



Where to Begin?

A Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Research & Creative Arts Awards Webinar

Office of National & International Fellowships (ONIF)
Cassidy Alvarado, Director of ONIF

Overview of the Research/Creative Arts Awards

- **Fulbright** provides over 2,000 awards that facilitate cultural exchange & promotes mutual understanding between the U.S. and over 140 countries
- **Applicants** for research/creative arts awards design their own projects and will typically work with advisers at foreign universities, non-governmental organizations, or other institutes of higher education
- **Projects** are generally 9-12 months and may begin as early as July 2019*
- **To apply**, applicant's must be U.S. citizens and have a bachelor's degree before the start of the program
- **Additional requirements**, such as language proficiency, vary by country
- **Benefits** include a monthly living stipend, accident and health insurance, and roundtrip airfare

**Varies by country and grant*

Application Components*

- **Personal Statement:** 1-page narrative designed to give the reviewers a picture of you as an individual
- **Statement of Grant Purpose:** 2-page document that outlines the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of what you are proposing for your Fulbright year
- **3 Letters of Reference:** Individuals who can best speak to your ability to carry out the project being proposed
- **Unofficial Transcript(s):** From all undergrad & grad institutions attended
- **Online Application via Embark,** including a summary of your proposal & brief description of your community engagement plans
- **Foreign Language Evaluation Forms,** if applicable
- **Letter(s) of Affiliation:** From an institution/individual in the host country with whom you are proposing to work
- **Creative Arts portfolio:** Examples of your artistic work

**Varies by country and grant*

Examples of Research Proposals

- **Puja Iyer, 2018 LMU Semi-Finalist to Morocco**

Her research will focus on the intersection of language, gender, and education to examine how adolescent reproductive health is internalized & acted upon in Agadir, Morocco. She will conduct a linguistic analysis of ARH education programs available to youth in the region and will collect both quantitative (surveys) & qualitative (interviews) data provided by youth about their understanding, their perceptions, & their personal practices regarding sexual health.

- **Alex Napior, 2017 LMU Fulbrighter to El Salvador**

He is performing a biodiversity study on Acelhuate River that runs through San Salvador and that is currently subject to major restoration efforts. With the help of local university students, he is evaluating sites along both restored and unrestored sections of the river to using biodiversity as an indicator of health with the goal of better integrating human needs with the needs of the ecosystem.

- **Nicole Ostun, 2015 LMU Semi-Finalist to Norway**

She applied to do social psychology research in Trondheim, Norway. She aimed to discover how cultural influences shape young women's sense of self; specifically the potential impact that literature can have on self-efficacy, an aspect of identity. With a vast cultural history and a modern perspective of gender, Norway was the perfect stage to explore how this concept may be helping or, perhaps, hindering young women.

Examples of Creative Arts Proposals

- **Meghan Bowden, University of Maryland, 2016 Fulbright to Ghana**
Choreographing Sankofa: an exploration of Ghanaian contemporary dance
- **Auden Lincoln-Vogel, Reed College, 2016 Fulbright to Estonia**
Animating Estonian Modernism: An Adaptation of Arvo Valton's The Snare
- **Isaac Hopkins, University of Georgia, 2016 Fulbright to Canada**
Grand River and the North American Story: Mapping Contested Spaces for Performance
- **Sarah Chaves, University of Massachusetts, 2015 Fulbright to Portugal**
Cross Cultural Grief: A Memoir
- **Andrew Hevia, Fordham University, 2015 Fulbright to Hong Kong**
Here Comes Fair: A Documentary Film About Hong Kong Artists

Where to Begin? Brainstorm

1. Outline your idea or ideas

Write down topics and countries of interest.

Will the project(s) fulfill the Fulbright mission?

Has it been done before?

What will you NEED to conduct your project?

