Application Instructions

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Programme

2027-2028

Deadline for completed applications is

5pm GMT Monday 2 November 2026

The Commission does not accept hard copy applications – apply through the online system only

Applications that do not comply with this deadline and instructions will be deemed ineligible

PLEASE CREATE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE:
https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2027

Before you begin an application:

- The Fulbright online application is a global application and is used by all Fulbright Commissions worldwide. It is administered by the IIE (the International Institute of Education) on behalf of the Fulbright programme.
- Each Commission sets its own policies, procedures and country-specific instructions for using the online application system. **If you encounter any discrepancies between this document and the application submission portal, you must adhere to the instructions outlined in the document**
- Any questions about the application, eligibility or the Awards programme should be directed to programmes@fulbright.org.uk . Please note that we receive an incredibly high number of enquiries just before the deadline, so if you give us fewer than three working days to get back to you, we may be unable to assist you before the deadline.

Eligibility Requirements:

CITIZENSHIP

Eligible:

- UK citizen (resident anywhere except the United States), or Irish citizen normally resident in Northern Ireland
- Those with dual UK nationality with any country other than the United States
- Those meeting the specific minimum qualifications for eligibility for the individual award. These can be found on the awards web page.
- Applications from non-UK citizens based in the UK and committed to a life and career in the UK may also be considered if the applicant is not able to apply for a Fulbright award through their country of citizenship.
    - Applicants in this category should contact their country of citizenship's Fulbright Commission in the first instance. If they are ineligible to apply through that Commission, they should contact the US-UK Fulbright Commission before making an application.

Ineligible:

- Those holding or applying for US citizenship/dual US citizenship; holders of US immigrant visas (green cards), or those with permanent residency in the U.S.
- Applicants currently studying at, or recently graduated from, a US academic institution; those resident in the US currently or for five or more years in the previous six years.
- Applicants who are restricted from J-1 visa application due to US Department of State visa waiting period guidelines:
  If you currently or have previously held a J-1 or J-2 Professor or Research Scholar visa, then any proposed Fulbright grant cannot begin until 24 months after the end date of the previously held visa. If you are unsure about whether the 24-month bar affects you, please contact the Commission.

J-1 VISA AND TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

All Fulbright Scholars must enter the United States on a US Department of State J-1 Exchange Visitor visa. When you agree to participate in a US Exchange Visitor Program such as the Fulbright programme you will be subject to the two-year home-country physical presence (foreign residence) requirement.

This means you will be required to return to your home country for two years at the end of your exchange visitor program. This requirement under immigration law is based on Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and Title 22 Part 40 and Part 41 in the Code of Federal Regulations. Home country is generally defined as your country of citizenship or your country of legal permanent residence.

Fulbright award holders will not be eligible for a US residency or work visa until they have fulfilled the two-year home residency requirement of the J-1 visa. This does not affect tourist visits made to the US under the ESTA visa waiver programme. Any accompanying J-2 dependents will also be subject to a 2-year home residency requirement.

You can find more information about J-1 and J-2 visas at: https://j1visa.state.gov/programs.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Applicants must hold a PhD in a subject relevant to the award for which they are applying

    - Applicants may still apply if they haven't yet completed their PhD provided they will have the PhD before their proposed grant start date.
- OR applicants may have an equivalent professional degree such (medicine, law) or experience in the field

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- Grants are not given for the sole purpose of:
    - Attending conferences
    - Completing / writing up doctoral dissertations
    - Travel and consultation at multiple institutions
    - Clinical medical research involving direct patient contact by the applicant (including direct contact with animals in clinical trials)

- Fulbright Scholar awards may not be used to enrol on a degree seeking programme in the United States

- To be eligible for an All-Disciplines Fulbright award the minimum grant period for Fulbright Visiting Scholars is three months. However, the Commission offers many different awards, all with specific minimum and maximum duration. Please ensure you keep within the allowable grant duration for the specific award category in which you are applying. See the individual award pages on the Fulbright website for more details.

- Awards offered in 2027-2028 competition must be taken up in the 2027-2028 academic year. Deferrals are not permitted.

- The earliest a grant should begin for this cycle is mid-August 2027 to allow for comfortable visa processing times and for attendance of successful grantees at the Commission's UK Orientation event.

- The latest start date for a grant in this cycle is 30 April 2028.

- Applicants can only apply through one Fulbright Commission per Application Cycle

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The US-UK Fulbright Commission offers exceptional opportunities for those interested in international education. We are committed to a world in which there are no obstacles or barriers to learning, understanding and collaboration and as such we aim to promote diversity, inclusion and equity. We welcome and encourage applications from eligible candidates of all backgrounds.

