CRAFTING A COMPETITIVE FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT (ETA) APPLICATION

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Office of National & International Fellowships (ONIF)
FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAMS

- ETA Programs place Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers
  - Most ETA grants are 9-12 months and begin in early fall*

- Available in over 75 countries
  - ~30 countries do not require previous study of the host country language

- ETA’s help teach English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S.

- The age and academic level of the students varies by country, ranging from kindergarten to university level

*Varies by country & grant
PROGRAM BENEFITS

• Round-trip transportation to the host country
• Funding to cover room, board, and incidental costs, based on the cost of living in the host country
• Accident & Sickness Health Benefits

In some countries, grants may also include:
• A modest dependent’s allowance
• Mid-term enrichment activities
• Language study programs
• Pre-departure and in-country orientations
• Please review the relevant Country Summary for specific details
ELIGIBILITY FOR THE 2020-21 PROGRAM

- Must have a conferred bachelor's degree or the equivalent before August 2020
- Must be a U.S. citizen by October 2019
- No minimum GPA requirement*
- Applicants for English Teaching Assistant Programs can apply to only one country

*LMU recommends a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
APPLICATION COMPONENTS

• Slate Fulbright Online Application - Open Now!
• Statement of Grant Purpose
  o 1-page document outlining why you are interested in teaching English to non-native speakers in X country
• Personal Statement
  o 1-page narrative that gives the reviewers a picture of you as an individual
• Community Engagement
  o Applicants must address how they will engage with their host community, outside of the classroom
• Foreign Language Evaluation Form, if applicable
  o Self evaluation in the online application
• 3 Reference Forms
• Unofficial transcript(s) uploaded to Slate
PERSONAL STATEMENT

• 1-page narrative that gives the reviewers a picture of you as an individual
  • Make it personal

• Education and career goals
  o How will the ETA program benefit your goals?

• How your background has influenced your development

• Do not repeat information from other parts of the application

• Single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins

• At the top of each page include: Personal Statement, Your Name, Country of Application, and English Teaching Assistant Program
STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

• A 1-page document outlining why you are interested in teaching English to non-native speakers
  • Why are you applying to this specific country?

• Describe what you will be able to bring to the classroom in the host country

• What specific ideas do you have for engaging with students and helping them to learn English?

• Indicate your commitment to and a description of how you will engage with the host country community

• Single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins

• At the top of each page include: Statement of Grant Purpose, Your Name, Country of Application, and English Teaching Assistant Program

• Do not make your statement location-specific within the host country, unless specifically requested to do so
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• A key purpose of the Fulbright program is to be a cultural ambassador while living abroad (200 words)
  o How will you engage outside of the workplace to fulfill this mission?
  o In what ways do you plan to share your culture and values in your host community?
  o Provide specific ideas.

• You should also address this briefly in the Statement of Grant Purpose
  o 2-3 sentences
FOREIGN LANGUAGE FORMS

• Note any language requirements of your proposed host country

• Strongly Recommended
  - Language Self Evaluation
  - Foreign Language Evaluation Form, completed by a professional language teacher (MDLL at LMU)

• Recommended or Not Required
  - Submit both a Language Self Evaluation and a Foreign Language Evaluation Form, even if you only possess some of the host country language!

• Demonstrate your interest in learning the language
  - Download Mango (free through your local library), Duolingo, or borrow Rosetta Stone from your local library
FOREIGN LANGUAGE EVALUATION GUIDELINES

- Offered only to LMU community – students, faculty, staff, and LMU alumni.
- Applicants must contact the Administrative Coordinator at MDLL Department (310) 338-3051 or email dewong@lmu.edu to request your language evaluation.
- ONIF recommends you send your request in early August of 2019.
- The Chair of the Department will assign you an appropriate language evaluator.
- FLE appointments must be scheduled between August 26 and September 27, 2019. Note: this is the only form acceptable to submit after LMU's campus deadline
- The evaluation must take place during regular semester hours – Monday to Friday, from 9:00AM to 4:00pm.
- It is the applicant’s responsibility to input the evaluator’s contact info (name and email) in Slate, the Fulbright application system

Students must use their LMU email address when requesting a FLE from the Administrative Coordinator in MDLL. Include your Student ID in any correspondence.
**SAMPLE FOREIGN LANGUAGE FORMS**

**U.S. STUDENT FULBRIGHT PROGRAM**

**Foreign Language Evaluation Form**

For Study in country:

Language Evaluated:

Please comment on the applicant’s present language ability in relation to the proposed project in each of the following categories. Based on ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTFL Level</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior/Distinguished</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate your general opinion of this applicant’s ability in the language evaluated relative to the language level needed to carry out the proposed study or research project OR for English Teaching Assistantship applicants to engage in a local community where English is rarely spoken.

