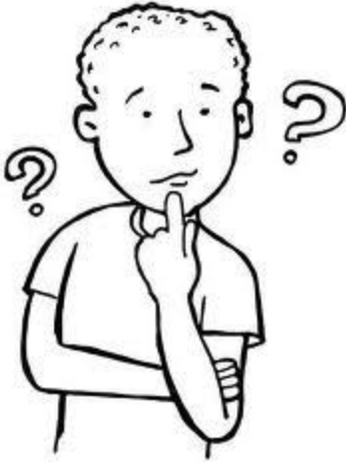


Fulbright Tips #1 : ETA vs. Full Grant



The first thing to think about when considering Fulbright is whether you want to apply for a full grant or an English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)*.

Basics

Both awards offer airfare to and from the country and a housing and living stipend. Beyond that, they differ considerably.

Candidates can only apply for **one award** in one country in a given year; no double applications are allowed. If you apply for an award in October, you will NOT be eligible to apply for the [Fulbright-mtvU](#) in the spring.

Beth Powers (bpowers@uic.edu) works with full grant applicants and Sheena Miller (sheena@uic.edu) works with ETA applicants.

Spend time exploring Fulbright options at: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants>

ETA

- The English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Programs place Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETA positions are offered in over 70 countries.
- Countries vary in:
 - The numbers of teachers they choose and level of experience they seek in teachers.
 - Language proficiency requirements. Some countries want teachers to have a certain level of proficiency in their language, others do not.
 - The levels ETAs are expected to teach. The country descriptions will tell you whether you will teach at the elementary/middle, high school or college level.
- **ETA candidates cannot usually request where they want to be placed within the country.** In some cases, the description of the program will give information on what areas of the country you will or won't be placed in, but other countries do not provide such detail. ETA candidates usually have to be flexible on where they are placed.
- You will teach English a certain number of hours each week and country descriptions may provide detail on this.
- You can generally pursue research or study of a side interest in the language or culture, but it should be clear your priority is to teach English. **Some countries do not allow side projects.**
- Our strongest candidates for the ETA positions are those who have had *some teaching or tutoring experience* and could discuss cogently how this teaching experience fit logically into their life plans.
- The best way to start preparing is to:
 - Start reflecting on your experiences as a learner, alongside any teaching and tutoring experience you have had. How does this relate to what you think you can bring to the classroom?
 - Consider what age-group/ level of English you would feel most comfortable teaching.
 - Jot down a few points about how this experience will tie into your longer-term goals. What will you gain from teaching, and why is it important for you to gain that now?
 - Daydream a bit! Read news from the countries you're interested in and look at the acceptance statistics for those programs. Consider looking at blogs of current ETAs, like this one: <https://abibliophileabroad.wordpress.com/tag/fulbright-eta-malaysia/>

Full Grants

- The study/research grant category includes projects in both academic and arts fields. The study/research grants are available in approximately 140 countries.

- With a full grant application, you propose to study a topic of interest to you and you lay out why it is an important topic, why the location you've chosen is a good place to study it, how you will study it, and what your preparation is for studying it.
- If you propose to do work at a particular institution and the institution indicates that they will support your work, and you win, you will be in that location.
- Students pursuing the full grant need to :
 - Find a contact in their proposed host country and request a letter of affiliation indicating that if you win, an individual, university or organization help you obtain access to what you want to study and that they think your project has value.
 - Some countries indicate they will help you find an affiliation, but it is in your best interest to identify possible institutions, even if you don't make a formal contact.
- Students may propose enrolling in degree programs as part of a Fulbright, but most of our Fulbrighters do not do so. Most Scholars pursue research, study or a combination of the two as a means of investigating a particular question or issue with a connection to a university.
- **Your first steps in exploring a full grant should be thinking about which country you would like to be in and what topic you would like to study.** Some candidates come up with the country first, others with the topic.
- The best way to explore these issues is by:
 - Looking at the country descriptions on the Fulbright website
 - Talking to trusted advisors in your field of interest about where best to explore your topic
 - Talking over your questions and interests with Beth as they develop. Her experience with past candidates may offer perspective that will help you with which country to choose, how to approach your topic, and how to pursue an affiliation.

The Data

Statistics on numbers of past applicants and winners may help you as you make your choices.

- ETA data here: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/eta-grant-application-statistics>
- Full grant data here: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/studyresearch-grant-application-statistics>

* What else?

Though they are by far the most popular amongst UIC students and alum, the full grant and ETA are *not* the only Fulbright awards available.

The [Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship](#) provides opportunities for U.S. citizens to serve in professional placements in a foreign government ministry or institution in partner governments. Fulbright-Clinton Fellows build mutual understanding and contribute to strengthening the public sector while gaining hands-on public sector experience. The Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship also includes an independent academic study/research component.

Hope you're enjoying your summer!

The [Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship](#) provides opportunities for U.S. citizens to participate in an academic year of overseas travel and digital storytelling in up to three countries on a globally significant theme. Fulbrighters will undertake an in-depth examination of a globally relevant issue, comparing and contrasting how that issue is experienced across borders. Utilizing a variety of digital storytelling tools, including text, photography, video, audio, graphic illustrations, and/or social media, Fellows will tell their stories, or the stories of those they meet, publishing their work on a dedicated blog hosted on the National Geographic.

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