



Essay writing and Plagiarism Presentation for Fulbright Foreign Student Applicants



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Introduction to the Fulbright Program

The Fulbright Program is designed to foster mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchange.

As a Fulbright grantee, you will join a group of more than 400,000 American and international Fulbrighters from over 160 countries each.

The United States Department of State funds the Fulbright program and AMIDEAST administers the program on its behalf.

Program is currently open for applications until May 1, 2021. Visit the link below for info on program requirements and the application process:

<https://iq.usembassy.gov/education-culture/exchange-programs/fulbright-foreign-student-program/>



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Why writing

- Higher education in the U.S. is writing heavy,
- Advanced English speakers in Iraq often speak much better than they write,
- A solid essay can make your application much stronger.



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Personal Statement

Mini biography

Answer the question: “Who are you”

Focus = education, work experience, professional/personal development

Content should be focused on your field of study

Highlight experiences that have affected your growth

Things to include: achievements, talents, goals, interests

Things not to include: basic facts about yourself, ie DOB, marital status, religion, address etc.

Sell yourself. Would you give yourself a Fulbright scholarship after reading your essay

Format:

Paragraph 1 = personal introduction

Paragraph 2 = relevant skills/experiences/achievements and how you would benefit the program

Paragraph 3 = why you want the scholarship and how it would help your career plans

Sources:

<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-components/academic>

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/resumes-cover-letters/how-to-write-a-personal-statement>



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Personal Statement Continued...

This personal statement should be a narrative statement describing how you have achieved your current goals.

- It should include information about your education, practical experience, special interests, and career plans.
- Describe any significant factors that have influenced your educational or professional development.
- Comment on the number of years of practical experience already completed in the field in which academic work will be done in the United States.
- Do not mention specific U. S. universities at which you would like to study.
- It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format.



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Research Objective

Answer who, what, when, where, why and how of your study plan

What = innovative, research methods, your plan, importance

Why = your goals, your candidacy

How = personal, benefit your country, qualifications

Important: Fulbright's goal of increasing cultural understanding

Format:

Paragraph 1 = what you want to study, your overall goal

Paragraph 2 = the expertise you have to achieve this goal

Paragraph 3 = why you want this opportunity, and why the U.S. (why not Iraq)

Paragraph 4 = how this will help your home country

Sources:

<https://medium.com/@hraza1/how-to-write-study-objectives-for-fulbright-scholarship-c6f3caa7ceb2>

<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-components/academic>



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Research Objective Continued...

Study Plan / Research Objective:

- Write a clear and detailed description of your study/research objectives, and give your reasons for wanting to pursue them.
- Be specific about your major field and your specialized interests within this field.
- Describe the kind of program you expect to undertake, and explain how your study plan fits in with your previous training and your future objectives.

This statement is an essential part of your application and is required. Do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study. It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format.

Source: AMIDEAST



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Writing Tips

PEEL method for paragraph writing

P = point (topic sentence, what is the reason for this paragraph)

E = evidence (how is this point true)

E = explanation (how does the evidence prove your point)

L = link (connect the end of the paragraph to the main point of the essay and/or the next paragraph)

Ex: My pursuit of a degree in solar science in the United States will benefit my home country. Iraq is currently experiencing a financial crisis due to the global drop in oil prices. The government budget is dependent on oil sales. Even before the crisis, people complained about a lack of good electricity, and this will increase with the reduced government revenue. Iraq lacks people trained in solar energy, and therefore cannot develop an alternative to oil which is a source of corruption, war and financial difficulty. By studying solar energy in the United States, I will be learning about an important industry that could help my country develop energy independence and thus improve our lives.

Source:

<https://www.virtuallibrary.info/peel-paragraph-writing.html>



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Writing Tips Continued...

- Make an argument
- Don't use fluff
Ex: It can be said that studying in another country can benefit both the host country and foreign student.
- Every sentence needs to have a purpose
- Avoid passive voice
- Use topic sentences
- Have a strong thesis statement in the first paragraph
- Use simple grammar
- 'Good writing is rewriting'
- Proofreading by yourself, others



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Plagiarism

- Definition = presenting someone else's work as your own
- Easy to see (we see it a lot)
- Used intentionally or unintentionally
- Unacceptable in US, consequences
- Will end with your application being terminated
- Software, ie Turnitin
- Someone else's work is their intellectual property
- Paraphrasing



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Plagiarism Continued...

Ex:

Imagine, for example, that you read the following passage in the course of your research (from Michael Agar's book *Language Shock*):

"Everyone uses the word *language* and everybody these days talks about *culture*. . .
."Languaculture" is a reminder, I hope, of the *necessary* connection between its two parts..."

If you wrote the following sentence, it would constitute plagiarism: "At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that we might call 'languaculture.'"

This sentence borrows a word from Agar's work without giving credit for it.

Placing the term in quotation marks is insufficient. If you use the term, you must give credit to its source:

This is OK: "At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that Michael Agar has called 'languaculture.'" ("Language Shock," Michael Agar).



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Plagiarism Continued...

- There is no reason to plagiarize for Fulbright
- How can you plagiarize a personal essay
- The best person to write about you is...you
- Online essay formats often weak
- References in this presentation



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Conclusion

Be yourself on
paper, it will be
easier to write
Congratulations
for taking this step
Good luck!



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Questions



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