



Office of Graduate Fellowships

Fulbright Clinton Fellowships (Fulbright Public Policy Fellowships)

Application Deadline: September / October (for grants beginning the following September)
<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants/fulbright-clinton-public-policy>

Formerly known as the Fulbright Public Policy Fellowships, the Fulbright Clinton Fellowship Program offers opportunities for U.S. citizens with graduate level education and policy-relevant professional experience to serve in professional placements inside a foreign government ministry or institution for one academic year (10 months). Fulbright Clinton Fellows build mutual understanding between people of the United States and people of the host country by contributing to the strengthening the public sector in the host country.

The Fulbright Clinton program is targeted at young professionals who have recently completed Master's degrees (or are pursuing the Ph.D.) and wish to gain international public sector experience while representing the U.S. abroad. Preferred applicants will be young professionals who have a strong service orientation, flexibility and resourcefulness, outstanding organizational skills, a wide range of competencies including strong writing, communication and IT skills, and the ability to work behind the scenes in a supportive role. Fellows may be responsible for activities such as policy and budget development and analysis; program monitoring and evaluation; drafting speeches, talking points, and correspondence; record keeping and note taking; and general project management. Fellows will have the opportunity to use their subject area expertise, language fluency, and other skills, such as IT proficiency, during the program to support the achievement of host institution goals. Responsibilities will be finalized after the placement is made, and will be tailored to the fellow's strengths. Participants are expected to supplement their work placement with an academic component, such as an independent research project or related coursework. Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellows will spend 32 hours per week in their professional assignments and 8 hours per week pursuing related academic projects. Please note that that this program is NOT appropriate for individuals who wish to conduct dissertation or thesis research. The focus of the fellowship experience will be the work placement.

The list of countries to which Fulbright Clinton awards will be offered changes from year to year. In 2017, the following countries plan to participate in the Fulbright-Clinton program:

- African Union
- Burma
- Chile
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Guatemala
- Kosovo
- Malawi
- Nepal
- Peru
- Samoa
- Timor-Leste.
- Ukraine

Candidates may apply for one country only, though they are asked to indicate alternate choices and may be considered for other placements if there is a match to their qualifications.

To be eligible to apply, a candidates must:

- Be a U.S. citizen (as of October 11, 2016).
- Have (or expect to receive) a Master's level degree (MA, JD, MBA, MPA, MPH, MSW, MSc, or other) with an area of focus that is applicable to public policy prior to September 1, 2017; OR be a continuing student in a doctoral program.
- Have at least 2 years of full-time professional experience in policy-related fields.
- Meet any specific requirements (including language proficiency requirements) of the country to which they are applying.

Preference is given to candidates who possess the following qualifications:

- *Depth of knowledge about the country, society, and about issues in the region where the country is located.* Prior experience in the country is not essential, but will in most cases be a "plus." The ideal candidate is one who will be able to "hit the ground running" – that is, one that is familiar with the political landscape, the major issues, and the cultural milieu.
- *Language qualifications that meet or exceed the requirements of the country.* Each country participating in this program sets language requirements for participants. In some countries, English is sufficient, while in others a high level of competency in the local language is required. Even when knowledge of a local language is not required, such skills will confer a strong advantage. Knowledge of a related language or lingua franca (for example, Russian or another Slavic language for Ukraine, French for many African countries) can also be advantageous.
- *Interest in public service and an ability to articulate a connection between your studies, your interest in the country / the Fulbright Clinton program, and your career goals.*
- *Flexibility and adaptability.* Assignments made through this program are tailored to the needs and interests of the host government, as well as the skills and qualifications of the fellows. For this reason, the postings are individual and may take some time to come into focus as the fellow and the office to which he or she is assigned get to know one another. Fellows should also expect a mix of different kinds of work – you may be designing a program or conferring with high-level officials one day, and making photocopies the next. Your role is as an "assistant," NOT an "advisor," or "consultant," and you should expect to function in a support role.

If you are considering your options within the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, it is important to note that this program is seeking a different kind of candidate than traditional Fulbright student grants. In contrast to other Fulbright U.S. Student Program grants, the Fulbright Clinton program prefers candidates with *substantial prior knowledge and experience of the host country*, and also requires graduate-level education and professional experience.

What Do Fulbright Clinton Fellows Do?

Fulbright Clinton Fellows spend about ten months in the host country, beginning in September of the grant year and running through the following summer. Start/end dates are set by Fulbright, and fellows should expect to spend the duration in the host country without interruption.

The fellowship program is made up of two different kinds of activity: a professional placement, which will fill approximately 32 hours each week, and an academic research/study project, to which the applicant is expected to devote at least 8 hours per week. In many cases, fellows report to their professional placement Monday-Thursday, and reserve Fridays and weekends for their independent academic work, though this arrangement may vary by placement, or from week to week according to work-related demands.

