

In *The Price of Empire*, Senator Fulbright wrote that, “Fostering these – leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures – was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program that I was privileged to sponsor in the U.S. Senate over forty years ago.” The Fulbright Program’s ability to realize this vision is reflected on every page of this year’s annual report.



AMBASSADOR JEFFREY L. BLEICH

Chair of J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

The Fulbright Program is more than just the largest and most successful educational exchange program in the world; it is an economic engine, a force for peace, and a window into the future.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

Established by the U.S. Congress, the 12-member bipartisan J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board convenes quarterly and selects participants, sets policies, and also promotes the Fulbright Program to audiences around the world. The President of the United States appoints the board members—who come from academic, business, cultural and public life—to serve three-year terms.



Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich

Chair 2017; Vice Chair 2016
Member since 2015

Former U.S. Ambassador to Australia;
Partner, *Dentons US LLP*
San Francisco, California

CHAIR



Sam Brown

Member since 2016

Political Advisor, Fundraiser and Organizer,
Member of the Board and Treasurer, *Aspen Music Festival and School*
Aspen, Colorado



Christopher Fonzone

Member since 2017

Partner, *Sidley Austin LLP*
Arlington, VA



Anita McBride

Vice Chair 2017; Chair 2010-2011
Member since 2009

Executive in Residence, *Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies School of Public Affairs American University*
Washington, D.C.

VICE CHAIR



Kristie Canegallo

Member since 2017

Former White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation; Former National Security Council Staff Member
Washington, DC



Maneesh Goyal

Member since 2014

CEO of *Pineapple Co*, Founder/President *MKG and Live in the Grey*
New York, New York



Dr. Markos Kounalakis

Member since 2017

Visiting Fellow at *Hoover Institution, Stanford University*; Senior Fellow at the *Center for Media, Data and Society at Central European University, Hungary*; President and Publisher Emeritus of *Washington Monthly*; Columnist for *The Sacramento Bee* and *McClatchy-Tribune News*

San Francisco, CA



Mark Pryor

Member since 2017

Attorney, Former U.S. Senator from Arkansas; Former Attorney General of Arkansas
Washington, D.C.



Rudy Mehrbani

Member since 2017

Spitzer Fellow and Senior Counsel, *The Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law*

Washington, DC



Natalie Quillian

Member since 2017

Principal, *Boston Consulting Group (BCG)*
Washington, DC



Shervin Pishevar

Member since 2015

Visionary Technology Entrepreneur, Angel Investor, Published Researcher, Start-Up and Incubation Expert

San Francisco, California



Roberto Rodríguez

Member since 2017

President and CEO, *Teach Plus*
Washington, DC

Donna Brazile

Member since 2014

Political Strategist, Adjunct Professor, Author, Columnist
Television Political Commentator

Washington, D.C.

Lisa M. Caputo

Member since 2010

Executive Vice President of Marketing and Communications, *The Travelers Companies, Inc.*

New York, New York

Betty Castor

Chair 2015; Vice Chair 2013–2014
Member since 2011

Former President, *University of South Florida*

Tampa, Florida

Gabrielle Giffords

Member since 2013

Former U.S. Representative, Arizona; Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Alumna to Mexico (1993–1994)

Tucson, Arizona

Joseph Falk

Member since 2014

Public Policy Advisor, *Akerman LLP*

Miami, Florida

Emma Sepúlveda

Member since 2015

Foundation Professor and Director Latino Research Center, *University of Nevada*

Reno, Nevada

Dr. Laura Skandera Trombley

Chair 2016; Vice Chair 2015
Member since 2013

President, *The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens*

Huntington, California



Fulbright Alumni Honors and Achievements



Since the Fulbright Program's inception in 1946, more than 380,000 Fulbrighters from over 180 countries and territories have participated in the program. Among the many Fulbright alumni are:

Pulitzer Prize recipients:

82 

Nobel Prize Laureates:

59 

Heads of State or Government:

37 

U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipients:

16 

Fulbright alumni reach new heights and achieve recognition every year. Listed here are selected notable achievements and honors bestowed on Fulbright alumni in 2017. We are proud of the Fulbright Program's legacy in selecting current and future leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

Nobel Laureates

DR. MICHEAL ROSBASH | Physiology or Medicine

Dr. Michael Rosbash received the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, with Dr. Jeffrey C. Hall and Dr. Michael W. Young, for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm. As a 1965-1966 Fulbright U.S. Student to France, Rosbash conducted research in chemistry at the Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique in Paris. Rosbash now serves as the Peter Gruber Endowed Chair in Neuroscience and Professor of Biology at Brandeis University and as an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

DR. KIP THORNE | Physics

Dr. Kip Thorne received the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics, with Dr. Rainer Weiss and Dr. Barry C. Barish, for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) and the observation of gravitational waves. In 1966, Thorne received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to France, where he taught theoretical physics at Les Houches Summer School of Theoretical Physics. He is now the Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology.

MacArthur Fellow

DR. DEREK PETERSON | Professor

Dr. Derek Peterson, a 1993-1994 Fulbright U.S. Student Program grantee to Kenya, was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2017. Peterson is a professor of history and African studies at the University of Michigan, specializing in the African experience of colonialism. In 1993, Dr. Peterson spent one year in Kenya as a Fulbright U.S. Student researching the relationship between church and state.

Awards and Achievements

DIOGO COSTA AMARANTE | Golden Bear

Portuguese Fulbright alumnus and filmmaker Diogo Costa Amarante was awarded the 2017 Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the 67th Berlinale (Berlin International Film Festival). He received the award for the film he wrote and directed, *Cidade Pequena* (*Small Town*). Born in Porto, Portugal, in 1982, Amarante completed a degree in law before making his directing debut with the short documentary *Jumate/Jumate*, which screened at numerous international festivals and won several awards. Amarante was the recipient of a 2010-2011 Fulbright Foreign Student Program grant and completed his master's degree in film studies at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

ASHLEY FURE | Guggenheim Fellowship

Composer Ashley Fure, a 2013-2014 Fulbright U.S. Student Program participant to France, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in April 2017, and was named a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her composition *Bound to the Bow*. The piece premiered in June 2016 at Lincoln Center in New York City. An assistant professor of music at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire since 2015, Fure has won numerous other awards, including a Foundation for Contemporary Arts award in 2016. Fure was chosen for the Guggenheim Fellowship from nearly 3,000 applicants; her work combines acoustic and electroacoustic concert music as well as intermedia art.

SARAH ISLAM | Newcombe Fellowship

Sarah Islam, a 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Program grantee to Jordan, received one of 21 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Islam was awarded the Newcombe Fellowship for her dissertation, entitled *Blasphemy as a Legal Category in Early Medieval Islamic History*, in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation's largest and most prestigious award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values.

JOHN LITHGOW | Emmy

At the 69th Emmy Awards ceremony in September 2017, John Lithgow was honored with the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his portrayal of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the Netflix series *The Crown*. In 1967, Lithgow completed a Fulbright U.S. Student Award to the United Kingdom at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

SARAH PERRINE | Global Human Settlements Award

As a Fulbright U.S. Student Program participant in 2002-2003, Sarah Perrine researched policies promoting social inclusion for Bulgaria's Roma community. She now serves as CEO of the Trust for Social Achievement (TSA), which supports access to education, income opportunities and social inclusion for Bulgaria's disadvantaged. TSA received the "Global Human Settlements Award on Outstanding Contribution" at the 12th Global Forum on Human Settlements that took place on October 30-31, 2017, at the UN headquarters in New York City. The award recognizes TSA's program on Building a Better Future for All implemented in three cities in Bulgaria.

In Memoriam**JOHN ASHBERY | Poet**

Fulbright alumnus and Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet John Ashbery, who published 28 books of poems, died on September 3, 2017, at the age of 90. Ashbery credited his time in France as a U.S. Fulbright Student in 1955 for awakening his appreciation of French poetry.

JOHNNY MEKOA | Jazz Musician

Johnny Mekoa, jazz legend and South African Fulbright alumnus, died on July 3, 2017. In 1991, Mekoa received a Fulbright Foreign Student award to study music at Indiana University. He established the Music Academy of Gauteng in 1994, teaching jazz to children from impoverished backgrounds. The center was awarded the prestigious International Jazz Education Network Award for five consecutive years. Mekoa also received the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for South African citizens who excelled in arts, culture, literature, music, journalism, and sport.

