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Fulbright Foreign Student Program in the MENA Region 2027 Application FAQs

Program Information

What is the Fulbright Foreign Student Program?

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international academic exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government

Led by the U.S. government in partnership with more than 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers life-changing international academic and cultural exchange opportunities to study, conduct research, and contribute to finding solutions to complex global challenges. Fulbright participants, who represent the best and brightest of U.S. society and of societies abroad, are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential.

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program supports graduate students, early career professionals, and researchers from abroad to research and study in the United States for one year or longer at U.S. universities or other educational institutions. Participants also experience life in the United States and share their unique culture and traditions with Americans.

Visit the [Amideast website](#) for more information about the Fulbright Foreign Student Program and how to apply.

Can Fulbright participants stay in the United States after their program, or do they need to return to their home country?

Fulbright participants are subject to Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which is a post-program home-country physical presence requirement. Upon completion of their program, participants are required to return to and reside in their home country or territory for an aggregate two years before they may apply for U.S. immigrant and certain nonimmigrant visas.

Can I participate in the Fulbright Program if I have a disability?

Eligible and qualified applicants, including those with disabilities, are encouraged to apply. Please contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission to discuss any assistance you may need to apply to the program. If selected, Amideast will help advise on accommodations on U.S. campuses.

What are the benefits of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program?

Besides earning your master's degree or pursuing graduate-level research at a U.S. university, there are many benefits of the Fulbright Program, including, but not limited to:

- Learning about the United States and engaging in American culture and sharing your own culture and traditions.
- Enriching your knowledge and improving employment prospects with a graduate degree or research.
- Joining a global Fulbright community and finding solutions to complex global challenges.
- Contributing to professional development and research at U.S. universities.
- Collaborating with U.S. host institutions and businesses.
- Covered award costs include tuition, a living allowance, and round-trip travel.

When does the Fulbright Program start?



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The academic year in the United States typically starts in the fall (autumn) in August or September and runs until the end of the following spring in May or June. However, if you are selected to be part of a Long-Term English program or Pre-Academic Program, you will travel to the United States before your academic program begins.

What is the Long-Term English program?

The Long-Term English (LTE) program helps selected Fulbright nominees enhance their English language proficiency and strengthen their candidacy for admission into a U.S. university. LTE programs are six to eight months long with start dates in January and March. These intensive English programs are managed by university partners.

To be considered for an LTE program, you must first apply to and be nominated for the Fulbright Program. Dependents cannot accompany LTE participants.

Can my dependents (spouse and/or children) join me on the program?

Dependents are not permitted during LTE programs. During the normal course of their Fulbright Foreign Student Program (non-LTE part), J-2 visa dependents (spouses and children under the age of 21) are allowed to join, but the participants will be responsible for all dependent-related costs. The Fulbright monthly maintenance allowance will not be adequate to cover dependent expenses. Participants are required to provide proof of sufficient financial resources to support their dependents for the duration of stay in the United States before they will be allowed to bring them to the United States. Participants are also responsible for obtaining insurance coverage for their dependents that meets the minimum U.S. government requirements for J visa holders.

Contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for more information on the dependent policy for your country.

Is there a specific number of Fulbright participants, or does the number vary each year?

The number of Fulbright awards varies year by year, subject to funding and other factors.

Eligibility

Are high school students or recent high school graduates eligible for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program?

No, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program graduate-level studies or research only. However, the U.S. Department of State offers many other educational and cultural exchange programs. To find out more, visit the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' website](#). The U.S. Embassy in your country or territory may also have additional information on country-specific exchange programs.

Does the Fulbright Program provide support for PhDs?

Most Fulbright Foreign Student Program awards for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are for master's level studies. However, some countries provide one- to two-year opportunities for doctoral-level research. Contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for more information.

Which nationalities can apply and is physical presence in the corresponding country or territory required?

Amideast administers awards for participants from select countries and territories in the MENA region. Applicants from the following countries and territories are invited to apply: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank, and Yemen.