- Applicants will be considered without regard to ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, and/or disability.

- The Fulbright Commission is committed to selecting a cohort which is diverse in terms of region, home institution, host institution, and discipline.

- Preference is given to those without recent extensive experience in the United

States and who have not already held a Fulbright award.

- Applicants should be responsible individuals who can contribute to a full and fair picture of the culture of their own countries and thereby contribute to understanding between the people of the United States and the United Kingdom.

- Applicants should demonstrate the cross-cultural sensitivity and flexibility needed to adjust successfully to life in the United States.

Applicants who meet the general eligibility requirements should ensure that they also meet the criteria for the individual award to which they wish to apply. Information relating to each Scholar award can be found on the individual award pages on the Fulbright website.

Application Process Timeline

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

- **Monday, 20 July 2026:** Applications open
- **5pm GMT, Monday 2 November 2026:** Deadline for applications
- **November – December 2026:** Initial screening and review of applications are done by the US-UK Fulbright Commission and review panels. You should not expect to hear from the Commission during this time, and staff will be unable to comment on the process or an individual application's status
- **Early-mid February 2027:** If short-listed, successful candidates **must** be available for interview in this period. Interviews are likely to be held virtually on zoom
- **March 2027**: All candidates will be notified of the interview outcome.
- **March-early April 2027:** Fulbright Finalists' Workshop
- **March-July 2027**: Fulbright and J-1 visa paperwork.
- **Late June-July 2027**: Fulbright 2-3-day Pre-Departure Orientation.
- **From August 2027 onwards:** Independent departures, your Fulbright exchange begins.

Fulbright Application Overview

STEP 1 Prepare before making your application:

- Read the instructions contained in this document, carefully and in their entirety, so that you understand the application and eligibility requirements.
- Read the **UK Commission Application Terms and Conditions**

STEP 2 Complete and submit an Online Application:

A complete application includes:

- Biographical, Educational, and Employment Details
- Project Statement
- Reflective Essay – **new requirement**
- Curriculum Vitae
- US Host affiliation letter (or information about prospective US host(s))
- Research Bibliography
- Scan of your Passport Bio Page
- Three References
- Course Syllabi (if an teaching is a part of the proposal, e.g. Elon award)
- Portfolio submission, e.g. Creative writing or art sample, if applicable

STEP 3 Complete a UK Commission Supplemental Form:

This is required for all applicants and is accessed via a separate website.
You must follow the link below to register for and access the form:

https://fulbright.tfaforms.net/f/UKS

How to Complete an Online Application

STEP 1: Register for an online application account

- The online application can be accessed here: https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2027
- A link to activate your account and a temporary pin will be sent to your email address. This may take a few minutes to come through. Check your junk mail in case it is sent there.
- When prompted, set up a password for your account

STEP 2: Select the correct application form

Click on “Start an Application”

To complete the correct application form, do the following:

- Select “Fulbright Program”
- Select “Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program”
- Click “Start application”
- Click “Open application”

Read the information provided and click “Continue” to begin your application

The application does not have to be filled out in one sitting and, after Step 5 (data policy), can be completed in any order. The application form is made up of several sections. You can revisit each section at any time before submitting the application by clicking on the links on the left-hand side of the screen.

Most of the application form is self-explanatory. This instruction document provides extra guidance on some sections of the application form, particularly where the UK has specific

requirements. Look for the ➢ in this document for that extra information.

STEP 3: Preliminary Questions

Please answer these questions accurately. Failure to input the correct information here could result in your application not filtering through to the UK Commission when applications are processed.

- **Through which program country are you applying?**

Put “United Kingdom”. Only put “United Kingdom”, otherwise your application will be sent to another Commission and will not be included in our competition.

- **To which academic year are you applying?**

  Put “2027-2028”

- **Do you hold or are you applying for:**
  a) U.S. citizenship;
  c) Dual citizenship with the U.S.; or
  b) U.S. permanent residency?

  Those with or applying for US citizenship, dual citizenship or US permanent residency are ineligible to apply

- Have you reviewed and do you meet all program eligibility requirements for the country through which you are applying?

  Make sure you review the eligibility criteria for the UK programme before embarking on your application. If you have any questions about eligibility, please email: fulbrightprogrammes@fulbright.org.uk

STEP 4: Select the Award you are applying for

All the awards on offer through the UK programme are listed here. You may only apply for one scholar award. We recommend choosing the award that best represents your research. If your research does not fit into any of the named sponsored awards, then you should apply for the All-Disciplines Award.