RULA QUAWAS | Women's Rights Advocate

Rula Quawas, 57, a prominent academic and champion of women's advancement in Jordan, died on July 25, 2017, in Amman, Jordan. As a graduate student at the University of Jordan, she focused her studies on feminism in literature, particularly American literature. Later, as a professor and dean there, she became the first academic to introduce courses in feminism. In 2006, she founded the university's Women's Studies Center. She was later removed as dean of the faculty of foreign languages after she encouraged her female students to undertake a video project in which they exposed the sexual harassment they endured on campus. In 2013, she was named a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Champlain College in Vermont. She was also a finalist for the State Department's International Women of Courage Award in 2013.

Inside the Lives of North Korean Defectors

JULIA LURIE | Fulbright ETA 2012-2013

Secretive
dating, nostalgia
for the north,
and other
surprising things
I learned about
during my year
with refugees of
the Hermit
Kingdom.

Jae stands nervously in front of the crowd of South Korean high schoolers, “Do North Korean students often date each other?” one student wants to know. Jae, a tall 23-year-old North Korean defector, grins. They do, he says, but secretly. Because students are reprimanded for showing affection, he explains, “if you like someone you often say, ‘Let’s become friends,’ which is basically the same thing as ‘Will you go out with me?’”

The questions keep coming: How long is military service in North Korea? Do schools provide students with lunch? Do you want to go back?

Jae, one of dozens of defectors who speak at South Korean schools for government-sponsored “unification education” sessions, responds to the last question diplomatically. He wants to visit his extended family, but he probably wouldn’t want to live in North Korea again “because of the bad memories.”

Fulbright and the North Korean Defectors Program

The second-largest Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program (ETA) in the world is in South Korea, administered by the Korean-American Educational Commission (KAEC). The program annually places approximately 120 recent American college graduates in South Korean elementary, middle and high schools to assist in teaching English. A special component of the Fulbright ETA program is the North Korean Defectors Program, wherein American Fulbrighters volunteer as English tutors for North Korean defectors. Last year, 62 Fulbright ETAs volunteered for this program, teaching approximately 135 defector students throughout South Korea at nine different aid centers, three special North Korean defector schools, and a Fulbright English Club held at KAEC's office. In addition to the volunteer program, starting in 2017-2018, a small number of full-time ETAs will be placed at special schools for North Korean defector students.

Jae grew up in a North Korean town that bordered the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two countries; once in a while, thick clouds of balloons from South Korea would drift through the sky and land on the ground. They were filled by human rights activists in the south with USB drives and pamphlets condemning the dictatorial regime in Pyongyang. The police would snatch them up as soon as they reached the ground. But when Jae went into the mountains, away from people, he would see dozens of balloons snagged in bushes and trees. After his father died and the government stopped giving his family enough money for food, Jae decided that if there was one thing he wanted the world to know about North Korea, it was that even though the country emerged from the famine of the late 1990s, many people still starve today.

He fled five years ago. Now a junior in college in Seoul studying international relations, Jae lives less than 100 miles from his hometown. He has found that many South Koreans remain fascinated by the prospect of meeting a defector from the north, but have no clue that more than 25,000 of them now live in their country.

I began meeting North Korean refugees in 2012 when I lived for a year in Gwangju, a mid-size city in the southern region of South Korea. Once a week, I mentored and taught English to defectors at a refugee reintegration center. When I tell this to people, they're eager to hear about what the defectors are like, and I tell them that the two middle school girls I worked with were just like most other middle school girls I know—sometimes giggly, sometimes moody and tired of school. Over the course of the year, we made our way through present and past tenses, saw *World War Z*, went bowling, took walks around the reservoir near our apartments, and celebrated birthdays. I introduced them to chocolate cake, and they introduced me to a spicy bean sprout dish.

One of the few moments when the subject of North Korea came up was when one student walked into the classroom, beaming, and told me in an excited jumble of Korean and English that earlier that week, her brother and grandmother had arrived in South Korea. Sure I had misunderstood, I drew a rough picture of the two Koreas on a piece of paper, and then two stick figures with arrows going in a half moon, from North Korea to Seoul. (It's virtually impossible to cross the heavily mined DMZ, so almost all defectors travel through China and Southeast Asia before flying to Seoul.) She nodded excitedly. Two weeks later, we had a new member of our class: a 10-year-old boy, wearing a red plaid shirt and jeans, who smiled shyly as another English teacher wrote out the letters of the alphabet and sounded out, "C-A-T."

Only a few dozen defectors have agreed to talk with, or be photographed by, the press. Many feel it's not worth their time. Some fear that their families

back home could be punished for their escape (the names of all defectors in this article have been changed). But during my time working as a teacher and journalist in South Korea, I got to know a range of defectors: Some were middle school students whom I tutored, and others, like Jae, were adults I reached out to, hoping to learn more about life in a notoriously sealed-off corner of the world.

Sometimes, their stories of survival matched the bleak, harrowing depictions of North Korea that we typically see in the news. Jae became so hungry as a child that he had taken to eating tree bark. A middle-aged woman who now works at a defector-run **radio station** in Seoul told me that when she arrived in South Korea, she assumed that the heaps of rice and hard-boiled eggs that greeted her at the defector integration center were some sort of propagandistic joke. In North Korea, she said, a hard-boiled egg traditionally was given to a person who was dying of hunger: Either the nutrients would help them survive, or it was a satisfying last meal.

Human rights violations in North Korea have been **painstakingly documented** by the **Database Center for North Korean Human Rights**, which surveys defectors about the abuses they witnessed in the north. The first question reads, “Did you witness executions in North Korea?” It is followed by a table with columns headers including, “Name of victim,” “Age of victim,” “Date of execution.” Another question asks, “Are you aware of biological experimentation on live humans in North Korea?” A chalkboard in the center’s office tallies up abuses that nearly 15,000 defectors have reported; in June of this year, the number read “50,528.”

Yet, many also make clear that they don’t simply see their prior lives as hell on earth—they describe a more complex relationship to a country that some of them still call “home.” On a humid afternoon in June of last year, 30 college students, all defectors living in Seoul, sat in a classroom amid water bottles and backpacks, working on personal narratives. They were participants in a **writing program** run by the **North Korea Strategy Center**, a nonprofit that aims to increase awareness about them and what their experience is like.

One student wrote: “In North Korea, since we were out in the fields farming and actively interacting with one another, it was easier to become friends with my peers. In South Korea, friends interacted with each other by talking about celebrities, playing games, or singing karaoke. Friends didn’t feel like friends.”

“In North Korea, people tend to sleep early due to electricity shortages,” wrote another. “In the evening, the whole town


turns into a jet-black night without a single light. You feel like a blind person.”

Another student wrote about his first time on Seoul’s gleaming subway, “I didn’t know where to direct my eyes! There were girls in hot shorts seemingly no different than panties. My cheeks flushed red and my eyes lost focus.”

Another stated, “I’m pretty sure there aren’t any refugees who defected because they don’t love their homeland. North Korea’s government left most of them with no other choice.”

Ga Eul, a peppy, English-speaking 23-year-old with dyed-brown hair and purple glasses, began her essay this way: “I was born in January of 1991. Until 2005, my education consisted of learning how to worship Kim Il-Sung and Kim Jung-Il.”

As a middle-schooler, Ga Eul dreamed of becoming a math teacher. “I studied [math] more than anyone else because I enjoyed it so much,” she wrote. Ga Eul came from an upper-middle-class family—her father managed a clothing factory and her mother was a farmer—and her parents scrounged up the money to pay for a private tutor. But when Ga Eul’s extended relatives were caught trying to escape from North Korea, she wrote,

 **My dream of becoming a math teacher was not possible anymore. My family members were branded enemies of the state.”**

Ga Eul was told that she wouldn’t be able to join the military—a key step to getting good jobs in North Korea—and neither would her children. “I didn’t want to farm in a field with my mother for the rest of my life,” she wrote. “I wanted to study and work.”

A few weeks after she finished her essay, I met Ga Eul at a Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf in downtown Seoul. Over the sounds of coffee grinding and Jason Mraz’ lilting voice on the radio, she explained that she and her mother successfully escaped after receiving this news, but her brother and father were caught en route, in China, which deports defectors back to North Korea. Ga Eul’s brother, who was a teenager at the time, only spent a month in jail, but her father was sent to a political prison camp. “If he went [to political prison],” Ga Eul later explained to me in a calm, even-toned voice, “He didn’t come out.” The family hasn’t heard from Ga Eul’s father since 2006.



135

North Korean defector students were taught by Fulbright ETAs in 2016–2017. The students learned English from 62 American Fulbrighters who volunteered for the North Korean Defectors Program.

