

Essay Writing and Plagiarism

Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Amideast/Iraq



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Fulbright Foreign Student Program

- Supports graduate students, early career professionals, and researchers from abroad to research and study in the United States.
- Operates in more than **160 countries worldwide** and approximately **4,000 foreign students** receive Fulbright awards each year.
- The awards are merit-based and provide **up to two years of funding** for graduate-level study or research at an American university or research institution.
- The Fulbright Foreign Student Program is currently open for applications until **05/01/2026**.
 - More information on program requirements and the application process: <https://apply.iie.org/ffsp2027>



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The Importance of Good Writing

- Graduate-level study at American universities requires **substantial writing** that meets **high standards**.
- Advanced non-native English speakers often speak with much greater proficiency than they write.
- A well-written essay can significantly strengthen your application for admission to U.S. institutions.



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Personal Statement

- When writing your statement, consider the following questions:
 - What you want to study at graduate school?
 - Why you want to study it?
 - What experience you have in your field?
 - What you plan to do with your degree once you have it?

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take the time to write and proofread your statement.• Write the length of essay requested.• Research academic programs thoroughly.• Write a separate essay for each university.• Accentuate your positive qualities.• Highlight your relevant work and volunteer experience.• Demonstrate your commitment to your chosen field of study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copy from another person's essay, book, newspaper, internet, etc. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense in the United States.• Repeat what is on your resume.• Be phony or glorify yourself.• Misrepresent yourself or your accomplishments.• Misspell words or make typing errors.• Rely on generative AI services to write your statement for you.



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Study Plan / Research Objectives

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



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Résumé or C.V.

- Add any or all of the following sections:
 - Education experience
 - Work experience
 - Volunteer experience
 - Awards
 - Publications
- Remove photo as well as personal and contact information including age, religion, marital status, etc.



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Writing Tips

Use the PEEL method for writing a good paragraph.

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)

Example: *My pursuit of a management degree in the United States will strengthen my ability to drive positive change in my home country. Currently, my country faces challenges with healthcare management. We need efficient management to ensure that resources are allocated effectively, and our healthcare systems are optimized for long-term growth. As time passes, the current state of our healthcare system will become an increasing safety hazard, impacting both public well-being and national development. There is a shortage of trained professionals in management which limits our ability to implement solutions and adapt to rapidly changing conditions. This lack of skilled leadership in key sectors such as healthcare hinders our progress and exacerbates the challenges we face. By studying management in the United States, I will enhance skills in strategic planning, organizational leadership, resource management and innovation in business model.*



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Writing Tips

- Make a persuasive argument.
- Do not be vague
 - Example of how **not** to write: "It can be said that studying in another country can benefit both the receiving country and foreign student."
- Every sentence needs to have a purpose.
- Use topic sentences.
- Have a strong thesis statement in the first paragraph.
- Use simple grammar and proofread your work.
- Budget your time so you have time to review and revise your writing to avoid errors.



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Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as **presenting someone else's work as your own.**
- Plagiarism can be intentional and unintentional, but instances of plagiarism are easy to spot.
- Any form of plagiarized writing is unacceptable for the Fulbright Program and U.S. universities.
 - Consequences of plagiarism may include disqualification from further consideration.
- Someone else's work is their **intellectual property.**
 - If you want to borrow an idea from someone, you must credit your source.
 - Even when you credit the source, you cannot copy and paste text from an original source. You can paraphrase or summarize an author's idea by using your own words to restate their work.



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Plagiarism

Original Version: Imagine that you read the following passage 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...*”

Plagiarized Version: This sentence borrows a word from Agar's work without giving credit for it: “At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that we might call ‘languaculture’.”

Acceptable Version: Placing the term in quotation marks is insufficient. If you use the term, you must give credit to the source: “At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that Michael Agar has called “languaculture” (book, page #).”



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Artificial Intelligence

- 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.
- While individual U.S. institutional policies range widely and policy responses from U.S. universities will continue to evolve, copying language or content produced by AI tools directly into your application may negatively impact admission or affiliation decisions.



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Additional Resources

- **Princeton Review**: Provides tutoring, test preparation, and admission resources for potential students.
 - <https://www.princetonreview.com/>
- **Peterson's**: Provides test preparation courses and practice tests to increase your chances of admission.
 - <https://www.petersons.com/>
- **University of California, Berkeley**: The school's "[Writing the Statement of Purpose](#)" article provides an overview of writing a compelling personal statement.
- **Indeed**: The website's "[How to Write a Graduate School Résumé](#)" article provides an overview of how to craft a well-written résumé.



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Communication with Amideast

- Amideast **field office in Iraq**

Email: FulbrightIraq@amideast.org

Phone: +964 (0)770 645 2275

Address: English Village, Villa #75, Erbil, Iraq



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Questions?



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