- OHR require considerable training before necessary competence can be obtained
- Should be able to manage adequately after some additional formal language training
- Should be able to manage adequately after a short period of adjustment abroad
- Should have no difficulty

Indicate briefly how the evaluation was determined, including the context in which you know the applicant and/or conducted the evaluation. As space allows, also feel free to comment on the applicant’s language skills relative to the proposed project.

Applicants should complete a separate Language Self Evaluation for each language needed for their proposed grant project or as requested by the host country according to the Country Summary.

Remember, unless you have no knowledge of the host country language, you must have FORM 8 completed by a foreign language evaluator.

Please answer the following questions regarding the language being evaluated.

1. Language being evaluated:
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

2. Indicate if you are applying for the Critical Language Enhancement Award in the language evaluated on this form.

3. Indicate your evaluation of your knowledge/skill level in the language indicated in question 1.
   - None
   - Basic (no formal study or minimal high school)
   - Beginning (less than 1 year college or equivalent)
   - Intermediate (1-2 years college or equivalent)
   - Advanced (more than 2 years college or equivalent)
   - Fluent (native or near native)

4. Indicate how you have learned the language. You may check all that apply.
   - Formal Study
   - Self-study
   - Other language
   - Spoken at home
   - Studied/lived in country (indicate country & amount of time in question 5)
   - Other

5. Indicate amount of time spent in formal study and/or time studying or living in a country where language is spoken and the country is.
3 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

• Recommenders will be provided an electronic form
  o Communication skills, interest in teaching, and ability to work in unstructured environments

• 3 individuals who can best speak to your ability to teach English in a classroom abroad based on your intellectual and professional preparation
  o Provide copies of your Statement of Grant Purpose and Personal Statement
  o Provide your recommenders with Instructions for ETA Recommendation Writers

• All forms must be completed in English
RECOMMENDATION FORM QUESTIONS

1. Based on your observation of and experience with the applicant, comment on their ability to overcome challenges. (120 words)

2. In your view, how has this applicant demonstrated qualities associated with teaching or mentoring? (120 words)

3. Based on your observation, how might the applicant interact with students, faculty, and community members, among others, in an unfamiliar or unstructured situation or in a different cultural environment? (120 words)

4. What kind of impression, in your view, would the applicant make of the United States abroad? (120 words)

5. Please comment on any other factors which you believe may have a bearing on the applicant's potential to have a successful experience abroad as a Fulbright ETA (comments regarding academic and/or personal experience, maturity, adaptability, and flexibility are welcome). (120 words)
SELECTING A COUNTRY

GOAL: Demonstrate why you plan to undertake an ETA in X country.
   - Connect your short and long term academic and career goals not only to the ETA Program, but to the experience(s) you aim to have in the host country

• Do you speak another language?
  • Beginner, intermediate, advanced, fluent, heritage speaker?
  • Have you studied any language(s) in a formal classroom setting?

• Have you previously studied abroad?
  • Yes! You can potentially go back to that same country at an ETA!

• What age group do you prefer or have the most experience teaching?
  • Elementary? Secondary? University-level?

• What issues within your discipline are also global issues?
*NEW* ETA AWARDS FOR 2020-21

- Saudi Arabia: 2 ETAs
- Greenland: 2 ETAs
- Paraguay: 2 ETAs
- Taiwan Debate: 2 ETAs
EXPANDED COUNTRIES FOR 2020-21

Taiwan: 109 ETAs
- 90 ETAs in 2018-19

Palestinian territories: 4 ETAs
- 2 ETAs in 2018-19

Spain: 185 ETAs
- 137 ETAs in 2018-19

Bulgaria: 30 ETAs
- 25 ETAs in 2018-19
UNDERSUBSCRIBED* COUNTRIES

- Laos: 12 ETAs
  - 33 applications received in 2018-19
- Mongolia: 6 ETAs
  - 22 applications received in 2018-19
- Moldova: 3 ETAs
  - 11 applications received in 2018-19
- Sri Lanka: 5 ETAs
  - 12 applications received in 2018-19
- Tajikistan: 3 ETAs
  - 7 applications received in 2018-19