Ga Eul, like Jae, regularly speaks at local public schools about North Korea. She tells the students about growing up in a quiet farming town in the northernmost province in North Korea, about going to school in the morning, eating lunch at home, and farming alongside her mother and brother in the afternoon. She briefly touches on the famine, when her family ate almost nothing but corn porridge, for years.

But now, she tells the students, not everyone there is hungry or imprisoned. Her brother, a construction worker named Ye Jun who lives in the family's hometown, has plenty to eat, and spends the spare cash, which her mother sends him through a network of clandestine brokers, on clothes and gadgets that he buys at local open-air markets.

When I asked Ga Eul if she missed home, she didn't hesitate. "Yes, I miss my hometown," she said quietly, grinning as if remembering a particularly happy moment. "I like my hometown—my friends, my teachers, my family."

Every month or so, Ga Eul speaks with Ye Jun on the phone; like many North Koreans living near China, he uses a **smuggled phone** and spotty Chinese phone service to call South Korea. Ga Eul often sits for these calls in the living room of her family's apartment, in a high-rise on the outskirts of Seoul. Ye Jun is usually speaking in a quiet voice from a forest that's a short walk away from his house, where he won't be caught. They only talk for a few minutes, with Ga Eul inquiring about their extended family and Ye Jun asking her for money. Between money from Ga Eul's scholarship and her mother's job at a Chinese restaurant, the two women send roughly \$500 per month to North Korea, of which about \$200 gets to Ye Jun—the rest is siphoned off by the brokers.

In addition to spending money on clothing and gadgets from the market, Ye Jun is saving up for a bigger goal: This year, he will attempt once again to escape to South Korea. When I asked Ga Eul how she felt about her brother coming, she tensed up. "I'm nervous," she said, looking down.

The possible outcomes of Ye Jun's escape couldn't be more divergent. If he's caught, the 25-year-old is likely to suffer the same fate as his father. If he makes it, Ga Eul will get a phone call from Seoul's defector reintegration center; after being interviewed about human rights violations, he would likely move into the high-rise with his family, find a low-paying job, go to school, and perhaps even spend some time talking to curious kids about a life in a strange and distant place, just across the border.



Nine

the number of aid centers throughout South Korea where Fulbright ETAs volunteer as English tutors for North Korean defector students. American Fulbrighters also volunteer at three special North Korean defector schools and a Fulbright English Club at the office of the Korean-American Educational Commission

Fulbrighters Help Host Communities in Time of Need

In times of uncertainty and distress, including natural disasters, many Fulbrighters around the world have lent a helping hand to their host communities that were suffering. In 2017, several hurricanes in close succession – Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria – caused widespread damage across the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and coastal U.S. states.



THIDA LIN, a Fulbright Foreign Student, provided assistance to those seeking shelter in the USF Sun Dome during Hurricane Irma

Thida Lin, a Fulbright Foreign Student Program participant from Burma, was eager to provide assistance to her Tampa, Florida, host community during Hurricane Irma, which made landfall in September 2017. A public health graduate student at the University of South Florida (USF) with a unique background of ten years of professional experience in public health, community development, and civil society, Lin volunteered at a special-needs shelter during the storm. She assisted in caring for those with special health needs and distributed food to special-needs Floridians who were displaced by Hurricane Irma.

“I was very pleased to volunteer in the special-needs shelter at the USF Sun Dome during Hurricane Irma as I could not only provide physical support, but also mental support to elderly people. I was thrilled to witness such strong volunteerism with 200 other volunteers from the USF system and to have emotional support during the hurricane,” Lin said.

Fulbright Foreign Student Farrukh Najmi from Pakistan also provided assistance to others during Hurricane Irma. Najmi and his family opened their home in Auburn, Alabama, to another Pakistani family that was fleeing storm-ravaged Tampa, Florida. Najmi worked to assure that his friend, Shafiq ur Rehman, and family were comfortable in Auburn by introducing them to the local Urdu-speaking populations and cooking traditional Pakistani cuisine.



“In difficult times, I believe there is no greater pleasure than helping other human beings.”

Farrukh Najmi
Fulbright Foreign
Student from Pakistan

“In difficult times, I believe there is no greater pleasure than helping other human beings,” Najmi said of his assistance to Shafiq ur Rehman and his family.

A Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University, Najmi believes that his time as a Fulbright Foreign Student has shown him the high standard of U.S. education and has encouraged him to further develop his leadership skills. Najmi continuously works to improve Pakistani-American student relationships at Auburn. When he first arrived in 2015, Najmi says there were three Pakistani students within the entire university. Now there are 12, with the number increasing every year. He is the founder of the Pakistani Student Association at Auburn which works to share Pakistani culture and values with the entire student body.

Although Lin and Najmi each came to the United States from different backgrounds, their willingness to help others in tragic times is universal. They courageously stepped up, offering support in the best way they could, to those affected by Hurricane Irma.

As Senator Fulbright once said, “Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.”

ABOVE: Farrukh Najmi and his family with Shafiq ur Rehman and his family during their stay in Auburn, AL during the Hurricane Irma evacuation.

Fulbright Effect: A Commitment to Service



ABOVE: Fulbrighters volunteered at the Enrichment Seminar in Philadelphia in 2017.

Fulbright in the Field: Enrichment Seminars

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors enrichment seminars, conferences, and workshops across the United States as part of its flagship Fulbright Program. These enrichment activities benefit Fulbrighters and support the overall mission of the Fulbright Program – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Institute of International Education administers the enrichment seminars under the guidance of, and in consultation with, ECA. The seminars are open to first-year Fulbright Foreign Student Program participants in any field of study, and take place in cities across the United States.

In 2017, each Fulbright Enrichment Seminar explored one of four U.S. themes: Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Civil Rights; Civic Engagement; and Federalism. Through a keynote address, panel discussions, site visits to local organizations and an interactive workshop, Fulbrighters develop a deeper understanding of a particular topic. During the program, participants also engage with local industry leaders, residents of the seminar host city, and other Fulbrighters from around the world. The Fulbright Program partners with local organizations where participants have the opportunity to volunteer and provide service to the local community, or engage with the community in other informal ways.

At each Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, Fulbrighters participate in an experiential community service activity that models civic and community engagement, often alongside American volunteers. In 2017, Fulbright students across the country logged over 3,000 community service hours through enrichment seminars alone. The service allows participants to experience the American culture of volunteerism and provides an authentic introduction to the city where the seminar is being hosted. By visiting local organizations, meeting community leaders and contributing their time, Fulbrighters explore challenges faced by communities and meet committed individuals who are working to overcome them. As a result, they leave the seminar with a deeper, more holistic understanding of a particular American city, and have experienced a meaningful way to connect with the community.

The community service projects also raise awareness of the Fulbright Program among Americans.

The 2017 Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Philadelphia brought together 130 Fulbrighters from 60 countries. They participated in six civic engagement workshops and worked on three community service projects for local Philadelphia organizations: Farm to City, an organization committed to connecting local farmers and consumers; the Cancer Support Community Center, a network of cancer patients' families; and Art Sphere, an organization providing free art workshops in schools and community centers.

During the 2017 Fulbright Enrichment Seminar on Innovation & Entrepreneurship in San Francisco, Fulbrighters volunteered at The Tech Museum of Innovation — an interactive science and technology center in San Jose. Following a brief orientation from museum staff, Fulbrighters engaged and interacted with museum visitors and helped interpret three interactive exhibits on the museum floor pertaining to science, technology, engineering and math: the Cyber Detectives exhibit (sponsored by Palo Alto Networks, focusing on cyber data security and Internet safety); the Body Metrics exhibit (sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, focusing on wearable technology); and the Energy Tower exhibit (focusing on green energy and solar- and wind-powered technologies).



3,000

**community service
hours logged by Fulbright
students in 2017.**

U.S. Military Veterans



Photo credit: Rachel Neville

Roman Baca

Fulbright U.S. Student to the United Kingdom

Through interacting with locals in Fallujah, Iraq during his service in the United States Marine Corps, Roman Baca gained insights into local populations. “The stereotypical Iraqi insurgent did not exist. What we found were a rich, diverse populace with varying backgrounds, education, and lives.”

Following his service, Baca, a classically-trained ballet dancer, co-founded Exit12 Dance Company to tell veterans’ stories through dance. His work was presented recently at the National Summit for Art and Health in the Military, the Mayo Clinic’s Humanities in Healthcare Symposium, and at the Lincoln Center’s Veteran Home Show. He has also connected military veterans, victims of war, and civilians through innovative choreographic workshops.

Baca was awarded a Fulbright Student Award to study in the United Kingdom in 2017-2018, where he pursued a master of fine arts degree in choreography at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

“I believe that more people in the United States should be exposed to a radically different culture. The Fulbright Program is one important way of making this happen. When I teach, I hope to encourage my students to seek out opportunities to travel and live in another culture – and – who knows, I might develop a program to take students abroad,” he said.