The professional placement component of the fellowship will consist of a work experience (approximately 32 hours / week) in a government ministry or institution. The Fellow contributes to ministry projects and gains public sector experience as a “special assistant” to a high-level official. The professional placement is the result of a matching process that takes into account the host country’s preferences as well as the candidate’s experience, education, and qualifications as presented in the application and finalist interview.

The academic component of the fellowship consists of a self-designed program of study (approximately 8 hours per week) that may include independent research, coursework at a local university, language study, or a combination of these activities. Ideally, the project should relate to and support the professional placement. Candidates should briefly describe their proposed project in their application essays. Candidates who are selected as fellows will have the opportunity to revise or reformulate their proposed project once their placement is finalized.

Ph.D. students applying to this program are advised that the Fulbright-Clinton program is NOT intended for use as a dissertation fellowship. While the Fulbright Clinton fellowship activities may help inform your doctoral research, it is unlikely you will have sufficient time or flexibility to do serious dissertation research or writing. The priority focus is on the professional placement, and your research or academic pursuits should be conceptualized as an auxiliary to the professional placement experience. Ph.D. students are welcomed in the program, but should expect to count their Fulbright Clinton year as a year away from doctoral study.

Application Process

Application Deadline:	September / October
National Screening Committee Review:	November/December
Semi-Finalist Notification	January
Finalist Interviews	February / March
Selection, Placement, and Final Approval	March – June
Pre-Departure Orientation (D.C.)	Summer

Candidates selected as finalists will be invited to a Skype interview with U.S. Embassy personnel in the host country. If the host country requires language proficiency, the applicant should expect part of the interview to be conducted in the relevant language.

Application Setup and Components

The Application is completed online through Fulbright’s customized online application system, known as Embark. Set up your application by going to the Fulbright web site, hovering the cursor over the “Applicants” tab, and choosing “Embark Online Application.”

When setting up their online application, candidates for the Fulbright Clinton Fellowships make the following selections – PLEASE FOLLOW, AS THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO SETTING UP YOUR APPLICATION PROPERLY:

- Selection the option indicating that you are applying for an “Academic” award (not English Teaching Assistantship or Arts awards.)
- Select the category for “Special Opportunities” and choose “Fulbright Clinton Fellowships” when prompted. Indicate your field of study / specialization.
- Indicate that you are applying “as an enrolled applicant” (even if you are no longer enrolled or will no longer be enrolled by the application deadline) and select George Mason University as your institution using the online lookup tool (do not just type into the box.)

Once your application is set up, you may log in and out as many times as necessary to complete the application in the lead-up to the deadline. Nobody else can view your application contents until you hit “submit.”

The components of the application package are:

- Personal data (entered online)
- Grant Purpose Statement – Part A (2 pp) and Part B (1 p)
- Personal Statement (1 p)
- Resume (1 p; foreign language translation may be required)
- Reference Letters (3, plus additional language evaluation if necessary)
- Transcripts (graduate and undergraduate)

Application instructions, tips, and checklist can be found here – please read, re-read, and follow these guidelines carefully: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants/fulbright-clinton-public-policy>

Campus-Level Review Process

Mason applicants to the Fulbright Clinton program participate in GMU’s Fulbright Campus Committee review process. This process is designed to help students put forward the best possible application, avoid common mistakes, and obtain university endorsement – all of which lead to a higher chance of success for the applicant.

Applications are due in Embark by 11:59 pm on **September 15, 2016**. The Fulbright Campus Committee will review the application and offer feedback, which is transmitted via the Director of Graduate Fellowships back to the applicant. Applications are then returned to the applicant interface and applicants have 7-10 days to revise their applications in response to committee feedback. The applicant is responsible for resubmitting the entire application package by Fulbright’s national deadline of **October 11, 2016**. If you have questions about this process, please contact Dr. Kay Ágoston.

What Happens Next

After submission on October 11, 2016, the application is transmitted to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program's National Screening Committees for national-level review. Fulbright Clinton applications have their own screening committee, and compete only against one another.

The National Screening Committee will meet in December to make recommendations about which applications to move forward. Candidates will be notified in January as to whether they have been designated a Semi-Finalist for an award. Semi-finalist applications are then forwarded to the host country for consideration. The final recommendations are made in consultation with the host country's Fulbright Commission and the ministry or institution in which the work placement will take place. Candidates will be informed in the spring (usually around mid/late April) as to whether they will be offered a grant. Those who receive an offer are referred to as "Finalists," until they formally accept the award and matriculate into the program, at which point they become "Fulbright Clinton Fellows."

In 2014-15, the most recent year for which statistics are available, the Fulbright Clinton program received 171 applications for a final total of 24 placements. Statistics for individual counties and other program years may be viewed at: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-clinton-fellowships-statistics>.