THE FULBRIGHT ESSAYS

Two essays are required: The Personal Statement and the Study/Research Proposal. These essays serve very different but complementary purposes. Unless noted, the following information comes straight from the Fulbright Web site.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT (1 Page)

The following information is applicable to Study/Research applicants:

The Personal Statement should be a narrative giving a picture of you as an individual. Remember, applicants are not interviewed on the national level. The Personal Statement is your opportunity to “talk” about yourself and to tell the committee more about how you came to this point in your life and where you see yourself in the future. There is no single “right way” to approach the Statement; rather candidates will consider what they think is important for people reviewing the application to know about them.

The Statement can deal with your personal history, family background, influences on your intellectual development, the educational and cultural opportunities (or lack of them) to which you have been exposed, and the ways in which these experiences have affected you. Also, you may include your special interests and abilities, career plans, and life goals, etc. It should not be a recording of facts already listed on the application or an elaboration of your Statement of Grant Purpose. It is more of an autobiography, and specifically related to you and your aspirations.

Adhere to the following format:

- Statement length is limited to a maximum of one typed, single-spaced page. Longer statements may be detrimental to your application.
- To ensure a smooth upload and readability, use 1” margins all around and Times Roman 12 pt. font
- At the top of the Word Document, in the upper left-hand corner
  o On line 1, type PERSONAL STATEMENT. Do not place this information in a header
  o On the next line, type your name, country of application, and field of study

THE STUDY/RESEARCH PROPOSAL (2 Pages)

THE BEST PROPOSALS BEGIN WITH GOOD IDEAS:

Start by putting your ideas on paper, and list the goals and objectives of your project. [LMU’s Fulbright pre-application will walk you through this!] Share your ideas with your Fulbright Program Adviser, your academic adviser, and professional colleagues in your field. As you work on your proposal, consider the following questions and remember your audience. Avoid discipline-specific jargon. The individuals reading your proposal prefer you get to the point about the “who, what, when, where, why and how” of the project. In a direct and persuasive manner, address the following:

- What do you propose to do? What is exciting, new or unique about your project? What contribution will the project make to the Fulbright objective of promoting cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding?
- Why do you want to do it? What is important or significant about the project?
- With whom do you propose to work?
- When will you carry out your study or research? Include a timeline.
- Where do you propose to conduct your study or research? Why is it important to go abroad to carry out your project?
- How will you carry out your work? All students should discuss methodology and goals in their statements.
- How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
- Your project statement should contain a clear commitment to and description of how you will engage with the host country community.

IS THE PROJECT FEASIBLE?

You must also demonstrate that the project research strategy is feasible, including its time frame:

- How will the culture and politics of the host country impact your work?
- How do the resources of the host country support your project?
- If employing such research methods as extensive interviewing and the use of questionnaires, how will you locate your subjects?
• Is your language facility adequate? If not, how will you accomplish your work?
• What are your plans for improving you language skills, if they are not adequate at the time of application?

If there could be any question regarding the feasibility of your project or your background or ability to conduct the project, **address the issue directly in your statement**. Enrolled students are urged to consult professors in their major fields and their FPAs about the feasibility of their proposed projects. At-Large applicants should consult qualified persons in their fields. **Please note:** Applicants should determine if the host country has specific visa or research clearance requirements. This will be noted in the Country Summary. If required visas and/ or research clearance(s) are denied by the candidate’s host country, reassignment to a new country is normally **not** an option.

Don’t make reviewers search for information. We urge you to have several people read and critique your Statement, including a faculty adviser, a faculty member outside your discipline, a fellow student, and/or a colleague.

**Adhere to the following format:**
• Statement length is limited to a maximum of **two typed, single-spaced pages**. Longer statements may be detrimental to your application.
• Do not include any bibliographies, publications, citations, etc., except those that will fit in the two-page limit.
• To ensure a smooth upload and readability, use 1” margins all around and Times Roman 12 pt. font.
• At the top of each page of your Word document type the following:
  o On line 1, type **STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE**
  o On line 2, Place your Name, Country of Application, and Field of Study
  o On line 3, type Project Title as it appears on Page 3 (Form 2) of the application (on the first page of the Statement only)

**ALSO SEE:**

• **"Writing Fellowship Essays"**: [http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/academics/fellowships/application/essays.html](http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/academics/fellowships/application/essays.html)

**NOTE**: Resist the temptation to look at the samples below BEFORE you have completed LMU’s Fulbright pre-application and have begun to sketch out your own reasons for applying. While the samples linked below are useful for demonstrating well-structured essays, it is the quality of the content (the clarity of your convictions and your own purposes for applying) that set the foundation for strong essays. Samples from others cannot do that work for you!

• **Samples of Winning Essays On-line:**
  Penn State University: [https://www.e-education.psu.edu/writingpersonalstatementsonline/p5_p4.html](https://www.e-education.psu.edu/writingpersonalstatementsonline/p5_p4.html)
  Temple University: [http://www.temple.edu/studyabroad/students/fulbright/sample_essay.html](http://www.temple.edu/studyabroad/students/fulbright/sample_essay.html)
  University of Iowa: [http://international.uiowa.edu/funding/fulbright-resources](http://international.uiowa.edu/funding/fulbright-resources)
  University of Rochester: [http://www.rochester.edu/college/CCAS/fellowships/fulbright/samples.html](http://www.rochester.edu/college/CCAS/fellowships/fulbright/samples.html)