2. Is it feasible given:

Your selected host country AND city

The duration of your time abroad

Your level of training and/or expertise

Where to Begin? Narrow Down Your Options

- **Explore** the Fulbright website
- **Note** countries & awards that interest you
- **Eliminate** countries that do not interest you, but **DO** consider a wide range of regions
- **Eliminate** grants based on eligibility
 - If you do not speak the language and it's required **OR** recommended
 - If you do not have the experience required to conduct your proposed project
 - If you do not meet the preferred academic level for the grant
 - If you have extensive experience living in the host country* and/are have dual citizenship

**Not including study abroad*

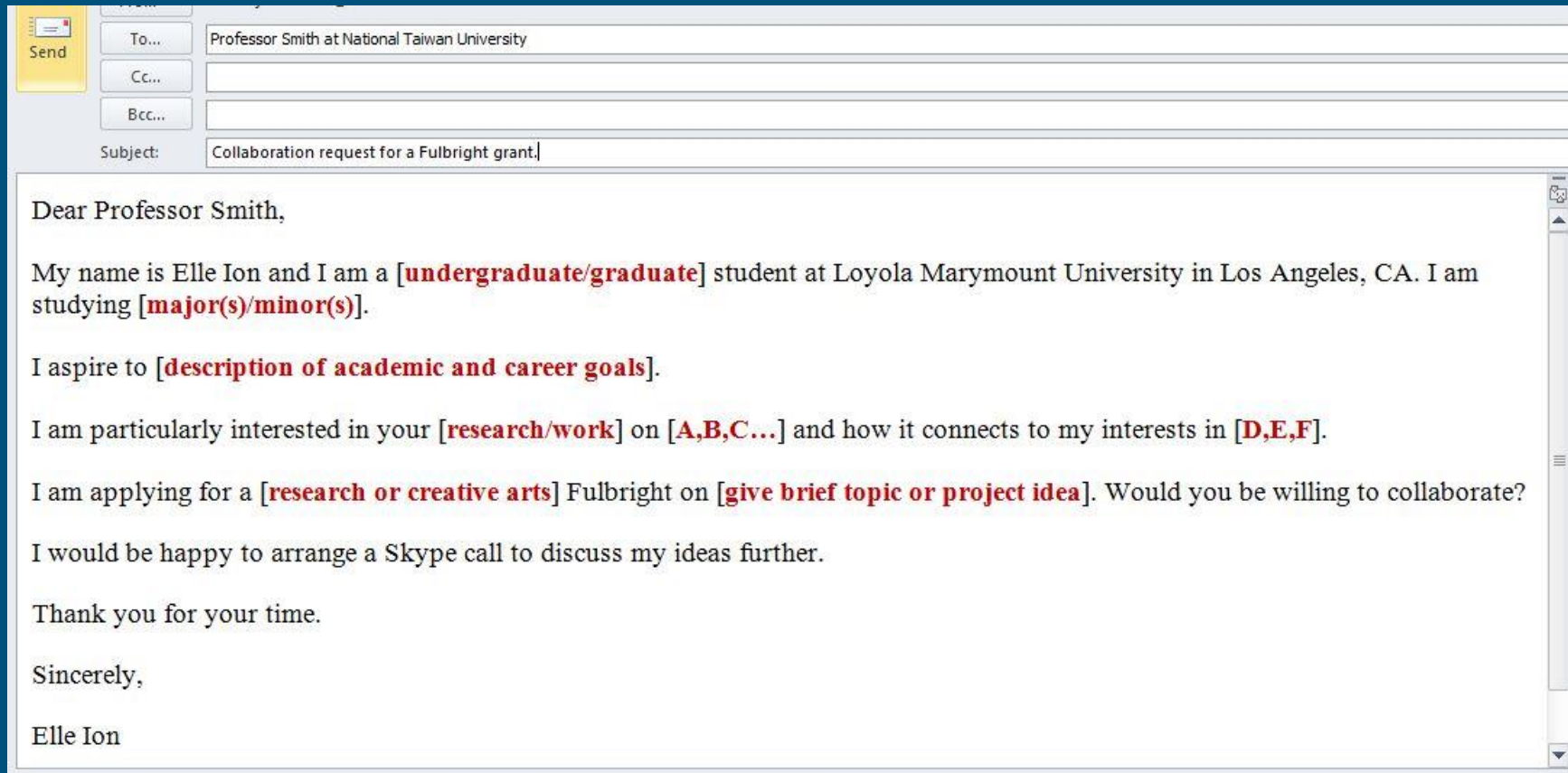
Where to Begin? Utilize Our Connections

- **Faculty:** Principal Investigators, Recommenders, or explore our [Fulbright Faculty Alumni Directory](#)
- **Fulbright Grantee Directory:** [Search](#) by grant year, country, US institution, or field of study
- **Fulbright Regional Staff:** Each Fulbright region has a [designated contact](#) for student questions
- **LMU Fulbright Alumni:** Reach out to former LMU [Fulbrighters and Semi-Finalists](#)
- **Office of International Students & Scholars:** Contact [OISS](#) to connect with international students from your proposed Fulbright country

Where to Begin? Letter(s) of Affiliation

- **Affiliation** arrangements vary by country, so you should carefully review the affiliation information provided in the country summary
- **Before** requesting the letter, you should provide the author with a copy of the Statement of Grant Purpose
- **The affiliation letter** should indicate the author's willingness to work with you on the intended project and it should speak to the feasibility and validity of what is being proposed. The letter should also indicate any additional resources or contacts that the adviser can provide to support the work
- **Since affiliation letters** are not confidential, you will upload the letter yourself into the online application system.
- **Affiliation letters** written in a foreign language must be translated into English and both the original letters and the English-language translations must be uploaded into the application