“I’ve found that British military veterans have the same camaraderie as U.S. veterans, and they will welcome a U.S. vet into their community with open arms. And, I’ve found that if I am truly interested in other people, I can make friends. I’ve also found that if I share my knowledge and expertise, I can make friends for life.”



Michael Auten

Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine

Military service was a way of life for Michael Auten growing up. He was raised on Air Force bases around the United States, heard stories of family members who served in the U.S. armed forces, and developed a keen sense of duty to his country. It was only natural for Michael to follow his family tradition when he enrolled as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

After graduation, Michael was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student grant to study and research economics at the Kyiv School of Economics in Ukraine. Through his Fulbright award, he completed a one-year Master's degree program in business and financial economics. Michael felt honored to take international development and public finance courses with some of Ukraine's preeminent academics. He remarked that the faculty "inspired me to pursue my own interests and opened the fascinating world of economics to me."

Michael also volunteered as an English tutor at the Kyiv Military Lyceum and

with Ukrainian Wounded Warriors. During this experience, he encountered soldiers speaking a varied mix of Ukrainian, Russian, Carpathian dialects and English. Michael observed, however, how these Ukrainians "set aside their linguistic differences to accomplish bigger goals. It's the same in the U.S. military." He appreciated how the Fulbright Program encouraged him to seek out his own connections in the country. He found his volunteer work and studies led to making "profound connections" with many Ukrainians.

After completing his Fulbright program in Kyiv, Michael reported to his initial training as a U.S. Marine Corps officer. He is now working as a public affairs officer in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Simultaneously, Michael is volunteering as a Fulbright Alumni Ambassador. In this role, he serves as a representative, recruiter, and spokesperson for the Fulbright Program. "The Fulbright Program is so much more than study abroad. It changed my life."



Dr. Carla Fry

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Belize

Dr. Carla Fry, a 2017-2018 Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Belize, has a long history of service and achievement. “Work hard, stay humble,” says Fry. “Never see limitations.”

As a 17-year-old high school student from Canton, Ohio, Fry joined the Army with the idea to give back. “My Dad was a Vietnam Veteran, and I always looked up to his service with respect.” She now looks back on her six years as an Army medic with a dose of nostalgia, “[The Army] shaped my future for all things to come, and I developed a resilience that has stayed with me to this day.”

As a first-generation college graduate and military veteran, as well as a mother, Fry has indeed never seen limitations. Today, Fry is a 26-year veteran of the nursing profession, having dedicated the last 10 years to education. She works at Jacksonville University in Florida as the director of the RN-BSN Completion Programs, and an assistant professor of nursing. In 2012, she earned a doctorate at the University of Florida, for which she studied vaccination rates in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

Fry focused her 2017-2018 Fulbright research at the University of Belize on disparities in health care. “Diet, inactivity and poverty,” she pointed out, “have caused high rates of diabetes and hypertension.”

She said she could best sum up her rationale for pursuing a Fulbright scholarship with a quote from the late Senator: “The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

“The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

Senator J. William Fulbright



Dr. Peter Guth

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Morocco

Dr. Peter Guth, who has built a distinguished legacy through his service in the military and academia, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to Morocco for the 2017-2018 academic year.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), Guth was a Fannie and John Hertz Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he earned a Ph.D. in geology based on field work in the Sheep Range of southern Nevada. He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 11 years and in the U.S. Army Reserve for 17 years. "Service to my country and service to others is simply part of my life," he says.

As a Fulbright Scholar at University Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco, Guth taught courses in geology, oceanography and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). "I love

interacting with students," he says. "My students in Morocco were very similar to those in the United States."

In the United States, Guth is a faculty member in the Oceanography Department at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He teaches courses in physical geography, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), geological oceanography, and research methods. His research, which began with geological field work, now focuses on application of GIS to geology, visualizing topography, algorithms for using digital elevation models, and geomorphometry.

"To me, mutual understanding is to understand the obvious, but superficial differences of clothes, food, or use of free time, but they're all really small. We're all people," he says. "The Fulbright Program has implanted me with these insights."

Fulbright Anniversary Celebrations



70th Anniversary

EGYPT

On May 21, 2017, the Bilateral Fulbright Commission in Egypt celebrated the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-Egypt Fulbright Program with a tree planting ceremony at the Fulbright Commission in Cairo. U.S. Ambassador Stephen Beecroft and Egyptian Minister of Higher Education Khaled Abdel Ghaffar attended, along with Egyptian program alumni and nearly 40 members of the Egyptian press.

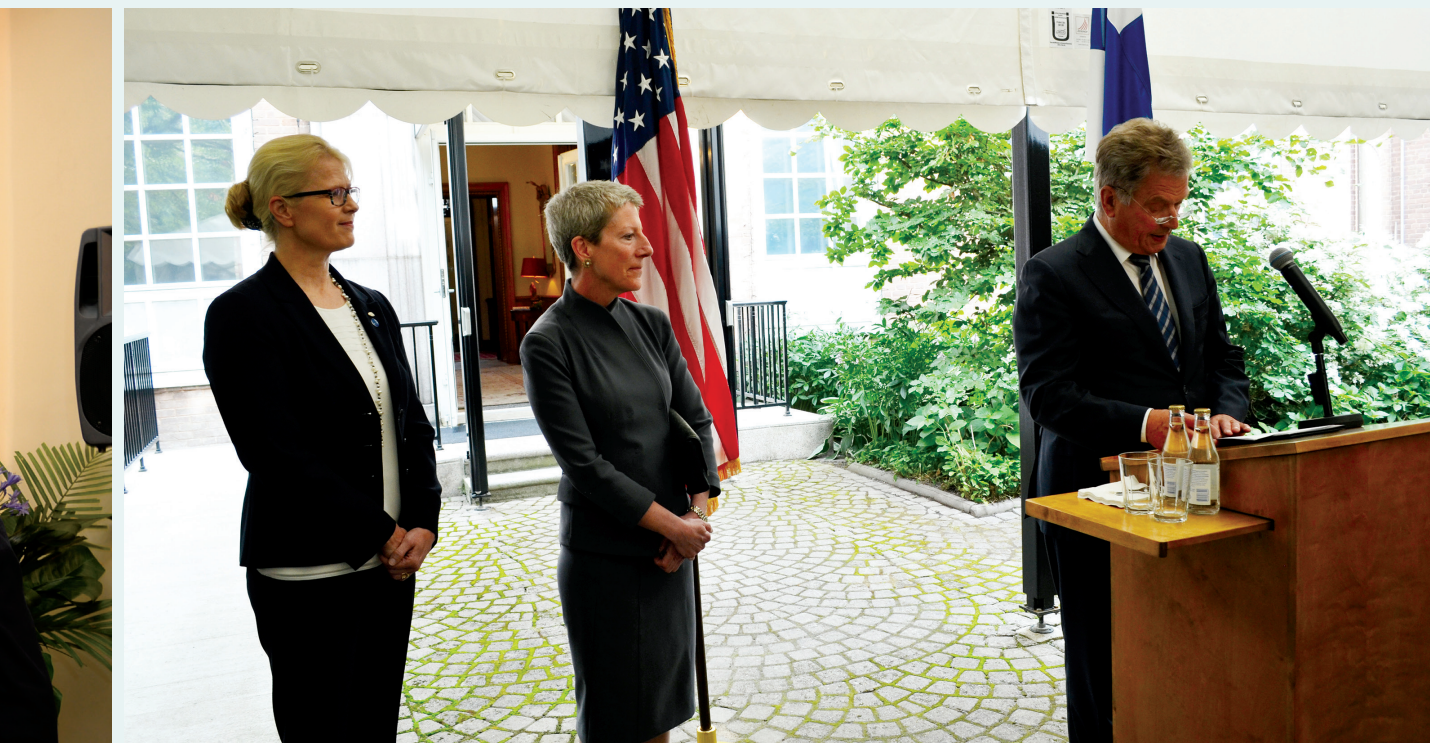
IRAQ

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas Silliman hosted a U.S.-Iraq Fulbright Program 70th anniversary event at his residence in Baghdad on May 15, 2017. The fete was attended by 42 Iraqi guests, including the Minister of Higher Education and the Prime Minister's Advisory Council's Deputy Director, who oversees educational initiatives.

