

Fulbright Specialist Program



The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at overseas universities or institutions with education focused programming. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative 2 to 6 week projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide.

Program Activities - Focus is on the needs of higher education institutions and not personal research. Eligible activities include lecturing, training in pedagogy, participation in special conferences or workshops, collaboration on curriculum planning and institutional or faculty development.

Becoming a Fulbright Specialist - Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. They are evaluated by discipline peer review committees and if recommended are forwarded to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB). Approved candidates are placed on the Specialist roster for five years. Project must be submitted by the host institution to the Fulbright entity in the country. Host institutions are allowed to request a specific candidate in their project proposal. Specialists may assist their prospective host institution in developing the proposal.

Eligible Disciplines -

Humanities: American (U.S.) Studies, Applied Linguists/TEFL, Law

Social Sciences: Anthropology, Archaeology, Business Administration, Communications and Journalism, Economics, Education, Library Science, Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies, Political Science, Public Administration, Public/Global Health, Social Work, Sociology and Urban Planning

Natural Sciences: Agriculture, Biology Education, Chemistry Education, Computer Science and Information Technology, Engineering Education, Environmental Science, Math Education, Physics Education



Marion Nipper, a senior environmental scientist from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, left, worked in Vigo, Spain, with local colleagues on issues of marine pollution during her Fulbright Specialist grant.

Program Benefits - The enhanced global perspective that Fulbright Specialists gain from their experience contributes to their professional development. Fulbright Specialist grants also lay the foundation for development of institutional linkages.

Requirements - Applicants must be U.S. citizens and have a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal/professional degree (or recognized professional standing and accomplishments) plus at least five years of university teaching experience or professional experience.

Program details and application materials can be found at www.cies.org/specialists/.

Examples from Fulbright Specialist Program Scholars

The whole experience also provided several important lessons or reminders. One was the great value of the Fulbright Specialist Program for all involved, for both speaker and audience. This experience will continue to influence my work for years to come, and I believe will have a significant impact on individuals in the host country.

Paul Lauren, Regents Professor, University of Montana–Missoula, Montana
Field: Peace and Conflict Resolution
Host: University of Es Senia, Oran, Algeria

It was an amazing three-week experience--intense, challenging, exciting, rewarding, difficult and fascinating. The teachers and the students were eager to learn, interested in American teaching methods, in American culture, politics, and people. ... The intensity of the work, the close daily association with teachers and students, the sharing and laughing and learning and working created bonds even in my short time there. ... it is great still to be in touch by email with the Mongolian teachers and students. The Fulbright Specialist Program does more than anyone can imagine to bring cultures together, help people understand each other, and promote knowledge on all levels (personal, social, institutional, cultural, global).

Mary Lee Field, Professor Emerita, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
Discipline: Interdisciplinary Studies and Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Host: Otgontenger University, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

In places where high technology means that a village may have a pipe well with potable water, medical care is a remote possibility. New technologies, stimulated in part by Fulbright partners with faculty in developing nations, can mitigate the consequences of the brain drain and deliver health care and public health services to isolated people around the world.

Richard Lee Douglass, Professor, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Discipline: Public/Global Health
Host: Ashesi University, Accra, Ghana

I participated ... in three multi-day workshops on molecular biology and bioinformatics at Minufiya University and at Fayoum University in Egypt. ... A second major focus of this trip was to develop and encourage collaborative projects, initiate faculty and student exchange, and to facilitate international cooperation between Towson University and Egyptian universities.

James Saunders, Director and Professor, Towson University, Towson, Maryland
Discipline: Agriculture
Host: Minufiya University, Sadat City, Egypt



James Saunders and colleagues working in one of the DNA laboratories at Minufiya University, Sadat City, Egypt.

The Fulbright Specialist Program enabled me to put my research at the service of policy makers and, in doing so, to enlarge it. Philosophy colleagues in New Zealand were extremely generous in inquiring about my work and making suggestions that will further it. They've indicated that I have been similarly helpful to them. My philosophy colleagues also amiably answered my questions about New Zealand, and hospitably took me to parts of the country I otherwise would not have seen.

Anita Silvers, Professor, San Francisco State University
Field: Law
Host: University of Auckland, New Zealand

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program and is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. For more information, visit fulbright.state.gov.

The Fulbright Scholar Program and the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program are administered by the Institute of International Education's Department of Scholar and Professional Programs, which includes the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. For more information, contact us at scholars@iie.org or 202-686-4000, or visit www.iie.org/cies.

