The Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship is a new component of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and a new opportunity for public policy students and young professionals.

The Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship will allow U.S. citizens to contribute to the strengthening of the public sector abroad by serving in professional placements within foreign government ministries or institutions while simultaneously carrying out an academic research/study project. The fellowship will help advance public policy research agendas, fosters mutual understanding and builds lasting ties between the U.S. and partner countries.

Selected Fulbright Students will work side-by-side with the citizens of other countries to tackle the toughest public policy problems of the day. This new exchange is the vanguard of international public diplomacy, as it leverages the excellence of the Fulbright program to achieve global development objectives.

Fulbright Public Policy Fellows will serve in partner country governments, which include:

- Bangladesh
- Burma
- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Ivory Coast
- Kazakhstan
- Malawi
- Nepal
- Samoa

The U.S. Department of State and partner country governments will coordinate
professional placements for candidates in public policy areas including, but not limited to, public health, education, agriculture, justice, energy, environment, public finance, economic development, housing and communications.

Eligibility

• Be a U.S. citizen by November 1, 2011

• Prior to the grant period, fall 2012, have a master’s with an area of focus that is applicable to public policy or a J.D. degree or be currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program. Candidates who hold a doctoral degree at the time of application are not eligible.

• Have at least two years of full-time, professional work experience in policy-related fields.

Factors in selection of Fellows will include:
• Academic and professional record
• Proficiency in the local working language of the host country
• Knowledge of the host country/region (history, culture, etc.)
• Personal and professional qualifications

Preference in selection will be given to candidates with:
• Fluency in the local working language(s)
• Deep knowledge of the host country/region (history, culture, etc.)
• Advanced communication skills
• A strong service orientation, and a high degree of versatility, resourcefulness, and creativity

Requirements

• Complete the Embark Fulbright U.S. Student Online Application
• Two Essays: A Personal Statement and a Statement of Grant Purpose
• College Transcripts
• Three letters of reference
• Foreign Language Self-Evaluation
• Foreign Language Evaluation(s) submitted by a fourth recommender

How to Apply

• Contact the ONSA office as soon as you decide to apply. It is very important that you do this because we have no other way of knowing that you are applying.
• Make sure that you are eligible to apply for the scholarship.
• Login to the Fulbright Embark online application. Be sure to read the application instructions thoroughly.
• Begin to draft your personal essay and purpose of grant statement.
• Decide on who you'll be asking for letters of recommendation from
• Before sending out your request for recommendations, send your recommenders a draft of your essays. They will need to have these so that they can comment intelligently on your qualifications for the scholarship.
• Stay in touch with the ONSA office and feel free to seek advice.