GREECE

In preparation for the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-Greece Fulbright Program and in honor of International Education Week, the Greek Fulbright Foundation organized a seminar on education and development held at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens on November 15, 2017. Speakers included Yannis Stournaras, a governor of the Bank of Greece; Evangelia Kouneli, school advisor for primary education; and Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos, associate professor of political science at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. Almost 200 people took part in the event, which attracted extensive media coverage. Guests included U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt and his wife, Mrs. Mary Pyatt, former Greek Minister of Education Anna Diamantopoulou, members of the government, diplomats, current Fulbrighters, alumni, friends, academics, and business community leaders.

LEFT: U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Stephen Beecroft and Egypt's Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Khaled Abdul Ghaffar at Fulbright Commission with Executive Director, Dr. Maggie Nassif and members of the Board of Directors at 70th anniversary event at the Commission in Cairo. **RIGHT:** Terhi Mölsä, Chief Executive Officer, Fulbright Finland; Donna Welton, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Finland; and Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland celebrate 65th Anniversary of the Finnish-American Fulbright Agreement and Finland's Centenary



65th Anniversary

FINLAND

On August 21, 2017, President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö joined Fulbright participants, alumni and officials at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the U.S.-Finnish Fulbright Agreement. President Niinistö noted that Fulbright is the cornerstone of Finnish-American academic and cultural collaboration, and congratulated the U.S.-Finland Fulbright Commission for its significant achievements. President Donald Trump announced a Centennial Gift of an additional \$500,000 for the Fulbright Program in honor of the anniversary during a joint press conference with President Niinistö on August 28, 2017. The anniversary coincides with the centennial of Finland's independence and has been matched by Finnish support through the #Suomi100fund.

INDONESIA

On November 15, 2017, the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) celebrated the 65th anniversary of the U.S.-Indonesia Fulbright Program and the 25th anniversary of AMINEF with a gala event in Jakarta. Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani delivered remarks, and Fulbright alumni from various generations, current and former Board members, U.S. Embassy Jakarta staff, Ministry staff, colleagues from other educational foundations, and friends of AMINEF attended the celebration.

RIGHT: Juan Manuel Santos, Nobel Prize recipient, President of Colombia, and Fulbright Alumnus, receives the Fulbright Excellence Award at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Colombia. In the picture from left to right: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Kevin Whitaker, President Juan Manuel Santos, Fulbright Alumna Helena Alviar, Minister of Education Yaneth Giha and Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, Adriana Gaviria Duque.



60th Anniversary

COLOMBIA

U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Kevin Whitaker presented the Excellence Award for Fulbright Alumni to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on May 10, 2017. President Santos, the 2016 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end Colombia's civil war, attended the Fletcher School as a Fulbright Student in 1981. Hosted at the Museo Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, the event celebrated the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-Colombia Fulbright Program. During the event, Executive Director Adriana Gaviria also formally announced the 68 new Colombian Fulbright Foreign Student awards for participants to begin their study in the U.S. during the 2017-18 academic year. Colombia's Minister of Education, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and more than 15 presidents from Colombian universities joined the conversation.

ICELAND

In honor of the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-Iceland Fulbright Commission, Executive Director Belinda Theriault penned an op-ed for *Morgunblaðið*, the Icelandic paper of record, highlighting the continued efforts of the Commission to foster quality educational exchange between the United States and Iceland. Theriault emphasized areas such as Arctic and refugee issues, where the Commission has worked closely with Icelandic ministries on collaborative projects that help mold Icelandic policy objectives. Theriault also announced that in honor of its 60th anniversary, the Fulbright Commission will work with the U.S. National Science Foundation to fund projects on cyber security.



LEFT: Taiwanese Vice President Chen Chien-jen delivered remarks on “Leadership Challenges in the 21st Century” at the Fulbright Thought Leader Forum as part of the 60th anniversary celebration in Taiwan.

TAIWAN

Fulbright scholars and program stakeholders in Taiwan celebrated 60 years of educational exchange between the United States and Taiwan with a dinner and forum June 1-2, 2017. Vice President Chen Chien-jen gave remarks on “Leadership Challenges: Equity, Ethics, and Globalization.”



35th Anniversary

MOROCCO

On November 9, 2017, the U.S.-Morocco Fulbright Program celebrated its 35th anniversary with an event honoring Moroccan Fulbright alumni at the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE). Chargé d’Affaires Stephanie Miley, U.S. Embassy in Rabat, gave opening remarks at the event. Five Moroccan alumni, nominated by their Fulbright peers, were presented awards for their contributions to academic research, government service, distinguished teaching, the arts, business and entrepreneurship, and civil society. Over 250 people attended the event, including MACECE board members, Fulbright alumni, U.S. Fulbrighters in Morocco, Moroccan government officials, Moroccan academics, and members of the press.

25th Anniversary

ALBANIA

On December 19, 2017, Albania celebrated the 25th anniversary of the U.S.-Albania Fulbright program. The event was a family reunion of sorts with presentations of pictures of Fulbright alumni over the years. An Embassy slideshow presented the history of the program and Fulbright alumni shared news featuring both Albanian and American participants.

HUNGARY

Over 100 Hungarian and American Fulbright alumni gathered on a riverboat on the Danube River in Budapest on May 19, 2017 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the U.S.-Hungary Fulbright Commission. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires David J. Kostelancik delivered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the U.S. Embassy.

LITHUANIA

More than 150 alumni, including leaders in science, academia, business, politics, and culture, the Ministers of Education and Defense, and other government officials gathered in Vilnius on May 16, 2017, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of academic and professional exchanges between the United States and Lithuania. Guests had an opportunity to view paintings, books, and a slideshow of photos by alumni.



ABOVE: Ukrainian Minister of Education Lilia Hrynevych presented Kyiv Fulbright Office Director Marta Kolomayets with a proclamation of appreciation signed by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in the Ukraine.

UKRAINE

The U.S.-Ukraine Fulbright Program marked its 25th anniversary with over a week of events in early October 2017 highlighting Fulbright alumni, American culture and – on the policy level – educational reform. The highlight was a Rectors’ Round Table, which brought together over 100 rectors from universities across Ukraine to discuss the role of academic exchange programs in educational reform. Minister of Education Lilia Hrynevych gave the opening remarks and presented Kyiv Fulbright Office Director Marta Kolomayets with a proclamation of appreciation signed by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman. Former Minister of Education Serhii Kvit (a Fulbright Scholar alumnus at Stanford University) gave the keynote address on “Reforming Ukrainian Universities: Three and a Half Years after the Revolution of Dignity.” Discussions covered such topics as university autonomy, financing, academic integrity, critical thinking and social responsibility.

New Fulbright Commission

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Tom Robertson

Dr. Tom Robertson, appointed as executive director of the United States Educational Foundation in Nepal in March 2017, is an environmental historian interested in the history of development. He has been studying, working, and researching in Nepal on and off for over 20 years. With a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he worked at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, for the past decade where he taught courses on environmental history and foreign relations history and led overseas study projects in Thailand, Namibia, and several other countries.

Robertson grew up in Maryland outside Washington, DC, and studied at Williams College. He first went to Nepal as a study abroad student in 1988 with the School for International Training, then lived for three years in the early 1990s in a small village in the eastern hills, where he worked as a teacher and teacher trainer with the Peace Corps. During graduate school, Robertson worked as the academic coordinator for Pitzer College's semester abroad program in Nepal. He has returned to Nepal frequently, including as a Fulbright Scholar in 2009.



“

The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy—the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately.”

Senator J. William Fulbright



Fulbright Organizations

Principal Organizations

J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board was created by Congress to supervise the Fulbright Program. Appointed by the President of the United States, the Board is composed of 12 members drawn from academic, cultural and public life. The intent was to establish an impartial and independent body which would ensure the respect and cooperation of the academic world for the educational exchange program, particularly in the selection of grantees and educational institutions qualified to participate. The Board sets policies and procedures for administration of the program, has final responsibility for approving selection of all grantees, and supervises the conduct of the program both in the United States and abroad.

U.S. Department of State

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is authorized by the Fulbright-Hays Act to execute the Fulbright Program. ECA has primary responsibility for managing, coordinating, and overseeing the program, under policy guidance established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. ECA is also responsible for the budgetary and financial management of the program, and engagement with foreign governments on behalf of the Fulbright Program.

Binational Fulbright Commissions

Binational Commissions are independent organizations that engage in joint program planning, decision-making, and management of the Fulbright Program between the United States and the partner countries where they are located. There are currently 49 Fulbright Commissions, whose boards are composed of equal numbers of resident Americans and partner-country nationals, including government representatives. Commissions recommend candidates, raise funds, monitor and support current participants, engage alumni and, in many countries, operate information services on higher education in the United States or implement other educational exchange programs.

