



VIETNAMESE STUDENT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Program

What does the Fulbright scholarship provide?

The scholarship provides grantees with the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree at a university in the United States. The grant provides full tuition and fees, a living allowance, round-trip travel and health insurance.

How long is the program?

Most M.A. programs take two academic years to complete, although in some cases, the M.A. course is only 10-12 months. Law students will take one academic year to complete their degrees. All grantees must remain in good academic standing to continue their program.

How many awards are there?

The number of scholarships depends on the amount of funding allocated by the US Department of State. Approximately 20 new grantees go to the U.S. each year.

Is there a certain number of scholarships for a certain field of study?

No. There is no quota for each field of study. The competition is based solely on merit.

Eligibility requirements

What are the minimum eligibility requirements for a Fulbright scholarship?

Vietnamese citizens from all regions in Vietnam are welcome to apply. Dual citizens are not permitted, and applicants must reside in Vietnam throughout the application & selection process. Applicants must have at least a BA degree and have two years of work experience by the time of their application. All applicants must be proficient in English, as measured by a minimum 79 on TOEFL iBT or 6.5 on IELTS, or PTE 58, or 105 on Duolingo. Candidates must not have received any government scholarship for graduate study abroad within the past five years or have accepted

any fully-funded scholarship for graduate study abroad. Finally, the field of study that an applicant intends to pursue must be supported by the Fulbright Program.

The Program requires two years of work experience since graduation. I graduated recently but I had worked full-time for more than two years before graduation. Can that experience satisfy the requirement?

Unfortunately, the Fulbright Program counts the work experience based on the date of issuance of your first Bachelor's degree. For example, to be eligible for the academic year 2024-2025 of which the application deadline is April 17, 2023, your first Bachelor's degree must be issued before April 17, 2021. The experience you gained before graduation may make you more competitive overall, but does not necessarily meet this requirement.

Does the Fulbright Program require applicants to submit contracts of employment and certificates of extra-curricular activities?

No. Contracts of employment and certificates of all kinds are not required. You just need to list your work history and extra-curricular activities in your CV.

Do I need an offer of admission from a university in the U.S. prior to applying for a Fulbright award?

No. All grantees will be placed at universities by the Institute of International Education after attaining finalist status.

Which fields of study are supported by the Fulbright program?

In general, most fields in the Humanities and Social Sciences are supported by the Fulbright Program. Please contact the program office if your desired field of study is not listed.

Is there a minimum GPA for applicants?

No. Applicants will be evaluated based on the merits of their entire application, including their GPA, work experience, references, essays, and TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo score.

Is there an age limit for applicants?

No, although most successful candidates are at an early or mid-point in their careers.

Do I need a Bachelor's degree in the same subject that I want to study for a Master's degree?

No. Master's degree programs in the U.S. do not require that applicants have a Bachelor's degree in the same subject. However, it is recommended that applicants have substantial work experience related to their intended field of study. One exception is Law: candidates for a Master's in Law must have a B.A. in Law. A Master's in Economics may also require an academic background in economics or finance.

My TOEFL iBT/IELTS test score is expired. Can I use GMAT/GRE instead?

Yes. At the application round, the Fulbright Program may accept GMAT/GRE in place of your expired TOEFL iBT/IELTS/PTE. Your GMAT/GRE must be valid by the application deadline, and your percentile ranking must be 50% for each component of each exam.

Will I be disqualified if I apply for other international scholarships during the Fulbright selection process?

No, you will not be disqualified if you have applied for other scholarships while you are waiting to hear back on your final Fulbright selection status. However, you must inform us of your intention to accept any scholarship for graduate study abroad during our selection process.

Applying

When should I apply for a Fulbright award?

Applicants who wish to obtain the scholarship for the fall of 2024 should submit an application by April 17, 2023.

What are the components of an application?

All applicants are required to apply online. A complete online application consists of an application form, three confidential letters of reference, diplomas, and transcripts from undergraduate and/or graduate degrees, and TOEFL iBT/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo score reports.

I applied last year and was not successful. Can I resubmit that application for the new cycle?

Unfortunately, once the application is submitted, you can no longer have access to it. You need to create a new log-in account using a new email address and password.

When I register online, the online system asks me to contact the Fulbright Office prior to commencing my application. What should I do?

This is NOT a requirement of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, so there is no need to call or email the Fulbright office. Please select “yes” in answer to question 3 and start your application.

I do not have much work experience in my chosen field. Will my application be at a disadvantage?

Work experience in the field you wish to pursue is an indication of your commitment to that field and is considered additional preparation for graduate work. Work experience can often make up for any academic experience you may lack. While it is not a mandatory requirement, a lack of relevant work experience may diminish your chances to earn a scholarship.

Interviews

What happens to my application after submission?

Your formal application will be reviewed by a committee, which will decide whether to recommend your application for an interview.

How many interview slots are there?

It depends on the number of qualified applicants. In general, we usually interview approximately 45-50 applicants per year.

When are interviews held?

Interviews are held in the fall in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Who is on the selection panel?

The selection committee is composed of Vietnamese and American experts in a variety of fields of study.

Receiving the scholarship

What happens after I am chosen as a finalist?

You will be required to sit for the official TOEFL (Internet-based) and GRE exams. MBA students will take the GMAT exam instead of the GRE, and Law students will only take the TOEFL exam. The Fulbright Program will provide you with test vouchers for these exams.

Your application will then be sent to the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the United States. The IIE Placement office will review your application and send your dossier to a variety of universities. The Fulbright Program and IIE will make the final decision regarding your placement at a university, based on whether the program fits your academic needs and whether your qualifications meet the requirements of the university.

Will my score on the TOEFL/IELTS/GRE/GMAT affect my placement at a university?

Yes. Each university in the U.S. has different admissions criteria, and therefore a low TOEFL/IELTS/GRE/GMAT score may make your application less competitive. Therefore, the Fulbright Program encourages finalists to prepare carefully for these exams. In general, the Program successfully places Vietnamese grantees at appropriate university programs.

The application instructs applicants to name three or four universities of their choice. Will IIE honor my choice?

IIE will try to honor your choices. However, if there is no match between you and your choice, IIE will find other universities where you have a better chance of gaining admission.

Can I defer or delay the scholarship to the following year?

No. You should plan to apply for the year that you will be able to participate fully in the program.

Does the Fulbright Program provide any orientation for grantees before leaving for the U.S.?

Yes. The Program will organize a pre-departure orientation in Vietnam for all grantees, tentatively in May or June 2024.

Are there any requirements attached to the Fulbright grant?

As part of any U.S. government-funded study program, all Fulbright grantees are subject to a 2-year home country residency requirement. This is a worldwide requirement. This means that grantees may not apply for a work or immigrant visa to the U.S. until after two years of residence in Vietnam upon the completion of the Fulbright grant. They may still travel to the United States on non-immigrant visas during this period.