An Introduction to the Fulbright Program

UNIVERSITY OF MONS

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What We Do

• EducationUSA
  – Promote U.S. higher education
  – Provide accurate and unbiased, information about study opportunities in the U.S.

• Fulbright Program
  – Administer scholarships for Belgian and Luxembourgish citizens to study in the U.S.
Our Mission

• Established in 1946
• Intended “to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries” (Senator J. William Fulbright)
• Today, the flagship international educational exchange program of the U.S. State Department
Fulbright Program Options

• The Fulbright Program in Belgium offers...
  – Study and research grants for students and scholars
  – Foreign Language Teaching Assistantships for language teaching assistants
  – Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for secondary school teachers and current undergraduate students
  – Grants for professional journalists
Why Apply for a Fulbright?

• Up to $30,000 grant (average $15,000)

• Before you go...
  – J-1 visa sponsorship
  – Pre-Departure Orientation in Brussels
  – Discount on Brussels Airlines flights to NYC and DC

• While you’re there...
  – Sickness and accident insurance
  – In-country programming, including Gateway Orientations and Enrichment Seminars

• Once you leave...
  – Prestigious title and alumni network
Eligibility Requirements

• Belgian or Luxembourgish citizenship
• Minimum of a bachelor’s degree
• Academic excellence (generally a distinction every year or grand distinction in the last year of study) and demonstrated English proficiency
• Separate process → admission or affiliation with an accredited U.S. university, research institution, etc.
Eligibility Requirements

• Should have *ambassadorial qualities* necessary for educational and cultural exchange

• Can NOT have had a J-1 visa in the student or scholar categories within the past two years

• Must *return to Belgium/EU* for the two years following grant per the terms of the J-1 visa Home Residency Requirement (see *more at j1visa.state.gov*)
Fulbright Application Process

• After application opens on 15 September, prepare three letters of recommendation, transcripts, and essays for submission by 1 December 2017
  – Provide letter of acceptance/affiliation as soon as possible

• Invited to interview (10 minutes) in January 2018

• Notified of selection in February 2018
Fulbright FLTA

• Two Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant grants to teach French or Dutch at the university level in the United States

• Grantees receive benefits of Fulbright grant AND placement in U.S. universities, where they receive housing, meals, monthly stipend and possibility to take courses

• FLTA candidates must be:
  – Belgian citizen
  – Teachers of French, Dutch or German at the upper secondary level WITHOUT three years of professional experience
  – Academic excellence (generally a distinction every year or grand distinction in the last year of study)
  – Preference given to candidates under the age of 29
Fulbright-Schuman Grants

• Grants available for Graduate Study, Pre-Doctoral Research, Post-Doctoral Research, and University Lecturing

• Open to all EU citizens whose projects relate to U.S.-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions
Fulbright-Schuman Grants

- Grants available for Graduate Study, Pre-Doctoral Research, Post-Doctoral Research, and University Lecturing
- Open to all EU citizens whose projects relate to U.S.-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions
- Applicants must have minimum of three months experience in two or more member states
- Preference given to candidates with at least two years of professional experience
- €2,000 travel stipend + €3,000/month (for scholars) or €2000/month (for students)
Fulbright Partner Awards

- Fulbright Commission also administers Fulbright Partner Awards, which are sponsored by individuals, companies, associations, and accredited Belgian and American universities.
- Can have more specific eligibility requirements (e.g., field of study, host institution).
- Automatically considered if eligible.
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