



Michigan State University Application Timeline for IIE Fulbright US Student Program Awards

(Fall 2025 Applications for 2026-2027 Grants)

Applications Open April 1 | MSU Intent to Apply Deadline July 15
MSU Deadline September 1 | National Deadline October 14

“Course” Description

From the Founder

” Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.

- J. William Fulbright

Welcome to *Fulbright Applications 101*. Think of this document as a syllabus, providing an overview of the weeks and months ahead as you work to produce a high-quality, competitive Fulbright application.

In terms of the number of hours you will need to devote to the process, imagine this as a one-credit course running from May to mid-October. I provide “lectures” in the form of videos and “readings” as handouts, tip sheets, and samples from past applicants. Your “homework” is to keep up with internal deadlines and let me know when you have questions.

The Fulbright US Student Program application process is lengthy; applicants are encouraged to engage in reflection and thoughtful conversations with faculty mentors, advisors, colleagues, and peers throughout the process. **It can (and should) take months to compile a solid, competitive application.**

Once the application process begins in earnest, you can expect emails from me about every two weeks from May through July. These emails will contain information about application sections, tips, and upcoming deadlines. **You will have interim deadlines throughout the summer.** In August, you will begin hearing from me more frequently as the campus deadline approaches.

Contact Information

Fulbright Program Advisor: (FPA) [Joy Campbell](#) | she/her
joycamp@msu.edu | 517.884.2167
216 International Center



Scan to learn why I love my job!

MSU Fulbright Website: <https://www.isp.msu.edu/fulbright>

Scheduling Meetings: **Drop in:** I’m on campus most days; feel free to pop by my office to see if I’m available.
Meetings: Use my [Calendly link](#) to set up an appointment if you want to guarantee the time.



Schedule a meeting!

MSU Fulbright History

- ❑ MSU's first student Fulbright grantee went to the Netherlands in 1949; since then, **over 230 Spartans have won Fulbright US Student Program awards** to over 70 countries.
- ❑ MSU has been named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for student grants in multiple past years, and a **Top Producing Institution for scholar (faculty) grants every year for the last ten years.**

First Steps

- ❑ Fill out MSU's [Fulbright Program Interest Survey](#) to give the MSU Fulbright Program Advisor (**FPA**) some background information and let her know you want to learn more!
- ❑ Learn about the [history of the Fulbright program](#).
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with the [MSU Fulbright website](#) (campus-specific information and resources) and [IIE Fulbright US Student Program website](#) (comprehensive information on every aspect of the program, as well as the link to begin an application).

Purpose of this Timeline

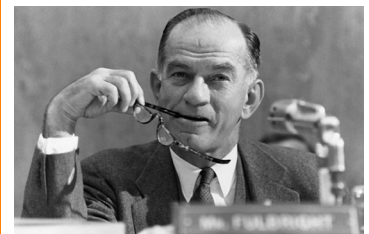
The following pages include a timeline for prospective Fulbright applicants, with interim summer deadlines and goals to keep you on track throughout the lengthy application process. This timeline applies to both the English Teaching Assistant (**ETA**) and Study/Research (**SR**) awards; some deadlines vary for different award types.

If you are beginning the process after some of these dates have passed, don't panic. Use this document to keep yourself organized as you work at a pace that makes sense for you and allows you to meet the MSU and national deadlines. You can jump around in the timeline as well; you do not necessarily have to complete these tasks in the order listed.

That said, if you have not begun to focus diligently on the application process by mid-summer, you are encouraged to wait until next year's competition. Alumni are welcome to work with the FPA for guidance up to five years after graduation.

Pro Tip

The program is named after Senator J. William Fulbright (pictured). He served in Congress from 1943-1974 representing the state of Arkansas.



The program name is not spelled "Fullbright" or "Full Bright."

As Needed Throughout Process

- Contact the FPA with any questions** (see [MSU Fulbright website](#) and the first page of this document for contact information).
- Watch for regular emails from the FPA; emails will include information, tips, and deadlines for each stage of the application process.
- Connect with fellow applicants at MSU and/or nationwide via Slack, GroupMe, Reddit, WhatsApp, and social media if desired.
- Check for [upcoming MSU Fulbright workshops](#) or information sessions.
- Visit the [IIE Fulbright US Student Program website](#) regularly for updates and helpful information throughout the process.
- Check for [upcoming IIE webinars](#) on pertinent topics (e.g., award types, geographic regions, specific applicant demographics such as first-gen college students, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, veterans).
- Check for [recorded IIE webinars](#) you may have missed to see if there are new recordings that would be useful to watch.

Spring Semester

For those who like to plan way ahead, you can use some spare time during spring semester to begin doing some research on Fulbright awards, countries, and application components.