STEP 5: Read and respond to the IIE Data Privacy Policy

Please read the data privacy policy carefully and respond to the request for consent. You do not have to provide your consent. However, please be aware that if you do not provide your consent or if you withdraw your consent later on, we may not be able to assess your Application. This is because to the extent any of the Volunteered Sensitive Personal Data is provided in support of your Application, the withdrawal of your consent may compromise the completeness of the Application.

STEP 6: Complete the Application

These sections can be filled out in any order. Some fields are mandatory for all applicants some are not relevant for applicants to the UK Commission.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please fill out all this section.

Some things to note:

- **Number of Dependents**
  This refers to the number of people you would likely bring with you to the United States if successful in your application. Dependents include a spouse and any unmarried children under the age of 21.

- **National Identification Number**
  This is not required for applicants to the UK Commission

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Email**
  Please make sure that the primary email address that you use to start your application is one that you check regularly as this will be the email address that you are contacted on.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Please fill out all this section.

Some things to note:

- **Curriculum Vitae**
  Please upload your current CV (no more than 6 pages)

- **Academic Background**
  List all post-secondary educational institutions from which you have received a degree or academic credential in reverse chronological order, including any in which you may be presently enrolled.

- **Current Professional Profile**
  Please list your current professional affiliation(s) or employer.

- List your most significant professional accomplishments, honours and awards and up to three significant publications.

- **Organizational Memberships**
  List up to four professional memberships in cultural, educational, and professional organizations.

- **Letter of Support from Home Institution (being affiliated with a UK university is <u>not</u> an eligibility criteria)**
  This is not required for applicants to the UK Commission

- **Experience Abroad**
  Please list below any professional travel and/or residence abroad, exceeding three (3) months, during the last six years.

- **Have you recently entered the United States on a J-1 or J-2 visa?**
  Please select yes if you have held a J-1 or J-2 visa in any category in the last 5 years. Please give details of the visa type and upload a scanned copy of the relevant DS-2019 if you still have it.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

This section should be filled out by all applicants

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Please fill out all this section.

Some things to note:

- **Category of grant**

Select the type of activity you will undertake on the grant. Make sure you understand which materials you are required to submit for your chosen category of grant.

- **Project Statement**

Please upload a detailed project statement of three (3) to five (5) single-spaced pages (not to exceed 3,500 words).

Sometimes those with outstanding professional achievements assume that a brief, general project statement will be sufficient; it is not. To ensure a competitive application, your proposed project, as well as the strategy for completing it, should be thoroughly explained in three to five single-spaced pages. However, including irrelevant or extraneous material may divert attention from the project statement.

Begin the project statement with your name, country and the project title at the top of page one. At the top of each subsequent page, type your name and country. It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

Background
Briefly introduce the research topic. Place the project in academic or professional context by referring to major works by others on the subject. Clearly identify the element to be conducted in the US.

Objectives
Clearly define the aims of the project to be conducted in the US.

Methodology/Duration
Explain the approach, methods and plan you will use (for example, interviews, library or archival

research, or laboratory experiments). Indicate whether the proposed research is quantitative or qualitative. Outline the specific timeframe / stages for your project in the US.

Significance
Explain the importance of the project for the field, your home country and your own professional development. Indicate what effect you expect the opportunity to have on your teaching or professional work in your home country. (For example: new approaches to curriculum planning, student advising or pedagogy; expanding knowledge in the field through collaboration with US colleagues).

Describe the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community, or professional field.

Evaluation and Dissemination
Describe plans for assessment and distribution of research results in your home country and elsewhere.

Justification for Residence in the United States for the Proposed Project
Indicate why it is necessary to conduct the research onsite in the United States

Why bring this project to the Fulbright Programme?
Describe why you have brought this project to Fulbright and what it is about the Fulbright programme that made you want to apply/that makes you think it would be a good fit for you and your project.

Fulbright isn't just an academic scholarship, it is an international exchange programme and cultural immersion is an important element of this. A complete application should include these proposal sections on ***Justification for residence in the United States for Proposed Project*** and ***Why bring this project to the Fulbright Programme***.

- **If you plan to teach as part of your project, please also include:**

Teaching Experience
Describe the range of courses you have taught, including the teaching methods used. Indicate your involvement, if any, in curriculum planning, thesis guidance, and administrative responsibilities. Explain how your experience will be relevant to your proposed teaching in the United States.

Proposed Teaching
Explain what you propose to teach in the United States. Upload a proposed Course Syllabi (max. 10 pages) to the Course Syllabi page of the application.