U.S. Embassies

In countries where no binational Commission is present, the U.S. embassy administers the Fulbright Program, with the U.S. Public Affairs Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer assuming primary responsibility and coordinating with host government counterparts.

U.S. Department of Education

The Fulbright-Hays Program – a Fulbright program funded by a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Education – awards grants to individual U.S. K-14 pre-teachers, teachers and administrators, pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral faculty, as well as to U.S. institutions and organizations. Funding supports research and training efforts overseas, which focus on non-Western foreign languages and area studies.



7,000

individual members in the Fulbright Association, which is the official alumni association for U.S. participants of the Fulbright Program.

Cooperating Organizations

The U.S. Department of State enters into agreements with several non-profit organizations to implement the Fulbright Program in the United States and abroad.

The Institute of International Education (IIE)

IIE administers the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and the Fulbright Foreign Student Program on behalf of ECA. In addition, IIE administers the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Program.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)

CIES, a division of IIE, administers the Fulbright Scholar Program for U.S. and foreign participants on behalf of ECA.

Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas (LASPAU)

LASPAU administers a portion of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program for Latin America and the Caribbean through a sub-award agreement from IIE.

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST)

AMIDEAST administers portions of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program in the Middle East and North Africa.

IREX

IREX administers the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms and Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Programs.

World Learning

World Learning administers the Fulbright Specialist Program.

Supporting Organizations

Fulbright Association

The Fulbright Association is the official alumni association for U.S. participants of the Fulbright Program, with more than 7,000 individual members and 215 institutional members. A nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., the Association works to advocate for the Fulbright Program and promote international education. The Association and its 50 affiliated chapters sponsor a wide variety of special events (the Fulbright Prize, annual conference, and cultural and educational events), travel programs, and networking opportunities to connect Fulbrighters nationally and internationally, extending the exchange experience.

Fulbright Alumni Organizations Abroad

More than 70 countries have Fulbright alumni organizations that maintain ties among those who have had Fulbright experiences. They host social, cultural, and community service activities, welcome American Fulbrighters to their communities, and often conduct fundraising to increase the number of Fulbright awards. These associations play an important role in raising the profile of the Fulbright Program abroad.



Binational Educational Foundations and Commissions

COUNTRY	AGREEMENT SIGNED	BINATIONAL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION/COMMISSION
Argentina	November 5, 1956	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Argentina
Australia	November 26, 1949	Australian-American Fulbright Commission
Austria	June 6, 1950	Austrian-American Educational Commission
Belgium & Luxembourg	October 8, 1948	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg
Brazil	November 5, 1957	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Brazil
Bulgaria	September 2, 1992	Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange
Canada	February 13, 1990	Foundation for Educational Exchange Between Canada and the United States of America
Chile	March 31, 1955	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Chile
Colombia	January 9, 1957	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Colombia
Czech Republic	January 14, 1991	J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Czech Republic
Denmark	August 23, 1951	Danish-American Fulbright Commission
Ecuador	October 31, 1956	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Ecuador
Egypt	November 3, 1949	The Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt
Finland	July 2, 1952	Fulbright Center for Finnish-American Academic Exchanges
France	October 22, 1948	Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange
Germany	July 18, 1952	German-American Fulbright Commission
Greece	April 23, 1948	U.S. Educational Foundation in Greece
Hungary	December 6, 1990	Hungarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange
Iceland	February 23, 1957	Iceland-United States Educational Commission
India	February 2, 1950	United States-India Educational Foundation
Indonesia	July 15, 1992	American-Indonesian Exchange Foundation
Ireland	March 16, 1957	The Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange
Israel	July 26, 1956	U.S.-Israel Educational Foundation
Italy	December 18, 1948	The U.S.-Italy Fulbright Commission
Japan	August 28, 1951	Japan-United States Educational Commission

countries have Binational Educational Foundations and Commissions

COUNTRY	AGREEMENT SIGNED	BINATIONAL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION/COMMISSION
Jordan	May 12, 1993	Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange
Korea, The Republic of	April 28, 1950	Korean-American Educational Commission
Malaysia	January 28, 1963	Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange
Mexico	November 20, 1990	U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange
Morocco	February 12, 1982	Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and
Nepal	June 9, 1961	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States and Nepal
Netherlands	May 17, 1949	Netherlands America Commission for Educational Exchange (aka The Fulbright Center)
New Zealand	September 14, 1948	New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation
Norway	May 25, 1949	U.S.-Norway Fulbright Foundation for Educational Exchange
Pakistan	September 23, 1950	United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan
Peru	May 3, 1956	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States and Peru
The Philippines	March 23, 1948	The Philippine-American Educational Foundation
Poland	October 20, 1995	Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission
Portugal	March 19, 1960	Luso-American Educational Commission
Romania	July 30, 1992	Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission
Slovak Republic	September 22, 1994	J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic
Spain	October 16, 1958	Commission for Cultural, Educational and Scientific Exchange Between the United States and Spain
Sri Lanka	November 17, 1952	United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission
Sweden	November 20, 1952	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States and Sweden
Taiwan*	November 30, 1957	Foundation for Scholarly Exchange
Thailand	July 1, 1950	Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation
Turkey	December 27, 1949	Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States of America and Turkey
United Kingdom	September 22, 1948	United States-United Kingdom Fulbright Commission
Uruguay	July 22, 1960	Commission for Educational Exchange Between Uruguay and the United States

*The United States recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. Within this context, the United States maintains unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan.



Fulbright Programs in Summary

U.S. Department of State

In 2016-2017, the Fulbright Program provided full or partial support to 3,248 U.S. Fulbrighters to study, teach, or conduct research abroad and offered new or renewed awards to 4,337 foreign Fulbrighters to study, teach, or conduct research at U.S. colleges and universities.

The Fulbright Student Program

For graduate students, graduating seniors, artists and early career professionals. In addition to traditional study and research grants, this program model also includes:

- **The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program:** Places U.S. students as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas and supports individual study or research projects.
- **The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program:** Provides non-U.S. teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to refine their teaching skills while strengthening foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities.

The Fulbright Scholar Program

For U.S. and non-U.S. scholars, artists and established professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, including the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences and business administration. Also included in this program model are:

- **Fulbright Specialist Program:** Sends U.S. academics and established professionals to engage in two- to six-week consultancies at host institutions, including universities, non-profits, and other organizations, around the world to build capacity and promote long-lasting linkages between individuals and institutions in the U.S. and abroad.
- **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program:** Brings foreign scholars to lecture for up to one academic year and promote internationalization at U.S. colleges and universities.

Fulbright Teacher Exchanges

The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has announced its decision to include two long-standing exchange programs for

teachers under the Fulbright umbrella beginning in FY 2018. These exchange opportunities will increase the number of Fulbright teacher program participants from about sixty U.S. and international educators per year to more than 350 per year. In one year, it is estimated that these exchange participants will reach and positively influence more than 65,000 U.S. and international students.

For international teachers, the **Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program** will bring secondary-school teachers of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and special education to the United States for six weeks to further develop teaching skills, increase subject-matter expertise, and pursue coursework and practical teaching experiences in U.S. schools. Fulbright TEA also includes technology seminars, civic and cultural activities, and action planning.

For U.S. teachers, the **Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) Program** will support elementary, middle, and high school teachers to become leaders in global education and help their students succeed in the internationally competitive economy. Teachers will complete a graduate-level on-line course, take part in a symposium with their administrators in Washington, D.C., participate in a two- to three-week international field experience in one of six countries, and develop projects or new curricula for their home school.

These programs will join the existing **Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program** for U.S. and International Teachers and the **Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term Program** as part of the Teacher Exchange suite of Fulbright programs. These programs send educators abroad for a semester of independent study and professional development focused on sharing international best practices and developing students' global competence.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Promotes leadership development in professional fields critical to U.S. relations with developing and transitioning countries. The Humphrey Program brings early- and mid-career professionals from designated countries to the United States for a year of non-degree graduate level study, leadership development, and professional collaboration with U.S. counterparts.



3,248

U.S. Fulbrighters received full or partial support to study, teach, or conduct research abroad.



4,337

Foreign Fulbrighters received new or renewed awards to study, teach, or conduct research at U.S. Colleges and Universities.

U.S. Department of Education

The Fulbright-Hays Programs are authorized by section 102(b) (6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (Fulbright-Hays Act), and are administered and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) International and Foreign Language Education office (IFLE) under a Congressional appropriation to ED. Collectively, the Fulbright-Hays programs provide funding to strengthen the capability and performance of American education in foreign languages, cultural understanding, area and international studies, and research.

