



Fulbright F.A.Q.s

The deadline for Fulbright is quickly approaching and we hope you are feeling confident and prepared as you work on your application. If you have ANY questions we hope you will look online for answers and reach out to us and other faculty/staff members. Below are some common questions that students have about the Fulbright process. If you have a concern that isn't addressed here, just let us know.

Sheena Miller [ETA applicants, sheena@uic.edu]

Beth Powers [Full grant applicants, bpowers@uic.edu]

Upcoming Fulbright Info Session: On Wednesday, September 3rd at 3PM in University Hall 1501

Lee Rivers, a representative from Fulbright, will be on campus answering questions and providing information about the program. We hope you will make plans to attend. Information can be found here:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oaa/ssp/Fulbright%20Workshop%20Flyer.pdf>

Dear Advisor,

*Help! I'm finding that properly citing my sources via footnote is taking up quite a bit of prime space. Looking at some of the sample proposals, I see parentheticals and footnotes, but I also see no citations at all. Is there a recommended way to proceed? **The stuff I'm arguing needs a citation, and my field's preferred style is parenthetical (APA), but I can't just insert a works cited in the two-page proposal and sacrifice that space. Suggestions?***

"...You can do as you please, as long as you stick to the length limit and formatting rules they've given you. Footnotes or endnotes are fine, but they take up space that you might want for describing your project. In the end, most applicants only footnote something if they feel it's absolutely necessary. It's fairly common to "cite" by slipping in a phrase such as "according to Brookings foreign policy analyst Jane Doe..." As for your field's preferred style (APA, MLA, etc.) there's no point in agonizing over what's "right" since the panels will be interdisciplinary."

So when it comes to citations, to quote a Cole Porter song, "When you propose, / Anything goes."

- Courtesy of Chris Swanson, the Assistant Director, Office of Merit Awards at American University

Dear Advisor,

I'm nervous about the on-campus evaluation. What will happen during the evaluation? How can I prepare?

1. Your application is a work in progress. You may be asked, "what changes have you made since you submitted your application?"
2. Be prepared to talk about your application.
3. Be prepared to discuss what you know about your potential host country and why it interests you.
4. Be prepared to talk about how this experience fits into your long term goals.
5. Be ready to discuss how you are prepared academically and otherwise to undertake the project you have proposed.
6. Be ready to talk about the feasibility of the project in terms of time and resources if you are a full grant applicant or have a small project as an ETA.
7. Be ready to talk about how you might engage the culture outside your research project.
8. Be prepared with examples of situations where you have had to adapt to new environments.
9. Be ready to discuss whether and how you will do language study prior to and during your stay (if applicable) with some level of detail.

10. Convince the committee you are an ideal representative of UIC and the U.S.
11. Dress appropriately. You don't need to wear a suit for the interview, but dress nicely because it tends to aid in conveying a positive impression and underscores that you have a sense of what dress might be appropriate for more formal settings (which could apply in your host country as well.)
12. Remember that faculty and staff from UIC want UIC students to receive Fulbright awards. The feedback you receive is given not to deter you from applying, but rather with the aim of helping you to identify ways your application could be improved. Do not be too nervous about the process, instead focus on what you stand to gain from having a panel of scholars focus on your work and help you to improve.

Dear Advisor,

What's the due date again?

UIC Fulbright final deadline: September 12, 2014

Fulbright application deadline: October 15, 2014

Dear Advisor,

What are my chances of receiving an award, statistically?

For information on past application and awardee figures, visit: <http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org/statistics>.

Dear Advisor,

Where can I check to make sure that I'm not forgetting any essential application components?

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-tips>

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/spp/fulbrightprocess.htm>

Dear Advisor,

What do my referees need to keep in mind when writing my letter of recommendation?

In completing the reference, referees should keep in mind that the applicant will be serving as a citizen representing the United States and that personal suitability, as well as academic excellence, is an important criterion to be considered. In particular, please comment on any of the following that are appropriate:

- Feasibility of the applicant's proposed project in terms of resources available overseas.
- Ability of the applicant to carry out the project and in the allotted time.
- Linguistic preparation for the proposed plan.
- Candidate's ability to adapt to a different cultural environment.
- In the arts, the candidate's talent and potential for growth.
- Any other factors which you believe may have a bearing on the candidate's experience overseas.

ETA Applicants can see a sample reference form here:

http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org/uploads/files/application_samples/Form9B_ETA_Reference_Form-Sample.pdf

Keep working on your application and contact us with any questions you might have!