

# Fulbright Scholar 24-25 Cycle Applicants: What's Next?

## Webinar Q&A Box Questions and Answers

*These questions have been anonymized. Any question too specific to any one applicant has been removed.*

Questions answered live will appear only in the video recording.

Question	Answer
Can you describe the factors that country commissions use when they are forwarded applications selected by peer review panels?	Hello! This depends on the country. Country review is as opaque to us as it is to you. We have 130+ country partners who each manage their application selection, so we are not able to describe their priorities in detail.
I have a sabbatical application deadline of January 15, 2024. From your web site, it appears the final decision on our applications, are not expected as late as May 2024. Am I reading that correctly?	Hello! You will know for certain by June 2024 if you are selected. We recommend talking to your department now and seeing if you can sort out the difference in decision times. We have some guidance on doing that here: <a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/leave-and-support">https://fulbrightscholars.org/leave-and-support</a>
Do Fulbright scholars pay taxes in their host country?	Hello! No, the grant is from the U.S. government. I recommend Googling "IRS Fulbright," because there is really specific guidance for Fulbrighters.
If your application doesn't pass that initial review, will you be notified?	Hello! Yes, you would have been notified if there was something to fix during technical review. But after that, for Peer Review, you will hear from us whether you are "recommended" or "not recommended."
Does the Fulbright help defray relocation costs for the fellow AND for their families?	Any financial benefits, including relocation allowances, are included in the award benefits tab of the award that you pursued. I encourage you to refer there!
A letter of invitation was not required for the program I applied for, but it was encouraged. I was not able to secure a letter, probably due to some of the social and political issues going on in country, will not having a letter of invitation severely limit my chances of receiving an award?	Hello! Reviewers will see whether the letter was preferred or required and review the application accordingly. I would not say it is a "severe" limit, but letters are indeed preferred if it was stated on the award.
How are applications prevented progress by US reviewers preference of content &/or discipline? Host countries appear to have much less determination of applications they are permitted to receive. What is the approval ratio needed for an app to move forward?	This was answered but let us know if this was unclear
By accident I submitted wrong proposal and later, 2days after the dead line, I sent the revised one via email to a staff. The panel should my final version for the selecting process?	Thank you for your question! At this moment because we are currently in the selection process, we are not accepting edited materials.
I was wondering if it's possible to add a new position to my CV; I was invited to guest lecturer for an online creative writing course at International University of Sarajevo this semester. This seems applicable, since I've applied conduct my research in Bosnia.	Hello! We update CVs only if you have changed your main home institution. This is a great accomplishment, but since Peer Review is already underway, we cannot update this unless it is your main affiliation.

<p>Is it possible to update an application? After submitting on Sept. 15, I was notified on Oct. 5 that a book of mine won an award. Is it possible to add this info to my file?</p>	<p>Hello, we cannot update your application at this stage since the review process has already begun.</p>
<p>Will this Powerpoint be available?</p>	<p>There aren't slides, but we are recording, which will be available to you after we complete the presentation.</p>
<p>In notification on a rolling basis or all sent out around the same time? will disapproved appl notified first? how about is there a waitlist or reserve pool?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question! Around December, all applicants are notified whether their application got recommended in the peer review process. However, for the second recommendation it will depend on the country.</p>
<p>Are applications also submitted to the U.S. Consulate General in the host country?</p>	<p>Hello! They will either go to the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission, depending on if a country has the latter.</p>
<p>Is it possible to change the amount of time we want to spend in the host country (if selected) from what we indicated in the application?</p>	<p>Hello! If you are selected, that is when you can negotiate this with your host country. Please presume in the meantime that you would be going for the time frame that you originally proposed.</p>
<p>I have a similar question: What happens if you received new information or an update that might strengthen your application after the application date? Is there an opportunity to include or disclose such information?</p>	<p>We cannot update applications at this time, since the review process has begun.</p>
<p>If you have done the specialist program, does that count against you like a regular one does?</p>	<p>Hello! No, it does not. We instruct reviewers to only consider previous Scholar grants.</p>
<p>Hello Julia, What happens if there is a government shutdown, is the timeline for review delayed?</p>	<p>Hello! That's a great question. We at IIE are a nonprofit that administers the program, so our part of the review (U.S. Peer Review) would still go forward. After that (January-June), it would depend on each country's instructions during the shutdown.</p>
<p>Might you share a bit more information on the specialty review committees? For example, are these formed by US and host country specialists?</p>	<p>Hello! The discipline peer review is conducted by your peers in the United States only.</p>
<p>Although submitted, of what significance are the course outlines/syllabi included in our application knowing that if selected, we will craft/design/construct new course outlines upon getting our teaching assignment ? We must learn of enrollee's academic prerequisites, fit into their student's programs and sequencing of the course(s) before preparing good syllabi and choosing reading lists.,</p>	<p>Hello! Reviewers know that you may submit sample syllabi and are instructed to judge applications accordingly.</p>
<p>If we applied for a postdoc to Israel, are those applications still being considered or are current events putting those grants on hold?</p>	<p>Hello! Peer Review is underway for these applications.</p>
<p>What does it mean to be selected as an "alternate"?</p>	<p>Hello! That means that the country has selected someone else as first choice, but should they not accept the Award, you would be the second choice.</p>
<p>How many applicants are typically recommended per award?</p>	<p>Thank you for your email. Due to board guidelines, we unfortunately can't provide this information.</p>
<p>How are applications prevented progress by US reviewers preference of content &amp;/or discipline? Host countries appear to have much less determination of applications they are permitted to receive. What is the approval ratio needed for an app to move forward?</p>	<p>Hello! We cannot share the ratio of Recommended to Not Recommended. But is it s true that not all applications make it to the country review stage, past U.S. disciplinary peer review.</p>