In 2016-2017, the following three Fulbright-Hays programs supported a total of 502 American teachers and prospective teachers, who received their support through U.S. institutions of higher education (IHEs), organizations or interagency agreements:

The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Program

The DDRA Program provides grants to IHEs to fund individual doctoral students to conduct dissertation research in other countries in modern foreign languages and area studies for periods of six to twelve months.

The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program

The GPA Program provides grants to IHEs, state departments of education, private nonprofit educational organizations, or combinations thereof to conduct overseas group projects designed to develop and improve modern foreign language and area studies throughout the educational structure of the United States.

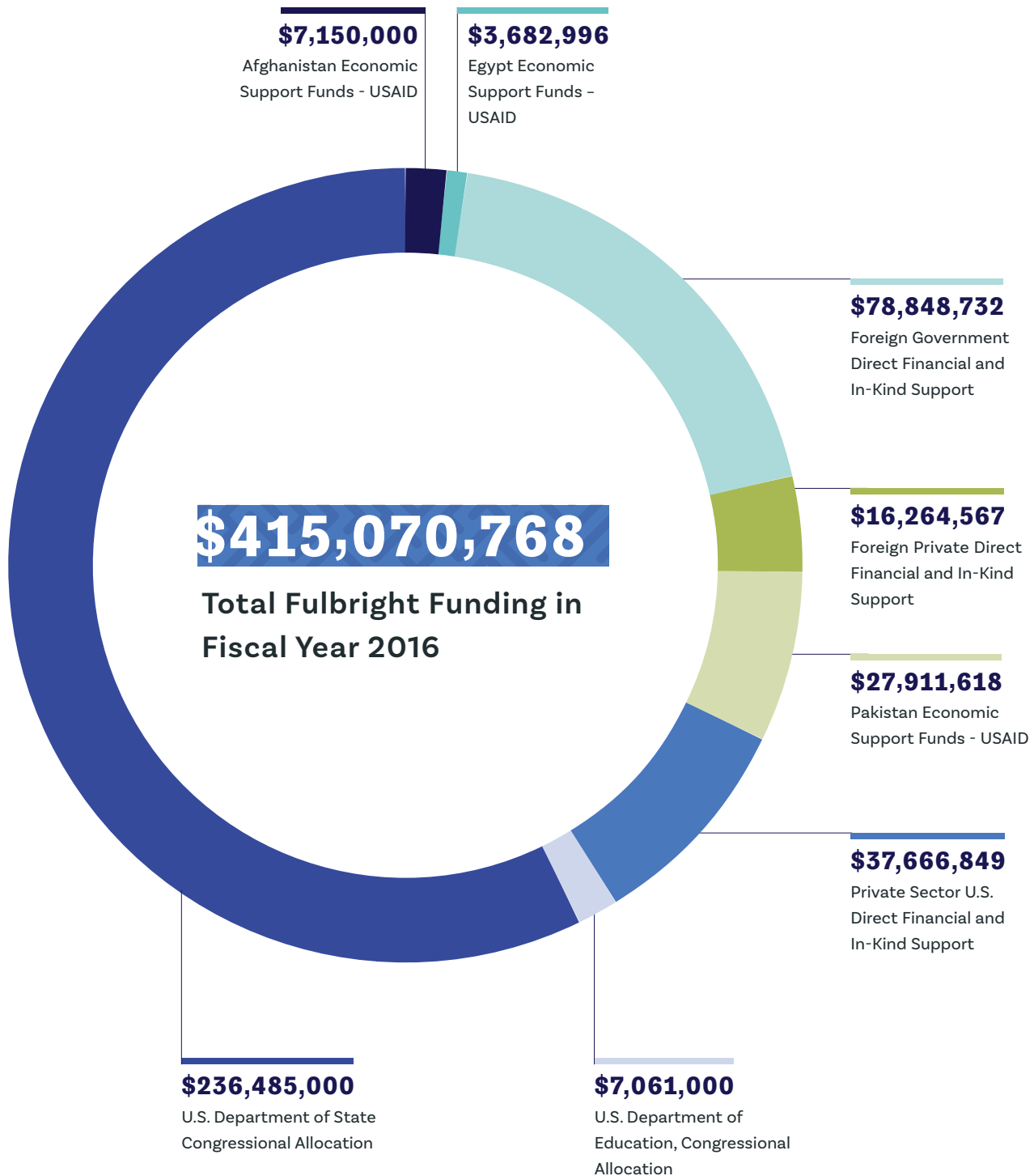
The Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program

Supports incorporating international content into the K-12 curriculum by providing short-term seminars abroad for U.S. educators to improve their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries. In 2016-2017, seminars took place in Bulgaria, Chile, and Thailand. The seminar topics included Bulgaria in the Context of Migration and Challenges to European Cohesion; The Construction of Chilean Identity: Socio-economic, Political, and Educational Reforms; and Exploring the Diverse Culture and History of Thailand.



Fulbright by the Numbers

The Fulbright Program has a unique capacity to foster the exchange of ideas and expansion of knowledge by bringing together innovative people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to address common challenges.



Foreign Contributions to Fulbright Student and Scholar Programs

2017

J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

COUNTRY	FOREIGN GOVERNMENT	FOREIGN PRIVATE
	Direct Financial and In-Kind Support	Direct Financial and In-Kind Support
Fiscal Year 2016		
Andorra	\$120,917	\$0
Argentina	\$1,749,950	\$174,000
Australia	\$927,128	\$617,561
Austria	\$771,705	\$352,598
Bahrain	\$0	\$46,120
Belgium/European Union	\$344,499	\$32,236
Belgium/Luxembourg	\$270,900	\$598,641
Bosnia & Herzegovina	\$21,800	\$0
Brazil	\$2,358,150	\$0
Bulgaria	\$196,553	\$0
Burkina Faso	\$23,100	\$0
Cambodia	\$1,140	\$2,000
Canada	\$700,000	\$1,151,894
Chile	\$3,675,846	\$302,460
China (PCR)	\$1,367,586	\$0
Colombia	\$7,916,467	\$695,175
Croatia	\$78,431	\$0
Czech Republic	\$970,233	\$0
Denmark	\$718,635	\$80,409
Dominican Republic	\$345,717	\$0
Ecuador	\$509,680	\$436,985
Egypt	\$178,097	\$392,676
Estonia	\$15,000	\$0
Finland	\$424,270	\$1,534,350
France	\$1,922,095	\$859,329
Georgia	\$50,000	\$100,000
Germany	\$6,949,360	\$523,756
Ghana	\$29,450	\$0
Greece	\$47,992	\$321,461
Honduras	\$0	\$103,542
Hong Kong/Macau *	\$456,441	\$48,000
Hungary	\$259,571	\$110,426
Iceland	\$182,311	\$0
India	\$3,553,317	\$471,935
Indonesia	\$1,417,493	\$392,793

COUNTRY	FOREIGN GOVERNMENT Direct Financial and In-Kind Support	FOREIGN PRIVATE Direct Financial and In-Kind Support
Ireland	\$900,044	\$25,554
Israel	\$1,109,660	\$173,500
Italy	\$687,610	\$434,872
Japan	\$2,920,774	\$183,762
Jordan	\$172,608	\$947,478
Kazakhstan	\$2,030	\$1,350
Kosovo	\$300,000	\$0
Latvia	\$8,981	\$0
Lithuania	\$15,885	\$0
Macedonia	\$102,000	\$0
Malaysia	\$1,565,523	\$125,500
Malta	\$6,300	\$0
Mexico	\$2,226,603	\$81,176
Moldova	\$420	\$0
Mongolia	\$501,339	\$6,019
Morocco	\$1,308,628	\$20,000
Namibia	\$12,100	\$0
Nepal	\$14,453	\$146,639
Netherlands	\$421,016	\$124,188
New Zealand	\$1,046,999	\$83,300
Nigeria	\$29,150	\$0
Norway	\$1,364,842	\$0
Pakistan	\$2,331,042	\$296,804
Palestinian Territories	\$0	\$3,500
Panama	\$662,904	\$0
Paraguay	\$68,778	\$0
Peru	\$75,000	\$111,027
Philippines	\$271,913	\$26,724
Poland	\$1,068,296	\$0
Portugal	\$272,565	\$105,012
Qatar	\$46,978	\$0
Romania	\$534,294	\$0
Russia	\$17,907	\$0
Saudi Arabia	\$47,933	\$16,150
Serbia	\$53,500	\$0
Singapore	\$48,000	\$0
Slovak Republic	\$208,000	\$0
Slovenia	\$110,803	\$0

COUNTRY	FOREIGN GOVERNMENT Direct Financial and In-Kind Support	FOREIGN PRIVATE Direct Financial and In-Kind Support
South Africa	\$88,000	\$0
South Korea	\$4,951,757	\$820,373
Spain	\$5,043,891	\$1,202,447
Sri Lanka	\$17,190	\$94,385
Sweden	\$703,774	\$634,410
Switzerland	\$286,496	\$0
Taiwan**	\$3,485,066	\$235,333
Thailand	\$420,949	\$0
Turkey	\$1,000,000	\$0
Ukraine	\$9,021	\$0
United Kingdom	\$3,015,661	\$992,685
Uruguay	\$672,038	\$14,537
Vietnam	\$66,177	\$9,495
TOTAL (in U.S. dollars)	\$78,848,732	\$16,264,567

\$95,113,299

Total Foreign Contributions to Fulbright Student
and Scholar Programs in Fiscal Year 2016

*Special Administrative Region

**The U.S. recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. Within this context the U.S. retains unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan.

