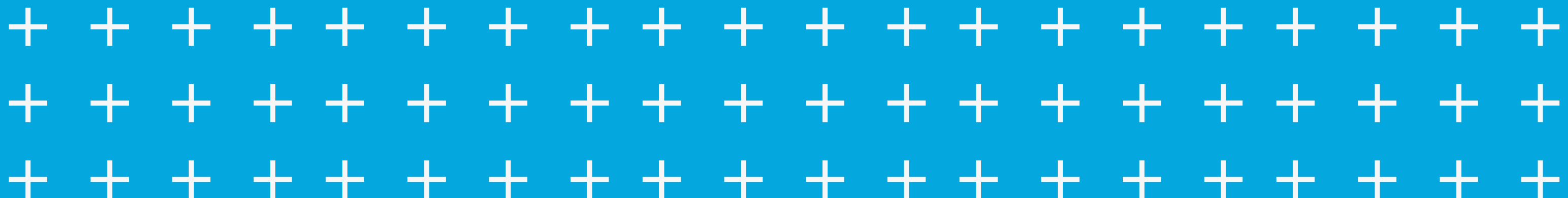


Fulbright Overview Workshop

The University of New Mexico Spring 2026

Hosted by The Center for Academic Excellence & Leadership
Development (CAELD)



Agenda



What is Fulbright?



Eligibility & Grant Details

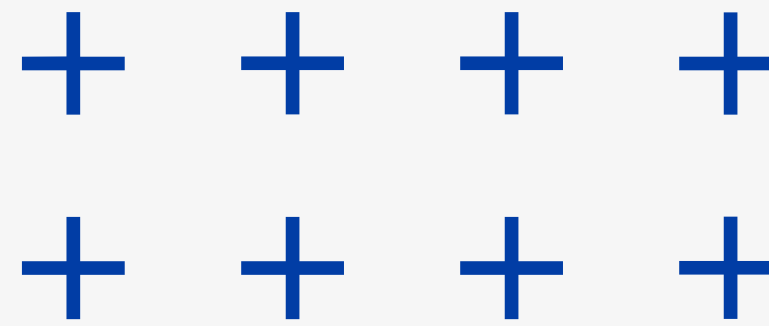


Application Checklist & Strong Apps



Timeline & CAELD Support

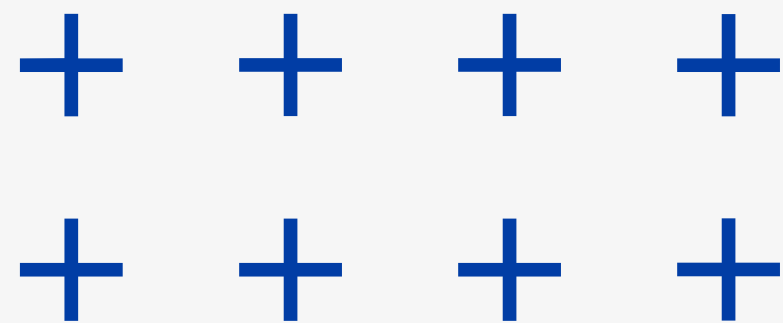




What is Fulbright?

“The Fulbright Program, the flagship international academic exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, has fostered mutual understanding between the United States and other countries since 1946” - Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

Historically, 160 countries participate in the Fulbright program, awarding roughly 8,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals every year.



- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers opportunities for recent graduates, pre-doctoral candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study, research, and teaching abroad.

- The program's mission is to foster mutual understanding among nations through cultural and educational exchanges.

Eligibility

Applicants must...



Be a citizen or national of the USA at the time of application.



Have a conferred bachelor's degree or equivalent before the start of the grant.



Meet the language requirement of the award to which they are applying.



Be in good health. Grantees will be required to submit a satisfactory medical clearance form from a physician.



Grant Details

A Fulbright award covers travel expenses, health insurance, and a monthly stipend.

Grant duration is between 8 to 12 months.