Do you recommend getting in touch with the host country Fulbright office to say hello and reinforce my keen interest in my project (if the application moves forward)? If so, what stage? Thank you!	Hello! No, you do not need to do this. They select people between Jan-Jun, and you would hear from them if selected.
Does the timeline that is being described apply to all Fulbright programs, including the public policy fellowship?	Hello! Yes, this applies to all Fulbright Scholar programs, including FPPF.
So just to clarify, there is no final interview like in the student program?	Hello! Some countries do interviews, but not most. You would hear in the Jan-Jun window if that is the case. Off the top of my head, I only know of Mexico conducting such interviews; it is rarer.
How does Fulbright communicate State Department concerns re: potential conflict areas?	Hello! You would hear once you were selected, at which point the country and your advisor would get in touch. I recommend subscribing to State Department alerts on your host country in the meantime.
I ran out of time on my bibliography, however, the context is all there. How much will that impact my application?	Hello! Your reviewers will take this into account, but it is up to them how much it matters.
How does room and board work if you attend a university?	Hello! "Attend a university" suggests to me you applied to the U.S. Student Program. We are the Scholar Program. Please consult <a href="https://fulbrightonline.org">fulbrightonline.org</a> .
The host has no say until after the US has decided which discipline/content is desired?	Yes, that is correct. U.S. peer review comes first.
Could you resend that timeline please? I logged in a little late and can't see it!	<a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#timeline">https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#timeline</a>
Based on the review deadline - is an October 2024 timeline to begin Project Research in the EU pragmatic ?	Hello! Yes, it is, because you will know for sure by June 2024. If selected, you are assigned an Advisor, and they are really good about getting visas for people who start in August, even. October is realistic for sure!
If we did not add a Letter from the hosting Organization with our initial app, do we need to get one during the recommendation stage? Or at what stage should that be added?	Hello! You cannot add any component to your application at this stage. Peer Review is underway.
If you selected the wrong regions (e.g. 2 countries in Europe) or you made a mistake in your selection, is that an automatic denial of the application? Or if you don't get the appropriate Invitation Letter from the host institution, are you automatically rejected?	Hello! No, it is not. You would have received an email from us if you were deemed ineligible. If you did not, you are eligible, but your application must be considered as written.
How is the timeline different for applicants to the Fulbright Global Scholar Award?	The Global Scholar award's timeline is the same!
It is my hope to carry out my project even if not awarded the Fulbright. Is there any policy about applying for other sources of funding?	Hello! There is no such limitation. You can certainly apply for other grants.
What percentage of applications receive awards? And is it possible to find out what percentage of applications are awarded country by country?	Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, we're unable to answer this question.
And for countries with many advertised awards -- does the country receive a pot of funding that gets divided up among the applications for various sites, or does each site have its own budget? (Or does this vary by country...?)	Hello! This varies by country, so we cannot speak to any one country's policies.
If selected by country, who confirms the logistics/	If selected, you will have an advisor that will work with you and those logistics.
Can you speak a bit about what is permissible regarding budgeting for a fulbright. I am exploring suport for my salary while I might be on Fulbright. Is	Hello! We do not recommend this, as your primary commitment should be to Fulbright. Please let your home institution know as soon as possible that you

