



FULBRIGHT

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the Fulbright scholarship provide?

The scholarship provides grantees with the opportunity to pursue a master's degree or doctoral study at a university in the United States. Priority is given to candidates pursuing a master's degree over Ph.D. degree. The grant provides full tuition and fees, a living allowance, round-trip travel, and health insurance.

How long is the program?

Most M.A. programs take 2 academic years to complete, although in some cases, the M.A. course is only 10-12 months. Law students will take one academic year to complete their degrees. Doctoral programs take five years to complete but Fulbright funding is only for 2 academic years. Visiting Student Researchers will take one year to complete their research. All grantees must remain in good academic standing to continue their program.

How many awards are there?

The number of scholarships depends on the amount of funding allocated by the U.S. Department of State. Approximately 3-5 new Cameroonian grantees go to the U.S. each year.

Is there a certain number of scholarships for certain fields of study?

No. There is no quota for each field of study. The competition is based on merits.

Eligibility requirements

What are the minimum eligibility requirements for a Fulbright scholarship?

Cameroonian citizens from all regions in Cameroon are welcome to apply. Applicants must have at least a B.A. degree. Several years of work experience by the time of their application is required for MBA applicants. All applicants must be proficient in English, as measured by a minimum 79 on TOEFL iBT or 6.5 on IELTS, or PTE 58. Long term English language training is available for both Anglophone and Francophone applicants if they test poorly in English but have strong academic background.

Does the Fulbright Program require applicants to submit contracts of employment and certificates of extra-curricular activities?

No. Contracts of employment and certificates of all kinds are not required. You just need to list your work history and extra-curricular activities in your CV.

Do I need an offer of admission from a university in the U.S. prior to applying for a Fulbright award?
No. All grantees will be placed at universities by the Institute of International Education after attaining finalist status.

Which fields of study are supported by the Fulbright program?

In general, most fields in the Humanities and Social Sciences are supported by the Fulbright Program. Please contact the program office if your desired field of study is not listed.

Is there a minimum GPA for applicants?

No. Applicants will be evaluated based on the merits of their entire application, including their GPA, work experience, references, essays, and TOEFL/IELTS score.

Is there an age limit for applicants?

No, although most successful candidates are at an early or mid-point in their careers.

Do I need a bachelor's degree in the same subject that I want to study for a master's degree?

No. Master's degree programs in the U.S. do not require that applicants have a bachelor's degree in the same subject. However, it is recommended that applicants have substantial work experience related to their intended field of study. One exception is Law: candidates for a master's in law must have a B.A. in Law. A master's in Economics may also require an academic background in economics or finance.

Applying

When should I apply for a Fulbright award?

Applicants who wish to obtain the scholarship for the fall of 2022 should submit an application by May 16, 2021.

What are the components of an application?

All applicants are required to complete a preliminary application available on Embassy website. A complete application consists of an application form, diplomas, and transcripts from undergraduate and graduate degrees.

I applied last year and was not successful. Can I resubmit that application for the new cycle?

Yes, but you have to submit a new application

I do not have much work experience in my chosen field. Will my application be at a disadvantage?

Work experience in the field you wish to pursue is an indication of your commitment to that field and is considered additional preparation for graduate work. Work experience can often make up for any academic experience you may lack. While it is not a mandatory requirement, a lack of relevant work experience may not diminish your chances to earn the scholarship.

Interviews

What happens to my application after submission?

Your formal application will be reviewed by a committee, which will decide whether to recommend your application for an interview.

How many interview slots are there?

It depends on the number of qualified applicants. In general, we usually interview approximately 15-20 applicants per year.

When are interviews held?

Interviews are held in May or June in Yaounde and can also be conducted virtually.

Who is on the selection panel?

The selection committee is composed of Cameroonian Fulbright alumni and American foreign service officers or American Fulbright scholars in country.

Receiving the scholarship

What happens after I am chosen as a finalist?

You will be required to sit for the official TOEFL (Internet-based) and GRE exams. MBA students will take the GMAT exam instead of the GRE, and Law students will only take the TOEFL exam. The Fulbright Program will provide you with test vouchers for these exams.

As a finalist you will complete an online application and provide supplementary materials like diplomas, transcripts, and translations and three letters of recommendations. Your application will then be sent to the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the United States. The IIE Placement office will review your application and send your dossier to a variety of universities. The Fulbright Program and IIE will make the final decision regarding your placement at a university, based on whether the program fits your academic needs and whether your qualifications meet the requirements of the university.

Will my score on the TOEFL/GRE/GMAT affect my placement at a university?

Yes. Each university in the U.S. has different admissions criteria, and therefore a low TOEFL score may make your application less competitive. Therefore, the Fulbright Program encourages finalists to prepare carefully for these exams. You will be asked to retake the tests if your scores are low and render your application less competitive.

The application instructs applicants to name three-four universities of their choice. Will IIE honor my choice?

IIE will try to honor your choices. However, if there is no match between you and your choice, IIE will find other universities where you have a better chance of gaining admission.

Can I defer or delay the scholarship to the following year?

No. You should plan to apply for the year that you will be able to participate fully in the program.

Does the Fulbright Program provide any orientation for grantees before leaving for the U.S.?

The Fulbright Program will organize a pre-departure orientation in Cameroon for all grantees in May or January for long term English language participants and in June 2022 for the rest.

Are there any requirements attached to the Fulbright grant?

As part of a U.S. government-funded study program, all Fulbright grantees are subject to a 2-year home country residency requirement. This means that grantees may not apply for a work or immigrant visa to the U.S. until after two years of residence in Cameroon upon the completion of the Fulbright grant.