January/February/March/April

- Check the [MSU Fulbright website](#) for any **upcoming information sessions** to get them on your calendar.
- Familiarize yourself with Fulbright basics** by watching the 10-minute [General Overview to the Fulbright US Student Program](#), then the video for whichever typer of program you plan to pursue.
- Read [IIE's "Getting Started" page](#) to **confirm your eligibility** for the program and learn about the different award types.
- Begin reviewing available countries.** Note that country offerings may vary slightly from awards posted when the competition opens in early April.
- Explore the IIE statistics page** to see data on the past three years of applications and awards. This gives you an idea of how competitive various countries and awards are.
- Research Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors** to see if there are Ambassadors who worked in countries you are interested in or who did projects related to your ideas. Reach out to them for input if you like.

Pro Tip

Focus on finals—you don't have to start your application right away in April. Some applicants really like to plan ahead, but you can get through spring semester and still have plenty of time.



Summer Semester: May

- Attend or watch a recording of the FPA's information session** for this application cycle.
- Watch FPA video giving a **brief tour of the IIE website**.
- Watch FPA video on **tips for selecting your host country and award**.
- Finalize the host country** to which you will apply.
- Finalize the award type** for which you will apply (e.g., ETA, open study/research, any sub-types or named awards).
- Begin drafting your Personal Statement.**
 - The FPA will provide various guidance documents and samples of Personal Statements from past applicants.
 - Watch the [MSU Fulbright website](#) for any upcoming writing sessions or “write-ins.”
 - Feel free to work with Writing Center consultants to brainstorm about and outline your Personal Statement.

What to Expect: Summer Emails

You will receive regular emails from the FPA throughout the summer. If you want to “work ahead” and don't yet have access to a resource mentioned anywhere in this document, just ask the FPA!



Pro Tip

*MSU deadlines are designed to keep you on track throughout the summer; that said, life happens! You might have a long-awaited trip, a family reunion, your sister's wedding... **communicate with the FPA** if you're going to miss a deadline and provide a new target date.*



No ghosting, please!

- Watch FPA video with **tips for getting started with your online application**.
- Once you are certain you are going to apply, [create an account with IIE](#)** to begin your application.
 - Selecting MSU as your institution links your application to the FPA.
- By May 30 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete **Preliminary Questions screen** in portal
 - Complete **Country & Award selection screen** in portal
 - Complete **Personal Information screen** in portal
 - Complete **Contact Information screen** in portal

Summer Semester: June

- ❑ **By June 6 (ETA)/June 13 (SR):**
 - Send first draft of **Personal Statement to FPA.**
- ❑ Watch FPA video with **tips for completing the Academic Information and Awards & Achievements screens** in portal.
- ❑ **By June 20 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete **Academic Information** screen in portal
 - Complete **Awards & Achievements** screen in portal
- ❑ For **SR** applicants
 - Watch FPA video **about how to find an affiliate in your host country and obtain a letter of affiliation.**
 - Begin making contacts with potential institutions to provide a letter of affiliation. This process can take several months. Seek input from your faculty advisor and other professors as needed. The [area studies centers at MSU](#) may also be able to provide connections.
- ❑ Once you have received feedback from the FPA, **share a draft of your Personal Statement with at least one more person** for feedback (e.g., friend, roommate, advisor, professor, Writing Center consultant, Career Services Network advisor)
 - Further refine draft.
 - **Feel free to send a second draft of your Personal Statement to the FPA** at any time.
- ❑ **Begin drafting your Statement of Grant Purpose.**
 - The FPA will provide various guidance documents and samples of Statements of Grant Purpose from past applicants.
 - Watch the [MSU Fulbright website](#) for any upcoming writing sessions or “write-ins.”
 - Feel free to work with Writing Center consultants to brainstorm about and outline your Statement of Grant Purpose.
- ❑ **By June 27 (ETA)/July 7 (SR):**
 - **Send first draft of Statement of Grant Purpose to FPA.**

What to Expect: Submitting Drafts

The preferred format for submitting drafts is via email as a Microsoft Word document attachment.

Include your name and the type of draft in the file name (e.g., “Personal Statement – Hayden Bauer” or “Host Country Engagement Rowen Singh”).

Do not send PDFs.