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You must be a citizen of or permanent resident able to hold a passport from the country or territory that nominates you and must be physically residing in that country or territory for the duration of the application, selection, nomination, and placement processes. If you are from another country or region not listed above, please check with your local U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission for details regarding Fulbright Program opportunities.

What are the eligibility requirements?

The requirements to apply for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program are:

- Applicants must be a citizen of or permanent resident able to hold a passport from your country or territory of nomination.
- U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must reside in your country or territory of nomination throughout the application, selection, nomination, and placement processes.
- Applicants must hold a U.S.-equivalent bachelor's degree from an accredited institution by the program start date.
- Applicants must have a strong academic background.
- Preference is given to applicants who have little or no previous experience studying or living in the United States.
- Applicants must be proficient in English or able to attend an LTE program prior to the start of your academic program.
 - Recommended English language test scores for U.S. university admission are at least 80 on the TOEFL iBT, 6.5 on the IELTS, or 120 on the Duolingo English Test.
 - Those who test slightly below these scores and who otherwise have strong credentials may be eligible for LTE.

Certain countries may have additional eligibility criteria such as work experience or specific English proficiency requirements. Contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for more information.

Employees and consultants of Amideast, employees of U.S. missions who work for the U.S. Department of State or the former U.S. Agency for International Development, and their immediate family members, are ineligible to apply for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program during the period of their employment and until one year following the termination of employment.

Employees of an organization responsible for nominating or selecting individuals for participation in any exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are not eligible to apply during and for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment, association, or service.

Can I still apply if I have previously received a U.S. Department of State or other U.S. government-sponsored scholarship?

Applicants who do not have significant experience in the United States are preferred, but outstanding applicants who have previously received other U.S. government-sponsored scholarships may be considered.

I completed my undergraduate degree in the United States. Can I still apply?

Yes, but preference is given to applicants who have not had significant experience living in the United States.

Does the Fulbright Foreign Student Program support medical or dental degrees?



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The Fulbright Foreign Student Program does not support clinical studies in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, psychology, or veterinary medicine due to restrictions on the U.S. visa category issued for Fulbright Foreign Student Program participants. However, applicants with undergraduate degrees in clinical fields may pursue, with some restrictions, relevant master's degrees in related subjects such as public health, global health, biology, chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and more. Contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for additional guidance on restricted fields of study.

What fields of study can I apply for?

Applicants may apply for most fields of study, including the humanities, social sciences, science, technology, and engineering. However, programs involving clinical studies, such as medicine and nursing, are not permitted. Non-clinical programs, such as, but not limited to, public health and nursing administration, are permitted.

Is there an age limit for the Fulbright Program?

There is no age limit for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program.

Is there a minimum GPA requirement?

There is no minimum required GPA, but applicants should have a strong academic record.

Can I apply to the Fulbright Foreign Student Program to pursue a second master's degree?

Applicants may apply to pursue a second master's degree, provided that it is in a different field and not a repetition of work or research of the first master's degree. The research or the focus of the second master's degree must be different from that of the previous master's degree.

Is there a work experience requirement?

Certain countries may have additional eligibility criteria such as work experience requirements. Contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for more information.

Application

How do I apply?

The most up-to-date information on how to apply, including eligibility requirements, can be found on the [Amideast website](#). Complete an application on the 2027 Fulbright application website. Make sure that you select the **2027-2028 cycle** when completing your application.

When is the deadline for the 2027 application?

The application opens for most countries globally on February 1, 2026, and generally closes in late spring. The most up-to-date deadline can be found through the Amideast website. If you have any issues finding your application deadline from there, contact your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission.

Can I resubmit an application that I used last year?

No, you cannot re-use an application that you submitted in previous years. To be considered, you must submit a new application with updated supporting documents, as applicable.

What level of English do I need to apply?

Applicants of all English language skill levels are invited to apply for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, unless a certain score is required for the program in a specific country or territory. Generally, there is no minimum English language proficiency score required to apply; however, graduate programs in the United States typically require a specific score to be considered for admission. The required score varies by institution and academic program and is typically equivalent to 80 or above on the TOEFL iBT, 6.5 or above on the IELTS,



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and 120 or above on the Duolingo English Test. Selected applicants will be interviewed in English and must be able to understand the questions and express themselves in English.

