

## Some Tips for Fulbright Applicants

Fulbright scholars are not just scholars; they are ambassadors for the United States. David Adams, Senior Program Officer for the Asia/Middle East unit of CIES, on behalf of Fulbright, explains that the Fulbright coordinators are not interested in egotism and self-praise. They are interested in candidates who are flexible and adaptable. They seek individuals who can make the best of challenging environments; for example, you may be teaching in classrooms that are much colder or warmer than expected, and you may be using outdated equipment.

When applying, Mr. Adams recommends dedicating one page to your background/experience and then spending the rest of the explication explaining what you plan to do on the ground (the project statement). Many applicants describe their expertise for 90 percent of the proposal, yet they are rather vague as far as what they will actually do.

You don't necessarily have to be fluent in the native language of your destination, but you must address your strategies relevant to language skills/translation. This is not an abstract consideration of one's virtues, but an actual plan that considers the "how" and "what" – what you hope to gain, what you hope to contribute to the country and classrooms of your destination.

It is also recommended that you research the host country, its cultures, laws, and rules. This knowledge and awareness may be very relevant to your research methods and perimeters. An understanding of contemporary society in a given host country may inform what you can and can't do – it also may lead to new research ideas.

Consideration of the balance of scope and time is also another important issue. Are you being realistic about your projection of activities in a certain period of time? Keywords: "practicality" and "specificity."

Collaborations with your colleagues are also encouraged. Quite simply, there is more "bang for the buck" in your proposal package when scholars representing a range of fields or areas of expertise are involved.

You can only apply to one program at a time. Do not be concerned if your interests match more than one Fulbright area. Program officers often recommend qualified candidates to other programs if the candidate is not the best fit for their particular portfolio.

Mr. Adams recommends that you get in touch with your program officers during the application process. They WILL help you. It's beneficial for everyone to have interpersonal communication and real human connections during this process.

Please contact the Office of Sponsored Projects (x5203 or [osp@usfca.edu](mailto:osp@usfca.edu)) for further information.