If you must use Google Docs instead:

- *Include your name and the type of draft in the file name.*
- *Make sure to give access and editing permissions to joycamp@msu.edu.*
- *Email the FPA to let her know you have shared a document.*



Summer Semester: July

- Watch FPA video about **how to choose and invite recommendation writers.**
 - Identify your three recommenders.
 - Contact them to ask if they are willing to complete an online recommendation form (**ETA**) or upload a written letter of recommendation (**SR**).
- Watch FPA video about **how to determine if you need a self-evaluation or FLE and how to find a foreign language evaluator.**
 - If required for your proposed award, identify an instructor to conduct the evaluation.
- By July 15: Confirm your intent to apply for a Fulbright award this year with the FPA (if not already done).**
- Watch FPA video with **tips for completing the Professional Information screen** in portal.
- Watch FPA video with **tips for completing the Experience Abroad section** in portal.
- By July 18 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete **Professional Information screen** in portal
 - Complete **Experience Abroad section** in portal
- Request post-secondary transcripts as needed** (ensure spring semester grades are included). Transcripts may be unofficial versions; if you are named a semifinalist, you may need to provide an official copy at that time. This [handout](#) explains how to obtain MSU transcripts.

Pro Tip



*If a language evaluation is not required, but you have experience with the language of your host country, completing the self-evaluation and a formal language evaluation can **make your application more competitive.***

What to Expect: Feedback

Turnaround time for FPA feedback is usually about a week. If it takes longer, feel free to email a friendly reminder! Sometimes emails get lost or misfiled!

Feedback will be given by using Track Changes in Word or Suggestions in Google Docs. For Word, the FPA will copy the file and add “jmc” (her initials) to the file name (e.g., “Sage Flores Abstract jmc”).

Once you have received feedback, feel free to set up an appointment to talk through any questions!



- Once you have received feedback from the FPA, **share a draft of your Statement of Grant Purpose with at least one more person** for feedback (e.g., friend, roommate, advisor, professor, Writing Center consultant, Career Services Network advisor)
 - Further refine draft.
 - **Feel free to send a second draft of your Statement of Grant Purpose to the FPA** at any time.
- Using resources provided by the FPA and from the IIE website, draft the “Host Country Engagement” portion of the online application.
 - **By July 25 (ETA and SR):** Send draft of “Host Country Engagement” portion to FPA.

Summer into Fall Semester: August

- ❑ Send reminders if needed for reference letters and language evaluation (give them the MSU internal deadline of September 1, not the national deadline in October).
- ❑ Using resources provided by the FPA and from the IIE website, draft the “Plans Upon Return to the US” portion of the online application.
 - **By August 1 (ETA and SR):** Send draft of “Plans Upon Return to the US” portion to FPA.
- ❑ For open study/research applicants: Follow up if needed on letter of affiliation.
- ❑ Share drafts of your revised Personal Statement and Statement of Grant Purpose with at least one more person for feedback and further refine your drafts.
 - Be aware that the Writing Center closes from mid-August to early September for semester break and staff training; Writing Center consultants also partner with the East Lansing Public Library for the [Community Writing Center](#) (CWC). The CWC remains open during the Writing Center’s annual August closure and may be a good alternative for last-minute advice before the MSU Fulbright deadline.
- ❑ Using your almost-final statements, resources provided by the FPA, and the IIE website, draft the “Abstract/Summary of the Proposal” portion of the online application.
 - The FPA will provide various guidance documents and samples of short answer questions from past applicants.
 - **By August 15 (ETA and SR):** Send draft of “Abstract” portion to FPA.
- ❑ Finalize online application.

Fall Semester: September

- ❑ **September 1: MSU deadline for all applicants, ETA and SR**
 - **Lock your application using the “Ready for Campus Review” section in the online IIE application;** this submits it to MSU’s FPA. This will temporarily lock your application and no changes can be made until it is unlocked by the FPA (though recommenders **are** still able to submit their materials). You are also able to unlock it yourself if necessary (e.g., the unlikely but never impossible “FPA gets hit by a bus” scenario).

What to Expect: Locking on September 1

You will lock your complete application for campus review through the IIE online portal on September 1. This means **all** your statements, the online portions like past travel and jobs, your transcript, and as many of your letters and language evals as possible.

Why? Because a complete application packet gives your campus readers the fullest possible picture of you as a candidate.

Also, you’ll be busy settling into fall semester!



- Participate in required Campus Committee micro-mentoring conversation (held via Zoom) to receive feedback on application.
 - The application will be unlocked back to you following the discussion so you can make changes.
- Refine statements and rest of application based on Campus Committee input.
- Gather any necessary final materials for submission.

Fall Semester: October

- October 14: National deadline (likely date based on past years, to be confirmed by IIE when cycle opens)**
 - **Submit online application to IIE well before 5:00pm ET—no late applications are accepted for any reason.**
 - We have had applicants try submitting as late as 4:58pm and not make the deadline. This may have been due to server slowdowns or to their computer clock being different from the server clock, but **don't risk it. Submit early!**
- You did it!** Connect with fellow applicants at MSU and/or nationwide via Slack, GroupMe, Reddit, WhatsApp, and social media if desired. This can help you feel like you have some community as you wait for the next steps.

