



Admission for 2018-2019 Academic Year

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government, designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

The Fulbright Program in Switzerland offers funding to highly qualified Swiss students and scholars for pursuing study at the master's or Ph.D. level, or teaching and research at post-doctoral level, at any recognized institution of higher education in the United States. Grant lengths range from three months to one academic year, depending on the program.

Fulbright grantees enter the United States on an Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa under the Department of State program and are subject to the 2-year home-country residence requirement associated with the J-1 visa (<http://j1visa.state.gov/>).

Candidates may apply for only one of the following programs:

Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Up to eight partial grants of up to \$20,000 each to pursue a Master's or Ph.D. degree; non-degree coursework; or Ph.D. research at any recognized U.S. institution of higher education. Exceptions: Applications for studies in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and clinical psychology are ineligible; however, the Master's degree in Public Health is eligible.

Grants are four to ten months in length and not renewable. They are to be used toward the cost of tuition and other academic expenses. The final number and amount of grants awarded is dependent on the availability of funds.

Eligibility requirements:

- Swiss citizenship (If you hold another citizenship you must contact the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in your citizenship country.)
- Undergraduate degree from a University or University of Applied Sciences completed by fall 2017.
- English proficiency with a TOEFL Internet-based iBT score of 100 or higher.

In the following cases, you are not eligible to apply:

- You hold dual citizenship with the United States, are a resident of the United States, or hold a "green card."
- You will not have completed a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) by fall 2017.
- You plan to start your U.S. studies earlier than the fall semester of 2018.
- You have already obtained a Ph.D. degree, or are expecting to obtain a Ph.D. degree before fall 2018.
- You intend to pursue an internship, residency, or research at a U.S. school of medicine or dentistry.
- You are currently studying, researching, or lecturing at a U.S. university.
- You are currently living or working in the United States.



Placement procedures at U.S. institutions:

Admission to well-known U.S. universities is highly selective and fairly complicated. The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fulbright Foreign Student Program and offers a placement service for approximately 3-5 universities to those candidates selected for a grant. IIE's University Placement Services Division works with the candidates through swissuniversities to create a well-balanced submission plan, and candidates are expected to be open to a range of appropriate placements. IIE submits applications on behalf of the candidates and follows-up with universities to obtain the most advantageous placements and financial aid. Once candidates have decided to accept an offer of admission, IIE forwards an acceptance or withdrawal to each university.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program

The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program is a non-degree, post-doctoral award program for researchers, university lecturers and experts from academic institutions in Switzerland who wish to conduct post-doctoral research, lecture, or pursue combined lecturing and research in the United States. All candidates must currently be affiliated with one of the universities or research institutions in Switzerland. Grants are available for the period between August 2018 and July 2019 for periods of a minimum of three months to ten months.

One to two grants are available for research and/or teaching in all fields at any recognized institution of higher education in the United States. Award benefits vary according to the individual program details, but all include a monthly stipend, a one-time settling-in allowance, a one-time professional allowance and limited accident and medical coverage provided by the Department of State. (<http://www.cies.org/program/core-fulbright-visiting-scholar-program>).

Eligibility Requirements

- Swiss citizenship (If you hold another citizenship you must contact the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in your citizenship country.)
- Doctoral degree or equivalent professional training or experience at the time of application. For professionals and artists outside academe, recognized professional standing and substantial professional accomplishment is expected.
- A detailed project statement or proposed activity at a U.S. institution
- English proficiency appropriate to the proposed teaching and/or research project to be carried out in the United States.

In the following cases, you are not eligible to apply:

- You hold dual citizenship with the United States, are a resident of the United States, or hold a "green card."
- You have not obtained a Ph.D. degree, or are expecting to obtain a Ph.D. degree, before fall 2018.
- You have recent U.S. experience (more than an aggregate period of 9 months in the United States during the past 5 years)
- You are currently studying, researching, or lecturing at a U.S. university.
- You are currently living or working in the United States.

Please note: A candidate with recent third-country experience may have a less compelling need for the Fulbright Program than a candidate who has never had a significant professional stay abroad.

Placement procedures at U.S. institutions:

Candidates are encouraged to submit evidence that they have identified a host affiliation in the United States as part of the application process, well before an actual grant is awarded.

In cases where it's not possible for a candidate to include a letter of invitation from the host institution in their application materials, they can identify their specializations. This information is used to determine placement at U.S. host institutions. For these grantees, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars CIES, the scholar division of IIE, is active in confirming affiliations or arranging placements based upon the scholar's interests and needs.

Application deadlines and selection of the candidates for the Fulbright Foreign Student and Visiting Scholar Program

- The application deadline for the pre-selection at swissuniversities is June 9, 2017.
The pre-selection result will be announced towards the end of June 2017.
- The application deadline for the final selection at swissuniversities is August 8, 2017.
The final selection result will be announced towards the end of September 2017.

The Fulbright Selection Committee consists of members of swissuniversities, the U.S. Embassy in Bern, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students (FCS) and of two university professors as well as a former Fulbright grantee. After a review of the application materials, qualified applicants will be invited to participate in an interview with the committee. Based on the application materials and the results of the interview, the committee members select the candidates, and, depending on qualifications, study or research projects, they decide on the funding to be granted by the U.S. government resp. the 'Friends of Fulbright Association'.

Special preference will be given to candidates who have the capacity and commitment to take full advantage of a program of study, research or lecturing at a U.S. institution, and who are willing to share their experience and knowledge after returning to Switzerland. The Fulbright experience should be of value not only to the student/scholar, but also to their home university – its students and faculty – as well as to the host U.S. institution. Fulbright grantees serve as cultural ambassadors and should be prepared to speak about their country, culture, and study or research to academic and community groups.

Application documents and further information

Detailed information on the grants and the application process can be found on the website of the Scholarship Service of swissuniversities www.auslandstipendien.ch or www.bourses-pour-etranger.ch under "Grants for the USA."

Registration form and further application information for the pre-selection are available at the Scholarship Service. Please email fulbright@swissuniversities.ch.