distance teaching loads permissible from our home university?	are applying, and you should not have home teaching commitments.
How does room and board work for recommended applicants?	Hello! On the Award Benefits tab of the award to which you applied you can see all associated monies with the award. This is intended to cover room and board.
Is the individual in-country who wrote my Letter of Invitation, part of the in-country review process?	What happens in the in-country review can vary widely, as different countries have different procedures to review U.S. Scholar applications
Do the chances of being awarded the Fulbright go up after you pass the peer review stage?	Hello! Yes, because then you've reached the final stage of review.
In the survey, I saw that some people get "top up" support from their institution if the Fulbright support is less than regular pay. Does Fulbright advise asking for that or is it expected that the experience accounts for the difference?	Hello! Yes, please ask your Scholar Liaison (See the directory under "connect" on our website) first to see if there are institutional precedents. If not, you can see on our FAQ page (under "Apply") some general advice we have. Start the discussion now!
Is the assigned advisor an in-country specialist?	There's a Fulbright advisor for each region.
Is it possible to add additional endorsements from other people in the host country with whom you might be collaborating at this (or a later) stage?	Hello! No, at this stage the application is complete.
Are we given feedback on aspects that of our application or are we just accepted or not accepted?	Hello! We cannot provide specific feedback because Fulbright is a diplomatic exercise as much as a scholarly one. So you will know if you are recommended or selected, but no more than that.
Is the funding disbursed before, during or after the Research Project ?	Hello! It is disbursed during, usually month-by-month unless a lump sum is noted.
Can one apply to multiple programs at the same time?	No. You can only apply to one award per competition.
I was interviewed last year was informed that "Although your application was recommended for an award by the peer review panel, yours was not among the final group of applications selected". Does this mean that the interview panel did not recommend an award or something else? I am asking because I am reapplying this year.	Hello! Yes, this means that you passed U.S. peer review but not in-country review. In-country review amounts to a diplomatic exercise, so we cannot give specifics as to how they choose.
I am sure it varies by submission (and if so, I am referencing the US Scholar Program) and country, but what is the average length of time you are given to be told of a successful application to accepting in going to abroad? My concern relates to how much time is given to the applicant in informing their institution of a successful application.	Hello! We cannot state such a time unfortunately. You should tell your home institution that you will know by June 2024 BUT you should tell your home institution ASAP that you applied so you can lay all the groundwork in the event you are successful.
What if the estimated cost of living is inaccurate based on recent economic development, inflation or just location differences within a country?	Hello! That can happen. Unfortunately, the monies on the award are already set, so you would need to keep that in mind. You can use this reasoning to negotiate support from your home institution, though, arguing they should add on to your stipend to match your home salary.
Per web site, The Commission will seek cost-sharing once it receives the panel of recommended Scholars from CIES. Does that cost sharing mean that the host institution might provide some additional funds?	If your host is expected to provide funding, that's included in your award description... which is quite uncommon.
What are the benefits to the host institution, beside the publicity and prestige that come with the Fulbright? Are there any financial incentives for the host? Thank you.	Hello! It is a prestige question but also the possibility for ongoing exchanges between the two countries.