Qualified applicants with English proficiency scores below those noted above may be nominated by Amideast to participate in an LTE program in the United States before the start of their academic program to improve their English language skills and increase their chances of receiving admission to a graduate program.

What documents are applicants required to submit?

Applicants are required to submit electronic copies of the following documents with their application:

- Original academic transcripts and certified translations if originals are not in English.
- TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores (*if available*)
- A current résumé or CV detailing all prior education and work experience.
- Three letters of recommendation, in English or certified translations into English.
- A personal statement, in English, up to 600 words in length.
- A study/research objective statement, in English, relating to the field of study or research.
- Copy of passport (*if available*).
- Supplemental forms, if applicable.

If you have questions about obtaining original academic transcripts or certified translations of any document, contact your local Amideast office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for further guidance.

How many letters of recommendation do I need to submit?

You must submit three letters of recommendation with your application. You will register your recommenders when completing your application. These may be letters from professional supervisors or professors with whom you have studied or worked in the past.

How can I register my recommenders?

You can add as many recommenders as you want in the “Recommendations” page of the online application.

Can my recommenders submit letters of recommendation in French or Arabic?

The letters of recommendation must be submitted in English. Letters that are not written in English must be submitted with an English translation. If you have questions about obtaining certified translations, contact your local Amideast office, U.S. Embassy, or Fulbright Commission for further guidance.

Do you have any tips for completing the application?

When completing your application, keep the following tips in mind:

- Write clearly, using professional and understandable language.
- Demonstrate why you have chosen your field of study and how you are uniquely qualified to participate in the Fulbright Program.
- Use specific examples from your previous academic, professional, and personal experience.
- Proofread all materials for grammatical errors and spelling mistakes.
- Refrain from using sarcasm, jokes, or inappropriate humor.
- Cite any outside sources used in your essays. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in disqualification.
- All submitted work should be your own, based on your own original thoughts, ideas, and level of English language proficiency. Copying language/content produced by Generative AI directly into your application may negatively impact admission or affiliation decisions.

What is plagiarism?



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Plagiarism is copying or using someone else's work or ideas as your own without giving credit or referencing the original author. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying word-for-word from a source.
- Copying entire sentences or paragraphs from a source and using it in your writing.
- Using a theory or example from someone else's work without giving them credit.
- Copying text from an online sample essay and using it as your own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense in the American educational system. If plagiarism is detected anywhere in your application or supporting documents, you may be disqualified.

Do I need to submit any supplemental forms or supporting documents?

There are no supplemental forms or documents for the West Bank.

What can I upload in the “Additional Documentation” section?

Applicants can submit certificates, professional awards, or other documents to strengthen their Fulbright application.

How long does it take to review applications?

Applicants are generally notified of their nomination status in the fall (autumn). However, the selection process is a comprehensive, merit-based, and multi-step process that takes place over several months with several program stakeholders, including your local Amideast field office, U.S. Embassy, Fulbright Commission, as applicable, and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Therefore, timelines may vary each year based on the number of applications received.

Testing

Will my English proficiency score affect my chance of being nominated for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program? If I have a high English proficiency score, am I more likely to be nominated?

Several factors are considered when selecting nominees. A selected applicant must be able to attend an interview which will be conducted in English. English proficiency scores (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo, etc.) are taken into consideration but are not the only factor in the final selection.

Can I submit an application without an English proficiency score?

Yes, you can apply with or without an English proficiency score, unless it is required for the program in a specific country or territory. Unless noted otherwise, the absence of an English proficiency score will not negatively affect your application. However, you must be able to speak and understand English if you are invited to a selection panel interview. If you are nominated for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, you will be required to take English proficiency tests and any other tests required for admission, such as the GRE or GMAT. Fees for nominee testing will be covered by the Fulbright Program.

Do I need to submit GRE or GMAT scores with my application?

No, it is not required to submit a GRE or GMAT score with your application. If you are nominated for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, you may need to take the GRE or GMAT, if required. Fees for nominee testing will be covered by the Fulbright Program.