Pro Tip



*Be aware that **the application portal slows down markedly** the last few days as traffic increases—plan ahead!*

After the National Deadline

Pro Tip

*Settle in for a long wait and try to **find Zen** in knowing it's out of your hands!*



November/December

- Applications are reviewed by National Screening Committees for each world region.

January

- Semifinalists notified (by end of month—the majority usually go out in bulk at the very end of January)** that their applications are moving to the next step; applicants not selected to advance are also notified.

February/March

- Semifinalist applications are reviewed by host country Fulbright Commissions and other in-country stakeholders.** Zoom/Skype/phone interviews may be conducted, though this varies widely by country and program. The FPA can let you know past interview trends for your host country, though things can change from year to year.

Late March through May

- Finalists and alternates are notified; notification dates vary widely by country. **Many notifications go out around April 15, but some still come in at the end of April and into May,** with the last few coming through the summer.
- Applicants who were not selected as either finalists or alternates are also notified on a rolling basis by country.
- If finalists (nationwide) decline their awards for some reason, alternates may be notified that funding has become available. This can happen throughout the summer.

August/September/October

- Most grants begin in late summer or early fall, typically corresponding to the host country's academic year. Some grants, especially in the southern hemisphere (where the academic year often starts in their hemisphere's late summer/fall), may begin in January or later.

Deadlines at a Glance for Fall 2025 Applications

- May 30 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete Preliminary Questions screen
 - Complete Country & Award selection screen
 - Complete Personal Information screen
 - Complete Contact Information screen
- June 6 (ETA)/June 13 (SR):**
 - Send first draft of Personal Statement to FPA
- June 20 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete Academic Information screen
 - Complete Awards & Achievements screen
- June 27 (ETA)/July 7 (SR):**
 - Send first draft of Statement of Grant Purpose to FPA
- July 15 (ETA and SR):**
 - Confirm intent to apply for Fulbright with FPA (if not already done)
- July 18 (ETA and SR):**
 - Complete Professional Information screen
 - Complete Experience Abroad section
- July 25 (ETA and SR):**
 - Send draft "Host Country Engagement" portion to FPA
- August 1 (ETA and SR):**
 - Send draft "Plans Upon Return" portion to FPA
- August 15 (ETA and SR):**
 - Send draft "Abstract" portion to FPA
- September 1 (ETA and SR):**
 - **MSU deadline to lock complete application for campus review via IIE online portal**
- October 14 (ETA and SR):**
 - **National deadline** (likely based on past years, to be confirmed when cycle opens)

Timeline Doesn't Match Your Plans?

Many MSU students begin looking into IIE Fulbright options the spring of their junior year, applying at the beginning of their senior year and hoping to travel the fall after graduation.

Other MSU applicants might be in graduate school, hoping to incorporate a Fulbright award as part of their thesis or dissertation research. MSU PhD candidates who are interested in conducting dissertation research abroad are also encouraged to look into the Fulbright-Hays [Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad](#) grant.

If you don't fit into these parameters, that's OK!

- **If you are a first-year student or sophomore**, you can browse the [MSU Fulbright website](#) and [IIE Fulbright US Student Program website](#) to learn about the program and keep an eye out for MSU information sessions. Students with more lead time can think about activities that might strengthen their applications, like [English tutoring](#) (for English Teaching Assistant awards), leadership positions in a club or job, language courses, education abroad, and volunteer or work experience in your field of study.
- **If you are an MSU alum**, you can work with the FPA and apply through MSU for up to five years after graduation. After five years, you should apply as an At-Large applicant. Note that if you graduated from MSU but are now enrolled in a graduate program at another institution, you should apply via that institution.

Still Reading?

You're a star! Thanks for sticking with me and learning all you can about MSU's Fulbright application process. As the campus FPA, I will be here for you every step of the way, and I look forward to working with you. You can always find my contact information in all handout footers, my email signature, and on the [MSU Fulbright website](#). To easily schedule a meeting, use the [Calendly link](#) which always appears in my email footer to set up an appointment.

Fulbright awards are extremely competitive. That said, MSU students have a great track record and the process itself is valuable as you approach other applications and interviews in the future.

I will work with you every step of the way to make sure you submit the most competitive application possible. Let's do this!

Pro Tip

*This kind of diligence—reading through a long but important document—will serve you well during the application process. **You will receive a lot of information from me.** Tackle it step by step, and you'll find that the application is quite straightforward.*