*These countries received a lower number of apps than anticipated in 2019-20. Updated stats will be posted on the website by May 1, 2019.
UNDERSUBSCRIBED* COUNTRIES

- Uruguay: 6 ETAs for 2020-21
  - 28 applications received in 2018-19
- Lithuania: 2 ETAs for 2020-21
  - 5 applications received in 2018-19
- Latvia: 3 ETAs for 2020-21
  - 4-8 applications received in 2018-19
- Georgia: 4 ETAs for 2020-21
  - 8 applications received in 2018-19

*These countries received a lower number of apps than anticipated in 2019-20. Updated stats will be posted on the website by May 1, 2019.
### SELECTING A COUNTRY

Visit the Fulbright Website

Although the statistics tool is useful, you should not select a country solely on number of past applicants! Fulbright is NOT a numbers game.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Grants</th>
<th>Placement Type</th>
<th>Host Placements</th>
<th>Teaching Commitment per week</th>
<th>Host Country Language Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Middle and High School</td>
<td>Regional cities</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>High School or University</td>
<td>Regional cities</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Rural areas, regional cities</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Primary through I High School</td>
<td>Rural areas</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All Levels</td>
<td>Rural areas, regional cities</td>
<td>30-40 hours</td>
<td>Preferred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Rural areas</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Rural areas</td>
<td>20 hours, plus 5 hours educational advising</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Teaching Assistant Award</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total English Teaching Assistant</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ETA APPLICATION TIMELINE

- **June 1:** LMU Intent to Apply form due online
- **June 8:** LMU Campus Overview Webinar
- **June 15:** Applicants receive access to Brightspace self-paced course
- **July 31:** Checkpoint- application drafts due to ONIF
- **July 15:** All LMU applicants must create their Slate accounts
- **August 16:** Submit your campus interview availability
- **August 28:** Before You Submit Webinar
- **August 31:** Campus deadline, all app materials submitted in Slate
- **September 10-30:** TENTATIVE Campus interviews
- **October 8:** National application deadline
ETA ESSAY WORKSHOPS*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend at least one of the following events:

- **July 17:** Personal Statement Workshop #1, 7 p.m., UHALL 1402
- **July 18:** Personal Statement Workshop #2, 7 p.m., Online
- **August 6:** Statement of Grant Purpose Workshop #1, 7 p.m., Online
- **August 14:** Statement of Grant Purpose Workshop #2, 7 p.m., UHALL 1402
- **August 19:** Applicant Choice Workshop #1, 7 p.m., Online
- **August 23:** Applicant Choice Workshop #2, 2 p.m., UHALL 3111

*Dates subject to change*
ETA RESOURCES

• Fulbright website
  o Tutorials & upcoming webinars
  o Slate online application

• Fulbridge website
  o Connect with ETAs from across the globe

• ONIF website ***Bookmark this page***
  • Additional Fulbright-like opportunities
  • LMU Fulbright Alumni Directory

• Faculty
  o LMU Faculty Fulbrighters Directory

• The Writing Center
  o ETA Applicants will work with the center at least once during the summer!

• Career Professional Development

• Mango Languages App, Duolingo Languages App, Rosetta Stone
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUMMER 2019

• Professor Monique Mansour, Rhetorical Arts
  o 2016-17 Fulbright ETA to Malta
LMU ETA SPOTLIGHTS

Lauren Rowland '18
2018
ETA to Laos

Jacob Coronel '16
2016
ETA to Mexico

Andrea Castellanos '18
2018
ETA to Spain

Griffin Gosnell '10
2014
ETA to Thailand
APPLICATION ADVICE FROM LMU FULBRIGHTERS

“Start early so you can have as many people as possible read over your application. Reach out to your support network at LMU, they have a wealth of knowledge.” – Andrea Castellanos, 2018-19 ETA to Spain

“The most challenging part of the application was being able to consolidate the many experiences I’ve had and connecting it to the country I applied to.” – Jesse Jovel, 2018-19 ETA to Colombia

“Keep telling yourself that you can do it! If you believe this process is possible then you will eventually reap the benefits of your labor.” – Simone Wilson, 2018-19 Alternate ETA to Korea

“Ask Cassidy for help whenever you feel confused or overwhelmed, and don't be sad when she rips apart your first drafts because in the end, your essays will be way better. – Samantha Leung, 2019-20 ETA to Taiwan
QUESTIONS

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