What are salary top ups?	That means your institution would give you enough money on top of the Fulbright stipend to match your current salary.
would it be best to share with local home institution after you learn if you made it through peer review first?	Hello! No, please tell them now. This is important because sometimes you need to apply for leave well before you hear from Fulbright.
if you change home institution (i.e., US university) between the time of receiving the award and departure to the foreign country, does that impact the award?	Hello! You should let us know if your home institution changes. This is one of the only times we can change something in the application. Tell us at <a href="mailto:scholars@iie.org">scholars@iie.org</a> .
If I am selected, can I change the country to go?	Hello! No. Please presume you are going to the country to which you applied.
If awarded, do the funds go directly to awardees or through the awardees' employers?	Our monies are disbursed directly to awardees.
If "approximately" one award is listed, does that mean a possibility of 2?	Approximately one means approximately one. Remember that your application is in progress and will be reviewed based on what you provided in September!
Does the peer review provide recommendations for how to strengthen the application if the application does not pass peer review? (Sorry if this is a duplicate. I was a bit late in joining.)	Hello! No, we cannot provide specific feedback. Fulbright is a diplomatic exercise as much as a scholarly one, so we cannot provide the same kind of feedback as other grants.
Will we even know how many have applied for a particular award opportunity?	Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, due to board guidelines we cannot provide this information.
Just curious - why is it a secret what was the competition for the award?	Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, due to board guidelines we cannot provide this information.
If your Fulbright institution has earning opportunities, are Fulbrights allowed to take advantage of these?	Hello! That will depend on the country to which you applied and the stipulations on your visa. This only comes into play after you are selected.
About received funds, does Fulbright pay rent etc directly or does the awardee get a monthly check to pay their bills?	Funding goes directly to you as the grantee
If our project is awarded, what will be the next steps? Is there a similar Q&A for awardees? At what point are you working with the country committee?	If you are picked as a grantee, you will be a Fulbright advisor that will go over the logistics with you.
When I went back to the fulbright page and tried to find my program summary for my host country - I got a 404 page not found... <a href="https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/types-of-awards/study-research">https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/types-of-awards/study-research</a>	Hello! This is the student website. You need <a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org">fulbrightscholars.org</a> .
where in the menus did you find the page that you just shared? the one about LEave	<a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/leave-and-support">https://fulbrightscholars.org/leave-and-support</a> hope this helps!
My proposal is slightly different from what the University offered. How does this affect the chances for approval?	Hello! The country reviewers will review your application and see how this sounds to them. It is impossible to predict how they would see this.
Where would we find the information about interviews? I am having trouble finding it.	Any information about interviews we have and are able to share is in the awards description. If your country office has information to share, that's where it is!
What weight is assigned to each part of the review criteria?	Thank you for your question. Your application is seen as a whole! But you can see our review criteria here: <a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#review-criteria">https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#review-criteria</a>

Ooops, had a typo... What are the benefits to the host institution, beside the publicity and prestige that come with the Fulbright? Are there any financial incentives for the host? Thank you.	Thank you for your question! This depends by host institution and it's something that you can communicate with them about.
some of the start dates for the flex awards started in july. is that still true?	Just be sure to check your award description. Possible dates are listed there.
if an appl is for 6 months with ~50% teaching and ~50% special project in the region, but the host institution offered 3-month teaching, will Fulbrht fund the full six months or it depends on the recommendation form the initial review panel?	I'm not sure I understand your question, you're welcome to email us at <a href="mailto:scholars@iie.org">scholars@iie.org</a>
If we pass the US peer review, will we get contact information for alumni of our desired country?	You can find alums to the country you're pursuing in our directory: <a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/fulbright-scholar-directory">https://fulbrightscholars.org/fulbright-scholar-directory</a>
Because the Dean will change, the University will have me offer workshops and advising of students and faculty rather than offer a full course. This is actually better than the original proposal because there is the opportunity to meet with a greater variety of people	Hello! That sounds fine. You can talk to the country about this after selection, but your application will be considered as written.
I've heard that applicants who have applied before and not successful are more likely to be successful the second time they apply, is that true?	We cannot say for sure the rate of people successful on their second try, but we always recommend that people adapt their application for the new competition (especially in consultation with us).
Thinking positively here...if/when we are granted the award, is the award funding subject to taxes?	Hello! Yes. <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants</a>
Is it possible to live in a rural village, even though one of my invitation letters was from a university in a city about an hour away?	Hello! This is something you will need to negotiate with your host country after selection.
Does the iie or the host country require reports/deliverables for a project?	Hello! No, there is no deliverable for Fulbright. There is a survey when you are done, but that is it!
What about reapplying. Could we reapply to the same award if not selected? Is that recommended?	Yes, you can. I would recommend reaching out to the point of contact on the award, though, to see if we have any advice for you.
In casse of severe economic or security instability, can the project be delayed	Hello! This would be negotiated with the country and our staff after selection. But rest assured we always notify our grantees of any emergent issues.
Are independent scholars viewed as less than those affiliated with a university?	No! Projects are considered on their merits, outside of the affiliation of the applicant.
I've applied for a flex award — will the grant cover the 2-3 trips proposed?	Hello! Yes, the travel allowances reflect Flex.
If selected past US review, is there any value in letting my planned collaborator know that the application is going to their country's commission?	Hello! You can, but there can be no certainty until you are selected.
Weird question-Will there be another webinar with suggestions from Fulbright alumni about how I might prepare my body (getting used to a new climate)? I'm in Los Angeles, applying to go to Sub Saharan Africa.	Hello! There are pre-departure orientations if you are selected, and these kinds of questions get answered there.
What if there was previously a negative experience with hosting a previous student through the Fulbright program in the past? Would previous experiences with Fulbright impact a Scholar's current application?	Hello! No, you apply as an individual, not as an institution.
Expect a W2 from Fulbright??	Hello! We cannot advise beyond what is written here <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants</a>