Expected Outcomes
Indicate what effect you expect the opportunity to have on your teaching or professional work in your home country (for example, new approaches to curriculum planning, student advising or pedagogy; expanding knowledge in the field through collaboration with US colleagues). Describe briefly the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community or professional field.

Additional Information
If applicable, indicate the quantity, format and transportation requirements for any botanical, zoological or mineral samples that you will need to bring to the United States for analysis.

Elon University and Rutgers University-Newark applicants
Applicants to the Elon University award and the Rutgers University-Newark Award must also upload an overview of the courses you have taught to date in your university career. Please include the courses most relevant to those you would intend to teach at Elon/Rutgers. Please upload this to the Supplemental Materials section located in the Additional Information page of the online application.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDANCE

- Submit a clear and complete project statement that introduces you professionally to the Fulbright review panel. Your application will be peer reviewed by academics broadly in your field, e.g. history applications will be read by historians; medical science applications will be read by medics/academics in the medical sciences. You should keep this in mind when writing. However, it is also important that an educated reader from another discipline can understand the importance and potential impact of your intended research/teaching and why this project fits with the Fulbright programme.

- Make sure that your qualifications and expertise match the objectives in your project statement. You should be able to show that you are qualified to accomplish what you are proposing to do. Connect your experience to what you are preparing to do if you receive an award. Explain the project's significance and its importance to the field. Focus on what can be reasonably accomplished during the period of the grant.

- Be specific in describing your previous work and in laying out the nature of your proposed Fulbright activity. Include only the most pertinent information in forming your responses so as not to exceed the page restrictions but avoid writing a proposal so brief that it will be difficult for the reviewer to understand the project. A frequent failing in applications is that the proposal is underdeveloped or too imprecise to give reviewers a clear sense of the endeavour

- Do not assume that your suitability for the project is self-evident. Your standing in your field may not be well known to reviewers. You need to make a case for yourself based on your experience and current scholarly endeavours. Explain the significance of your project in language that will be understood by reviewers from outside your field.

- Discuss any preparatory steps you have taken or will take before starting your grant. For example, if you plan to bring samples of plants, chemicals, human tissue, etc., indicate that you have discussed your plans with the US Embassy and your prospective host, if known, to determine what clearance and approval processes are needed.

- Emphasize how your project will benefit the host institution or other scholars in your field both in the UK and in the US. Address in your project statement the ways in which you will use the experience upon your return. What is the likely impact of your experience abroad? How will you use what you learned upon your return, professionally and personally?

- Do not stress only how a Fulbright grant will benefit you or your career. Remember that the programme is intended to foster mutual understanding between cultures and nations. In what ways will you aim to do this, both professionally and personally in the US? What can

you bring to the Fulbright programme? What extra benefits could the Fulbright programme bring you?

- Pay attention to appropriate style and spelling/grammar in your proposal.

- **Bibliography**
  For research or teaching/research proposals, provide a list of one to three pages of references relevant to the proposed research. It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format.

- **Intended Grant Period**
  Please enter the intended length of grant and the proposed dates. These can be amended, within reason, at a later date if you are successful in your application

- **Institutional Affiliation**
  Add details for all the institutions you have approached/plan to approach as host(s)

- **Letter of Invitation**

  - Letters of invitation should be typed on institutional letterhead and signed. The letter should also contain the proposed academic year. Please note that invitations do not ensure selection for an award.

  - The letter should indicate that the applicant has been in touch with a host institution and that if awarded a Fulbright grant, the institution is happy to host the scholar.

  - The terms that the scholar and host agree upon are up to the scholar and something that the US-UK Fulbright Commission is not involved with.

  - Agreements between scholars and host institutions typically include office space, library and internet access, opportunity to present guest lectures, attend events within the department/university, etc.

  - If an invitation arrives after the application deadline, contact the UK Commission to arrange for its submission.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY – 300 WORDS

- **This year the reflective essay is a compulsory component of the application**, applications submitted without a reflective essay will be considered incomplete by the review committee.

- You will need to upload this to the application form under “additional materials”

- At Fulbright, we believe that to solve global challenges, we urgently need to bring together the minds and the energy of people from all cultures and backgrounds, and build cohorts that reflect the vibrant diversity of both our countries.

- The Fulbright Programme was founded in the aftermath of the Second World War with the aim of increasing the understanding between peoples and nations. In a continuity with this aim, we understand that our Fulbrighters come from a variety of backgrounds, bringing different lived experiences and beliefs that help build our cohorts and community.

- With this in mind, please share with us a **300 word** reflection that you think will help us better understand your application and your journey to the Fulbright programme.

