

MOUNT HOLYOKE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

THE FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM 2009-2010
(The Fulbright U.S. Student Program web site <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html>)

We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Students must access application forms from the Fulbright Program website. If you wish to apply, contact the Fulbright Program Adviser (FPA), Kimberly Parent, in the Career Development Center to discuss your plans. *Applications must be submitted BOTH electronically and in hard copy.*

TYPE: Nomination by Mount Holyoke College is required. Mount Holyoke may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for this award. Apply as Senior or Alum.

PURPOSE: The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fulbright grants and other grants for graduate study abroad provided by foreign governments, universities, and private donors. The purpose of the awards is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Awards are generally given for study or research abroad for one academic year, though some travel grants are also offered. More than 155 countries participate in the program. The U.S. Student Program is designed to give recent B.S./B.A. graduates, masters and doctoral candidates, and young professionals, artists and musicians, opportunities for personal development and international experience. Most grantees plan their own programs which may include university coursework, independent library or field research, professional training in the arts and other fields, assistant English-teaching, or a combination of these or other projects. The vast majority of awards are for study/research, but opportunities are also available to teach English, in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.

ELIGIBILITY: Refer to the website for exceptions and ineligibility factors. Basic eligibility requirements are:

- U.S. citizenship at the time of application. Permanent residents are not eligible. There are no age restrictions.
- Must have earned a bachelor's degree before the date of the grant. Applicants who have not earned a B.A. degree or the equivalent, but who have extensive professional study and/or experience in fields in which they wish to pursue a project, may be considered.
- Institutional nomination is required for current seniors. Alumnae may apply directly, but are encouraged to seek assistance from the MHC Fulbright Program Adviser.
- In the creative and performing arts, four years of professional study and/or experience meets the basic eligibility requirements.
- Must have sufficient proficiency in the written and spoken language of the host country to carry out the proposed study. This is especially important for projects in the social sciences and the humanities.
- Must be in good health. Grantees will be required to submit a satisfactory Medical Certificate of Health from a physician.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Selection is based on: the academic and/or professional record of the applicant; the feasibility of the proposed study/research/teaching assistantship; the need for the project to be undertaken in the country of choice; language preparation (if applicable); the extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the program aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations; and personal qualifications. Applicants should clearly describe why it is necessary for them to pursue their project in the country to which they are applying, rather than in the U.S. Students applying to study in a non-English-speaking country generally will need at least two years of college-level instruction in the language; see the Fulbright brochure for exceptions. Preference is given to candidates who have received the majority of their higher education in the U.S. (junior-year or other short-term study or residence abroad does not count against the applicant) and to candidates who have not resided in the country to which they are applying for more than six months.

SPECIAL NOTES: Candidates proposing a program of study are not expected to pursue a degree during their year abroad, as most graduate degree programs extend beyond one academic year. Applicants may propose to work toward a degree requiring a longer period of study, but should expect to provide their own funding. It is helpful to your application if you have at least begun corresponding with the university at which you would like to study, as doing so reflects initiative and your commitment to the project. Affiliation with an educational institution or other sponsoring entity in the host country is required. Candidates for English Teaching Assistantships will be placed by the Fulbright Commission/Foundation or the U.S. Embassy, so an affiliation letter is not required.

AWARDS: Stipends range from travel grants to full grants; awards are generally for one academic year. Special program opportunities also include Fulbright Business Grants, Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Awards, English Teaching Assistantships and mtvU Awards (4 awards available for projects around an aspect of international contemporary or popular music as a cultural force for expression - deadline for this award is March 1, 2009 – do not apply at the October 20, 2008 deadline – for details see https://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_mtv.html). Limitations on subjects for study/research vary from country to country, as does the level of competition, so it is essential that you thoroughly review the brochure listing grants for the country of your choice. Candidates may apply for one country only, and will be considered for all IIE-administered awards to that country for which they are eligible. (In exceptional cases, in some regions, applicants may propose to work in more than one country; see program brochure or website for details.) As many as 1,500 awards are given each year; certain numbers and types of awards are designated for each participating country or region. Note that the website lists statistics on the previous year's competition (including number of applications received and number of awards given, by country or region). Consider whether you could develop a solid project in one of the less competitive regions. In most regions other than Europe, candidates may be able to apply to countries not listed in the brochure; consult with the Fulbright Program Adviser. Note that a renewed commitment to provide more opportunities for younger students means that more grants will be available to graduating seniors; **graduating seniors thus may apply to any country listed in the brochure even if the country summary states that applications from more advanced graduate students are required or preferred.** (Graduating seniors comprise about 50% of the applicant pool, and about 40% of award recipients.)

