



Fulbright Degree Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is this program for?

This program awards scholarships on merit to Pakistani citizens for study toward a master's or doctoral degree at a U.S. university beginning in fall of 2017. Applicants must be citizens of Pakistan who permanently reside in Pakistan. Persons who have a completed 16 years of formal education to be eligible to apply for a Master's; those with 18 years of formal education can apply for the Ph.D.

Why is it called the Fulbright Program?

It is named after the late U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. At the end of WWII in 1945, Senator Fulbright saw that millions of people had died and dozens of countries were devastated. He hoped that such a war would never happen again and therefore envisioned a program that would "promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries of the world." Today the Fulbright program operates in 150 countries.

How many scholarships will be awarded?

USAID provides \$19.5 million per year for these scholarships. In 2017, USEFP hopes to award about 150. Since 2005, Pakistan has had the largest Fulbright Program in the world.

Which academic disciplines are eligible?

All disciplines except for clinical medicine are eligible to apply. Applicants are especially encouraged in the fields of agriculture, water, energy, health and education. Women, minorities, people with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds are also especially encouraged to apply.

Who are Pakistan's Fulbrighters?

Of the 181 Pakistanis awarded Fulbright Master's and doctoral degree program grants to begin their studies in the United States in 2016, 99 are women and 82 are men. They come from 40 different universities in Pakistan and are from every province and region, including Azad, Jammu and Kashmir, FATA, Balochistan, and Gilgit/Baltistan. They are drawn from the private sector (74), academia (50), students (29), and the public sector (28). They range in age from 20 to 42 and represent 17 academic disciplines, including engineering, health, education, social sciences, agriculture, environment, energy, water resources, fine arts and more. USEFP hopes to select a similar cohort for 2017.

Other than study toward a degree, what is expected from successful applicants?

Because one of the major goals of Fulbright programs is to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Pakistan, in addition to academic work, persons

selected for Fulbright programs are expected to share information about Pakistani life and culture with their U.S. colleagues and with community groups in the U.S. On returning to Pakistan, Fulbright grantees are expected to share their U.S. experiences with colleagues and community groups in Pakistan. All Pakistanis selected for Fulbright awards are obliged to return to Pakistan within 30 days of completing their programs and to serve a residency requirement (a minimum of two years).

Who pays for this program?

Fulbright is the flagship scholarship program of the U.S. Department of State. Fulbright Awards are offered in 150 countries in the world. Pakistan is able to have the world's largest Fulbright program due to generous funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

What is included in a Fulbright award?

The grant funds tuition, textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, health insurance, visa fees, a computer and settling-in allowance. Fulbright awards enable grantees to live at the same standard as most American graduate students.

Who is a good candidate?

A good candidate will have a strong academic background, demonstrated commitment to his/her community, good English language skills, and an appropriate Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score. There are no quotas. Applicants are considered on the basis of merit. However, merit is assessed by looking at the applicant in terms of what they have achieved given their circumstances and their potential to succeed.

What is considered a good GRE score?

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all applicants. It is an important tool enabling USEFP to compare applicants coming from diverse backgrounds, academic disciplines, and geographic regions. According to the old scoring system, a minimum score of 300 is required on each section of the GRE examination, with a higher score on the section most applicable to your field of study. Under the new scoring system, minimum scores of 138 in the verbal and 136 in the quantitative sections are required.

The GRE scores are required for placement at a U.S. university. However, different disciplines have different GRE score requirements. For examples, English literature will require a higher score in the verbal section and engineering fields will require a higher score in the quantitative. It is understood that students coming from private English-medium schools may have an advantage in the verbal portion of the GRE and such factors are taken into account in determining merit.

Is the TOEFL also required?

Only short-listed applicants are required to take the TOEFL.

Are there any other exam requirements?

Only the GRE and TOEFL are scholarship requirements. Even business applicants should plan to take the general GRE. If selected, they may be asked to take the GMAT. Computer Science or

Engineering applicants will be advised to take a GRE subject if they are actually selected for the scholarship.

Do Fulbrighters go to good universities in USA?

Experienced placement professionals at the Institute for International Education (IIE) in New York match Fulbrighters with universities in the US that they think best match the student's profile and program needs. Fulbrighters are studying at top universities all over the United States.

Are dependents allowed?

Grantees with children can request to bring their dependents. However, they will need to demonstrate financial ability to support their dependents while they are in the U.S., including obtaining medical insurance. Please note that only spouses and children up to the age of 21 are considered dependents.

Does everyone selected get a visa?

USEFP will assist with the visa process. Almost all Fulbright grantees in the past have received visas.

How to apply?

Start by visiting www.usefpakistan.org to find all of the application, application instructions, and Frequently Asked Questions. GRE registration is also available on the website at www.gre.org. Please note that if an applicant does not have a credit card, USEFP can register on their behalf using local currency. Also, students/faculty of public universities may be eligible to receive a free GRE voucher. Information about GRE test preparation is also available on the USEFP website.

What is the deadline to apply?

Applications must be received by May 11, 2016.

How does the selection process work?

Selection process has four stages:

- **Round 1:** All applications are screened for completeness and minimum qualifications.
- **Round 2:** Complete applications that meet the minimum qualifications are evaluated according to a set of established criteria and shortlisted.
- **Round 3:** In-person interviews of short-listed applicants take place in Islamabad between July and September. The interview panels are made up of both U.S. and Pakistani citizens.
- **Round 4:** Final candidates and alternates are selected in October. Applicants who have become finalists or alternates will be notified by e-mail and official acceptance letter. Those who do not get selected are notified only by mail.
- **Final approval** is given by the Foreign Scholarship Board in Washington, D.C.

Does it cost anything to apply?

NO! Unscrupulous agents may try to sell application forms or take fees for filling them in. Applicants should fill in their own forms. Misrepresentation or plagiarism anywhere in the application can result in termination from the program.