- To learn more about our commitment to inclusive excellence, read more on the Our Story page of our website https://fulbright.org.uk/about-us/our-story/

PORTFOLIO

- Applicants in Creative Writing should upload a short sample of writing here. Applicants in subjects such as Art, Architecture, Design or Dance may upload examples of their work.

- Please do not upload copies of theses or published academic articles to this section.

GRANT AND TRAVEL PLANS

Please fill out this section.

Some things to note:

- **Financial Information and Additional** *grants*
  All applicants should fill out these sections. If you are not receiving any additional grants, please just enter "None".

- **Passport**
  Please upload a copy of the bio page of your current passport

- **Accompanying Dependents**
  We do not require this information at this time. Successful applicants who wish to take dependents to the US will be asked for this information at a later date.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

- **Supplemental materials**
  Please use this section to upload additional documents for any of the following awards:

- Elon University Award/Rutgers University-Newark Award applicants: Previous Course Syllabi

UK Scholar selection panel's checklist

Below you will find a list of the criteria your application must meet for the Selection Panel to consider you for an interview. These are the questions we will be asking ourselves when

reviewing your application. We would strongly encourage you to use them as a checklist before you submit your application. Unless you answer Yes to every single question, we suggest that you revisit your project proposal.

- Is the project proposal clear and detailed and does it propose a feasible grant project which demonstrates potential for wider impact?
- Does the application provide good reasoning for the proposed host institution?
- Does the applicant show a keen interest in exploring a new culture and sharing their own?
- Does the applicant explicitly discuss why they would like to participate in the Fulbright Programme? Do they demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the Commission's mission and values?
- Does the application demonstrate involvement in community and life outside of academia?
- Does the application indicate that the Fulbright Award will have a transformative effect on the applicant's professional and personal journey?
- Does the applicant discuss their future plans and the ways in which they would like to give back upon return to the UK?

Please note that meeting all of the above requirements DOES NOT guarantee that you will be invited to interview for a Fulbright Award. We receive a high volume of excellent applications, but as we can award a very limited number of grants, we are unable to interview every competitive applicant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

You must register three recommenders who can provide a reference for you.

The deadline for receipt of references is the same as the application deadline: 5pm GMT, Monday 2 November 2026.

Your application will not be considered complete if you recommenders have not submitted their references by this date.

Enter your recommenders' details into the online system.

Once you click "Send to Recommender," an email with instructions on completing the online recommendation will be sent to your recommender. You will be able to track the status of recommendations and send reminders through this online system before and after application submission.

To replace existing recommenders, you will have the option to "Exclude" and add an alternative.

Recommendation guidelines:

- References are to be submitted ONLINE only through the system. We do NOT accept hard copy references

- If your referee experiences problems with the online system, then please let the Commission know immediately

- Your referees will each receive an email with a set of instructions and a link to complete the online reference form, which they will upload to your application**.**

- Follow up with your referee that they received the email as it often goes into spam folders. The email should come to them when the email address is inputted. They do not have to wait until you have submitted your application before uploading their reference.

- The system will show you the progress of your recommender requests. You will not be able to view the references.

- It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure: (a) each of their referees receive the online link via email following the submission of their details (b) each of their referees submit the reference online by the deadline of **5pm GMT, MONDAY 2 November 2026**

- Please provide your referees with a copy of your project statement to help them write an informed reference.

- References should be from people qualified to evaluate your professional work; the abilities you bring to the proposed project; your ability to adapt to another country and culture; and the merits of the project itself. References should come from professional peers or supervisors.

- References can come from your home institution, but at least one of the references should be from a colleague in your field outside your home institution

- If you have recently moved to a new home institution, one of the reference letters should be from your previous institution

- Choose your referees carefully and contact them early. Applications with an insufficient number of references or late references will be considered incomplete / ineligible.

- Do not ask someone for reference unless the person is well acquainted with your qualifications. A reference from a well-known scholar, a contact abroad or a prominent government official will carry less weight than a realistic assessment of your abilities from someone who knows you and your work well.

SIGNATURE

You must complete this section

APPLICATION REVIEW

In this section the system will tell you if there are any missing elements to your application.

You will not be able to submit the application until all required sections are complete.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Please remember to submit your application. You can submit your application before all your referees have submitted their references.

Once you submit your application, you will not be able to return to your application. After submission you will have access to a PDF proof of your submitted application. You will also be

able to track the status of references, send reminders, and change reference information if necessary.

If you need to make any important changes to your application after submission, please contact fulbrightprogrammes@fulbright.org.uk