

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT VIETNAMESE VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Q: What does the Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Grant provide?

A: Grantees are offered opportunities to do research or lecture in the US. The grant covers a monthly stipend, an allowance, round-trip travel, and accident and sickness insurance.

Q: How long is the grant?

A: Applicant may choose a grant for a semester (5 months) or full academic year (9 months).

Q: How many grants are awarded per year?

A: The number of grants depends on the amount of funding allocated by the U.S. Department of State. Approximately 7–10 scholars receive grants each year.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements of the Program?

A: Fulbright Vietnamese Visiting Scholar applicants must:

- hold an M.A. or Ph.D. degree
- be Vietnamese citizens
- be proficient in English

Applicants should be university faculty, government officials, private sector professionals, work at a think tank, or occupy other, similar occupations. Applicants will be expected to have a significant record of scholarly or professional accomplishment. Applicants must reside in Vietnam throughout the nomination and selection process, and they must return to Vietnam upon completion of their U.S. stay.

Applicants are ineligible to apply if:

1. They are currently teaching, studying, or conducting research in the U.S., or who have received a Fulbright grant within the past five years.
2. They have been to the U.S. as a J-1 Exchange Visitor in the category of Professor or Research Scholar within the past two years.

Q: Can people with an M.A. degree apply?

A: Yes, the Program may select a grantee with an M.A. degree provided that his/her proposal will contribute significantly to their academic and research field in Vietnam.

Q: Is there an age limit to the applicants?

A: No.

Q: What fields are eligible?

A: Applicants of various disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, science, and technology are welcome to apply.

Q: What documents should I include in my application package?

A:

- Application
- Project proposal
- Bibliography
- Curriculum vitae
- Letters of recommendation (three are required)

Supplementary documentation, where applicable:

- Letter of invitation (preferred, but not required)
- Result of English test
- Course syllabi (for candidates with teaching proposals)
- Proof of financial support for dependents (for those candidates who wish to bring dependents to the U.S.)

Q. What are the contents of the project statement?

The project statement should describe your proposed research and/or teaching in the U.S., as well as the significance of the project in your field. Your qualifications and expertise should match the objectives in your project statement. Keep in mind that the purpose of the program is to foster mutual understanding between cultures and nations, and therefore you should discuss how the project will benefit the bi-national relationship between the US and Vietnam. The language you use must be understood by reviewers from outside your field. It should be 3-5 single-spaced typed pages.

Q: Do I need to submit a TOEFL/IELTS score?

A: No. Semi-finalists will be interviewed to assess his/her English language abilities. Proficiency in English is required to carry out research or lecturing in the U.S.

Q: Do I need an invitation letter from a U.S. institution prior to applying for the Program?

A: Letter of invitation is not required, but preferable. The Institute of International Education (IIE) will help place the finalists at appropriate host institutions in the United States.

Q: Should my referees send letters of reference directly to the Fulbright Office?

A: Yes. All reference letters must be submitted online to the Fulbright Program in Vietnam from and by the referees via <https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2021>. Please refer to the “*Instructions – Vietnam Visiting Scholar Online Application*” for more details on this. **It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that the reference letters are submitted by the deadline on October 15, 2020.**

Q: Can I submit the reference letters in Vietnamese?

A: No. Reference letters must be written in or translated into English.

Q: Am I required to submit the Medical Form?

A: No. Applicants are not required to submit the Medical Form at the time of application. If selected as a finalist, candidates will be required to undergo a medical check-up later to ensure their health is in good condition. Please note that Fulbright Program has a specific Medical Form.

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

A: Applications are due on October 15, 2020. The applications are reviewed by a Peer Review Panel, which selects a shortlist of candidates. If selected, candidates will be invited to an interview. After the interview, a list of recommended finalists will be sent to the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational Affairs for review, and to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for approval. Finalists will be notified in around May/June 2021.

Q: What are the criteria for the selection of the Program?

A: Assessment of the candidates is based on the following criteria:

- Academic credentials: Fulbright scholars are distinguished by their academic prominence and must have the potential to be a key figure in their academic field in Vietnam.
- Feasibility of research proposal: The Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program grants last up to one academic year. Given the time constraints, the candidate's research proposal must be feasible in terms of breadth and scope.
- Significance of research: Fulbright scholars conduct research that contributes significantly to the academic and research field in Vietnam. A candidate's research topic or methodology should be creative enough to advance work in his or her field.

Q: Is there any 'quota' for candidates from specific fields of study or from certain cities/provinces?

A: No. The Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Program provides opportunities for research and lecturing in the social sciences and humanities, science, and technology fields. All candidates must qualify through open competition on the basis of academic and professional merits without regard to race, religion, gender or affiliation.

Q. When will I receive confirmation of my university affiliation?

A. The Institute of International Education (IIE) identifies appropriate host institutions for finalists between May – August 2021.

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

A. Yes. The Fulbright Program will organize a pre-departure orientation in Vietnam for all grantees around June - July 2021. The orientation is mandatory, including for those with previous experience in the U.S.