PREVIOUS FULBRIGHT GRANTEES: Since the Fulbright Grant award inception in 1946, 136 Mount Holyoke students and alumnae have won awards in the Fulbright competition. There have been winners each consecutive year since 1993. In 2007 and 2008, five students and five alumnae won teaching assistantships in South Korea, Argentina, and Taiwan and grants for study in France, Germany, Bangladesh, China, Canada, Nepal, and Australia. Other past successful projects include the study of archaeology in England, literature in Pakistan, zoology in Australia, biology in Switzerland, international relations in Germany, politics in Poland, Women's tobacco clubs in Malawi, soccer clubs in Bolivia, anti-HIV therapy in Senegal, law in Ghana, health care in Germany, cancer research in Japan, emigration research in Mexico, and documentary film study in Brazil. See the annual reports *U.S. Fulbright Fellows: Directory of Students* for lists of all winners (name, year of graduation, project proposal, country of study, home institution); these guides are available for your use in the Career Development Center (see Fulbright Program Adviser) and are on the Fulbright website at http://us.fulbrightonline.org/resources_current_granteedirectories.html.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Mount Holyoke is required to forward to IIE every complete application. The Fulbright program is competitive; therefore, we encourage you to assess your strengths and weaknesses against the criteria for the award before deciding to apply. Your academic advisor and other faculty who know you and your work well can help you determine whether you would be a strong candidate for this award. **We ask that you work with a faculty mentor who can provide you with advice and critique on your application.** You will also receive feedback on your application from the Fellowship Committee following your interview. You are urged to follow the Committee's advice as you complete the final version of your application.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!

NOMINATION PROCESS & DEADLINES:

Monday, September 22, 2008

Applicants must collect all the supporting documents listed below and submit them in hard copy to the Fulbright Program Adviser in the Career Development Center. Supporting documents must be received by the FPA in their original sealed envelopes with the signature or stamp of the individual or institution across the flap. Applicants must also submit the application electronically in order to give access to the application to the FPA. **However, please await instructions from the FPA (following your campus interview) before you submit any part of your application electronically!** The FPA will arrange for interviews of all Fulbright applicants. Alumna applicants will be interviewed by telephone. Upon completion of the interviews and final revisions, the FPA will forward applications (electronically and in hard copy) to the IIE by the October 20, 2008 deadline.

- Fulbright **application form, signed and dated (print-out of on-line application; make sure you select printable version)**
- Draft of **statement of proposed study** (Read the instructions provided with the application form; note in particular that the final paragraph should include your planned departure date and length of study abroad.)
- Draft of **personal statement** (Include details on how your proposed program abroad relates to your future plans and goals.)
- Three **letters of recommendation with reference forms** (provided with the Fulbright application; please note different format of the ETA reference forms.)
- **Foreign language report** (if applicable)
- **Letter of affiliation with host institution** (if applicable)
- **Official transcripts from each institution attended, including study abroad** (Transcripts can be sent directly to the CDC).

NOTE THESE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: To avoid any confusion about the application process, we highly recommend that you follow this advice:

- Application forms are available on line at <https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/usa/>. Please make sure that you read all the necessary information and instructions at <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/howtoapply.html>. You must complete the application on line but you will need to submit a hard copy to the CDC.
- **IMPORTANT!** IIE requests that letters of recommendation be submitted both in hard copy and on-line. We prioritize the hard copy letters of recommendation, but ask that the electronic letters be submitted in time for the national deadline. You should **NOT enter your recommenders into the on-line system** until you receive written instructions from us to do so. Your recommenders should **NOT submit their letters on-line** until following your interview with the campus committee. For instructions to recommenders, see: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/cdc/assets/CDC/fulbrightrecletter.pdf>.
- ETA applicants: your recommenders will follow a recommendation format with specific questions regarding your candidacy for their recommendations. See <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/cdc/assets/CDC/fulbrightrecletter.pdf>. Their letters must be signed and submitted to us in hard copy by the campus deadline. Following your interview, you should enter your recommenders into the on-line application system and instruct them to upload their letters electronically.
- It is very important that your recommenders comment on your project in their letters. Give each of your recommenders a draft of your proposal.
- You will have time to revise the drafts of your project proposal and personal statement before the national deadline, but it is to your advantage to present your best possible draft to the Committee on Fellowships by the campus deadline.
- The personal statement and the project proposal need not fit in the space provided, but may be submitted as separate documents. We urge that you limit yourself to the stated word limits. National screening committees may be asked to read as many as 100 applications, so be concise. If you add a page, be sure to include your name, field, and the country to which you are applying in the upper right-hand corner.
- It is in your best interest to have a mentor in your field of study to guide you and give you critical feedback on your application. Please let us know who your mentor is and how we can contact him/her.

Friday, September 26 through Friday, October 10, 2008

The Committee on Fellowships interviews candidates. You will receive a 20-minute appointment for an interview. (Please arrange to swap with another applicant if the assigned time slot will not work for you).

- Please be prompt for your appointment, and bring a copy of your application.
- Please note—IIE requests that the campus committee rate (not rank) candidates according to a provided set of criteria.

Following your interview, please:

- Make revisions based on feedback from the campus committee.
- Await notification of your endorsement status.
- Await written instructions to submit names and email addresses of faculty recommenders to the online application.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

The final (signed and dated) application is due in the Career Development Center, including:

- Final versions, on Fulbright forms, of your **study proposal** and **personal statement** with your name, country, and field stated
- **Official copy of your Mount Holyoke transcript** and other college transcripts, if applicable (**remember that if you transferred to Mount Holyoke or studied away, you will need to obtain official transcripts from the other institution/program, so plan ahead.** Note: You do not need to use the transcript labels provided with the application.
- Any documents due on September 22nd (see above) that had not been received
Any additional page, such as a letter of affiliation, must have your name and the country to which you are applying typed in the upper right-hand corner.

Monday, October 20, 2008 - Deadline for receipt of applications at the Institute of International Education in New York. The Career Development Center must mail AND release on-line all MHC applications in bulk, along with the required evaluative statement for each candidate.

Saturday, January 31, 2009 – Applicants receive email notification indicating whether or not they are recommended for a grant. Awards are usually formally announced in the spring.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline. If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact the Fulbright Program Adviser, Kimberly Parent, at (413) 538-2080.

FULBRIGHT TIPS

START EARLY!!!!

The application cycle for the 2009-2010 U.S. Fulbright Student competition opens on **May 1, 2008**. The **deadline** for applications to be received electronically by IIE is **October 20, 2008**. Hard copy applications and all support documents must be received by **October 22, 2008**. **Applications submitted to IIE become the property of IIE. No part will be returned under any circumstance. Your Fulbright Program Adviser is responsible for submitting all applications (electronically and in hard copy).**

YOU SHOULD BEGIN AN APPLICATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IDEALLY:

- At least **2 months** prior to the campus or IIE deadline: for full research and study grants or grants in the Creative and Performing Arts.
- At least **6 weeks** prior to the campus or IIE deadline: for Teaching Assistantships or Travel Grants.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (see http://us.fulbrightonline.org/howtoapply_appinstructions.html)

A complete hard-copy (i.e., printed paper) application consists of all the following relevant materials:

(*include these forms where applicable):

Forms 1-3 BASIC DATA

Form 4 STUDENT RECORD FORM

Form 5 STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

Form 6 PERSONAL STATEMENT

***Form 7 LANGUAGE BACKGROUND REPORT**

***Form 7A CRITICAL LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT AWARD SUPPLEMENTARY FORM**

***Form 8 FOREIGN LANGUAGE EVALUATION**

Form 9A REFERENCE COVER SHEET FOR RESEARCH/STUDY GRANTS (3)

OR

Form 9B ETA REFERENCES (3)

Form 11 *CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPTS FROM ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ATTENDED

***LETTER(S) OF AFFILIATION FOR RESEARCH/STUDY APPLICANTS**

For more tips on completing your application, see
https://us.fulbrightonline.org/howtoapply_tips.html