- **ONIF** has an archive of past affiliation letters. While these will not be shared electronically, you may drop by the office to review

Sample Email to Prospective Affiliates



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition window. The header area includes a 'Send' button, 'To...' (Professor Smith at National Taiwan University), 'Cc...', 'Bcc...', and 'Subject:' (Collaboration request for a Fulbright grant.) fields. The main body of the email contains a template text with several red-colored placeholders in brackets for customization.

Dear Professor Smith,

My name is Elle Ion and I am a **[undergraduate/graduate]** student at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. I am studying **[major(s)/minor(s)]**.

I aspire to **[description of academic and career goals]**.

I am particularly interested in your **[research/work]** on **[A,B,C...]** and how it connects to my interests in **[D,E,F]**.

I am applying for a **[research or creative arts]** Fulbright on **[give brief topic or project idea]**. Would you be willing to collaborate?

I would be happy to arrange a Skype call to discuss my ideas further.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elle Ion

Application Timeline for the 2019-20 Cycle

- April 2: Fulbright U.S. Student Program application opens
- April 10: [Crafting a Competitive Fulbright ETA Application](#)
- May 1: LMU [Intent to Apply](#) form due online
- May-June: LMU applicants are assigned a Faculty Mentor
- June 20: *Optional* [LMU Applicant Webinar](#)
- July 1: Required Checkpoint- application drafts due to ONIF
- July 15: LMU applicants must [create their Embark accounts](#)
- August 31: Campus Deadline, all app materials submitted
- September: Campus Interviews
- October 9: National Application Deadline

Further Resources

- Fulbright [website](#)
 - [Tutorials](#)
 - [Upcoming webinars](#)
 - Application tips for [Research](#) and [Creative Arts](#)
- ONIF [website](#)
 - Schedule a [Fellowship Advisement Appointment](#)
 - Learn about past LMU Fulbrighters
 - [Letter of recommendation advice](#)
 - Additional [Research/Creative Arts application tips](#)
- Faculty
 - [LMU Faculty Fulbright Alums](#)
- [Career Professional Development](#)
- [Penn State's Fulbright Essay Tips and Samples](#)

Questions

Loyola Marymount University

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