If my sabbatical request is denied and I am unable to travel and I need to decline the Fulbright award; would I be banned from applying for future cycles?	Hello! No, certainly not. You can always reapply, and we consider each application as a brand new one, with no consideration of past applications.
Is there line-item flexibility for the budget/stipend? For ex, could I use housing funds for things other than housing (more research or supplies, for example).	Hello! You do not have a budget for Fulbright. You are paid monthly and can do with the funds as you wish.
I have not been able to find a single alum from my desired host country. How will I get support then?	Please look here, as most countries have alums: <a href="https://fulbrightscholars.org/fulbright-scholar-directory">https://fulbrightscholars.org/fulbright-scholar-directory</a>
Thanks for the info. so far. If the host country or institution provides some local / in-country travel support for lectures, etc. we are allowed to accept, right?	Hello! That depends on what your Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy allows. This will only come up after selection.
Can I still apply for US federal grants while on Fulbright assignment?	Hello! People combine grants all the time, so you would only need to see the terms on those grants.
Hello. A letter wasn't required but would it be prudent to have one to demonstrate enthusiasm from the host if selected. Just wondering. Thanks.	Hello! You cannot upload such a letter now, as applications are in Peer Review.
Fulbright funds are taxable, but our research funds are usually tax exempt. Is there some way to distinguishing them for Fulbright fund?	Hello! The only tax info we can provide is here: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/fulbright-grants</a>
The last alum for Fiji is from 1995-96, is their experience even relevant?	Hello! It is always worth reaching out and seeing! They may know someone who went on another grant more recently.
So to my understanding, we can receive a response as early as march or as late as June? That comes via email?	As early as January or late as June. And yes, you will be notified via email.
If we apply for visa before award results, should we apply for a tourist visa? or a working visa?	Hello! We cannot advise on this, sorry.
What email can we use if we have questions?	<a href="mailto:scholars@iie.org">scholars@iie.org</a>
Are you permitted to disclose how many people applied for a particular award or Program ?	Hello! We are not. This is because Fulbright is also a diplomatic exercise.
Can the presenters' emails be shared for the following questions?	You can email us your questions at <a href="mailto:scholars@iie.org">scholars@iie.org</a> .
Is June the earliest to hear final decisions?	Hello! No, June is the latest. You may hear between Jan-Jun, but we cannot predict when you would hear in that window.
Can you send the link that describes the details of the award coverage?	Hello! That is according to each award. Please see the "Award Benefits" tab on the award to which you applied.
In my last Fulbright experience in Poland (more than 20 years ago), I had 90 new textbooks sent to the host library. At that time, I used "diplomatic pouch" through the embassy in Warsaw to ship them. Does this still exist?	Hello! This is something countries will know, not us, sorry!
follow-up on disbursed money: e.g., does money get disbursed and then a grantee buys a plane ticket or is the ticket bought and then receipts submitted to iie for reimbursement of the actual amount?	Hello! I do not know off the top of my head as our advising team handles this part. Rest assured they know how to do this inside and out and will communicate with you after selection.
Who/position in Host country is a part of in-country review committee?	We are not privy to this information, as Fulbright is a diplomatic exercise with 130+ country partners.