Foreign Contributions to Fulbright Teacher Exchange Programs

COUNTRY	FOREIGN GOVERNMENT Direct Financial and In-Kind Support	FOREIGN PRIVATE Direct Financial and In-Kind Support
Fiscal Year 2016		
Finland	\$0	\$32,853
India	\$0	\$2,085
Morocco	\$0	\$5,514
Netherlands	\$1,413	\$25,152
New Zealand	\$30,869	\$15,424
Singapore	\$89,768	\$56,016
United Kingdom	\$0	\$79,330
Taiwan	\$40,000	\$40,000
Vietnam	\$0	\$7,998
TOTAL (in U.S. dollars)	\$162,050	\$264,372

\$426,422

Total Foreign Contributions to Fulbright Student
and Scholar Programs in Fiscal Year 2016

Department of State Fulbright Grants by State, Federal District, or U.S. Territory

STATE	U.S. GRANTEES	FOREIGN GRANTEES	TOTAL
Fiscal Year 2016			
Alabama	30	19	49
Alaska	12	1	13
Arizona	48	77	125
Arkansas	14	50	64
California	366	436	802
Colorado	54	58	112
Connecticut	55	64	119
Delaware	3	25	28
District of Columbia	34	174	208
Florida	126	129	255
Georgia	83	157	240
Guam	0	0	0
Hawaii	22	20	42
Idaho	19	9	28
Illinois	155	215	370
Indiana	75	150	225
Iowa	38	45	83
Kansas	22	49	71
Kentucky	45	21	66
Louisiana	22	32	54
Maine	27	7	34
Maryland	108	92	200
Massachusetts	166	404	570
Michigan	99	151	250
Minnesota	75	76	151
Mississippi	12	16	28
Missouri	46	63	109
Montana	11	13	24
N Mariana Islands	0	0	0

STATE	U.S. GRANTEES	FOREIGN GRANTEES	TOTAL
Nebraska	25	43	68
Nevada	11	5	16
New Hampshire	24	9	33
New Jersey	117	76	193
New Mexico	18	10	28
New York	301	616	917
North Carolina	102	104	206
North Dakota	4	5	9
Ohio	113	103	216
Oklahoma	20	24	44
Oregon	56	54	110
Pennsylvania	160	215	375
Puerto Rico	5	0	5
Rhode Island	14	25	39
South Carolina	36	26	62
South Dakota	7	4	11
Tennessee	50	38	88
Texas	110	174	284
Utah	20	21	41
Vermont	25	9	34
Virginia	95	80	175
Virgin Islands	0	0	0
Washington	93	76	169
West Virginia	8	15	23
Wisconsin	60	48	108
Wyoming	7	4	11
TOTAL	3,248	4,337	7,585

7,585

Total Fulbright Grants by State, Federal District,
or U.S. Territory in Fiscal Year 2016

Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Grants to U.S. Citizens

GRANT TYPE	AFRICA	EAST ASIA & PACIFIC	EUROPE	NEAR EAST ASIA	SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA	WESTERN HEMISPHERE	TOTAL
Fiscal Year 2016							
Doctoral Dissertation	22	22	8	10	8	28	98
Group Projects	130	39	52	81	46	77	425
Seminars Abroad	-	16	16	-	-	16	48
TOTAL	152	77	76	91	54	121	571

571

Total Fulbright-Hays Grants to U.S. Citizens in Fiscal Year 2016

Historical Totals in Fiscal Years 1946–2016							
Doctoral Dissertation	867	1,362	613	1,094	511	950	5,397
Faculty Research	149	364	370	330	197	221	1,631
Group Projects	4,677	7,845	2,849	10,241	5,495	3,357	34,464
Seminars Abroad	335	1,343	562	1,447	-	722	4,409
Curriculum Consultant	80	43	70	48	3	83	327
TOTAL	6,108	10,957	4,464	13,160	6,206	5,333	46,228

46,228

Total Fulbright-Hays Grants to U.S. Citizens in Fiscal Years 1946–2016

Department of State Fulbright Grants to U.S. Citizens

GRANT TYPE	AFRICA	EAST ASIA & PACIFIC	EUROPE	NEAR EAST ASIA	SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA	WESTERN HEMISPHERE	TOTAL
Fiscal Year 2016							
Student	97	523	838	74	110	339	1,981
Research Scholars	16	48	125	15	37	58	299
Lecturing Scholars	110	139	351	32	80	157	869
Teacher Exchange	4	10	12	2	4	6	38
Seminars	-	15	37	-	9	-	61
TOTAL	549	1,545	2,616	636	808	1,431	7,585

7,585

Total Fulbright Grants to U.S. Citizens in Fiscal Year 2016

Historical Totals in Fiscal Years 1946-2016							
Student	2,121	8,791	41,564	2,112	2,387	7,113	64,088
Scholars	3,530	9,061	28,087	3,271	4,137	8,140	56,226
Teacher Exchange/Seminars	235	996	17,026	343	346	1,584	20,530
TOTAL	5,886	18,848	86,677	5,726	6,870	16,837	140,844

140,844

Total Fulbright Grants to U.S. Citizens in Fiscal Years 1946-2016

Department of State Fulbright Grants to Foreign Nationals

GRANT TYPE	AFRICA	EAST ASIA & PACIFIC	EUROPE	NEAR EAST ASIA	SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA	WESTERN HEMISPHERE	TOTAL
Fiscal Year 2016							
Student	234	602	822	360	431	731	3,180
Research Scholars	29	169	348	64	64	86	760
Lecturing Scholars	7	8	56	68	18	26	183
Teacher Exchange	2	7	2	5	2	3	21
Seminars	-	4	-	-	10	-	14
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows	50	20	25	16	43	25	179
TOTAL	322	810	1,253	513	568	871	4,337

4,337

Total Fulbright Grants to Foreign Nationals in Fiscal Year 2016

Historical Totals in Fiscal Years 1946–2016							
Student	7,494	19,842	82,862	6,867	8,650	28,213	153,928
Scholars	1,980	8,511	32,545	3,700	3,669	4,327	54,732
Teacher Exchange/Seminars	1,259	2,367	18,080	1,021	702	5,924	29,353
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows	1,633	862	800	602	826	1,006	5,729
Practical Experience & Training	29	35	1,539	157	17	28	1,805
Study of the U.S.	146	300	328	52	70	266	1,162
TOTAL	12,541	31,917	136,154	12,399	13,934	39,764	246,709

246,709

Total Fulbright Grants to Foreign Nationals in Fiscal Years 1946–2016

Closing Thoughts:

Humphrey Fellow Gives Back

Dr. Koffi Siliadin, a 2016-2017 Humphrey Fellow from Togo, spent his year studying Public Health Policy and Management at Emory University in Atlanta. While on his exchange, he volunteered as a Disaster Frontline Supervisor with American Red Cross, as well as with MedShare Atlanta and Habitat for Humanity. After giving presentations to graduate and undergraduates about his work, he found that simply telling Americans about Togo was, in his words, “not sufficient.” So upon the completion of his program, he created an opportunity for five Emory graduate students to travel to Togo to complete their practicum in global health.



Volunteering is just an amazing opportunity to give back the United States, which honored me with the Humphrey Fellowship. I am proud to contribute to saving lives during disasters.”

Dr. Koffi Siliadin
Humphrey Fellow
from Togo



TOP: Dr. Koffi Siliadin (far left) takes a photo with his members of his Humphrey cohort while they are volunteering at MedShare Atlanta. **Bottom:** Dr. Siliadin (right) and fellow a MedShare Atlanta volunteer sort medicine and package boxes to be shipped to countries with limited access to pharmaceuticals.



U.S. Department of State

**Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20037**