May only apply to one award type or one country per cycle (in rare cases, some multi country awards are available) .

Academic Grants

Students can apply to fund a project of student's own design. Can be in combination of academic study and field research. This includes Arts awards, graduate study, and independent research.

English Teaching Assistantship

Students apply to teach English alongside a cooperating teacher. Educational settings vary, and some countries offer time to pursue a supplementary project.

English Teaching Assistantships

The ETA award puts Fulbrighters in classrooms with local teachers to assist with their English language instruction and provide cultural education. Unless otherwise stated, you do not need prior teaching experience to be an ETA Fulbrighter!

+ Where would I be placed?

The short answer is, it depends.

Some countries or regions are very specific with placement types and language requirements. Others are not. In most cases, ETAs are **not** placed in capital or larger cities.

+ What are the hours like?

ETAs should expect to be in the classroom or preparing for teaching about 12-25 hours a week, depending on placement. Some placements will only want you teaching, others will want you to complete a supplemental project as well.

Academic Grants

Academic awards consist of graduate enrollment grants, open study research awards, and a few special programs in partnership with the Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health and National Geographic Society. Open study awards can encompass a variety of topics from STEM to Humanities to the Creative Arts.



If I get a Fulbright for grad school, I'm automatically accepted?

No. If you are planning to pursue a graduate degree enrollment award, you will need to apply to Fulbright AND that university. Acceptance in one does not guarantee acceptance in the other.



Do I need to submit anything extra as an arts applicant?



As an arts applicant, you will be required to submit a portfolio. What is required in the portfolio will depend on the field of study you pursue. The full list of what is required per field of study can be found on the Fulbright website under "Application Components" >>>> "Study/Research: Creative & Performing Arts"



Application Checklist

You're eligible and you know the award to want to apply for ... now what?

You'll need...

- ✓ Online application
 - Abstract/Proposal Summary (1750 characters)
- ✓ Statement of Grant Purpose
 - Study/Research = 6,000 characters
 - ETA = 3,000 characters
- ✓ Short Answers: Fulfilling the Fulbright Mission
 - Flexibility & Adaptability (2,000 characters)
 - Community Engagement (2,000 characters)
 - Impact of Fulbright Award (1,000 characters)
- ✓ Language Evaluation
 - only required for select countries
- ✓ Three Letters of Recommendation
 - for ETAs, this is a **form** and NOT a letter
- ✓ Letter(s) of Affiliation (Academic / Arts Grants)
- ✓ Official transcripts from every institution attended
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Portfolio (Arts applicants only)



Affiliation Letter

This is a **crucial** application component required by **most** academic grants.

An affiliation letter from “an educational institution or other sponsoring entity in the host country is required, even if the grant project is primarily or solely research or artistic activity.” - [Fulbright Website](#)

For graduate enrollment awards, a letter of affiliation is *typically* not required by the deadline. Instead, you will need a letter of admission before arrival in the country.

Letters of affiliation can be from various sources in the country as long as they make sense for your award.

Start on this component EARLY! This is a ~~time~~ **time**-consuming process, and institutions or entities may not be as available over the summer months.



What Makes a Strong Application?

A **commitment** to the Fulbright mission shown through essays that are authentic, relevant, and compelling.

Other factors:

- Limited previous in-country experience (depends on award type)
- Language proficiency / desire / plans to learn
- A project that is **country specific**
- A **feasible** project and pedagogy



Selection Process & Timeline

+ Schedule intro meeting with your Fulbright Advisor

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

+ First draft of Fulbright essays due to advisor

June 23^d, 2026

+ Fulbright recommenders due in Fulbright portal

July 21st, 2026

+ UNM Campus Deadline

August 20th, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m.

+ UNM Campus Committee Interviews

Early September, 2026

National Deadline

Early October, 2026

How We Can Help:

Application Management

Essay Workshopping & Revision

Connections to Fulbright Alumni

Fulbright Contacts for Specific Questions



CENTER FOR
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE &
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



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