

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

2008-2009 APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AWARDS IN THE UNITED STATES

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS FROM
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**



Additional Information For Applicants From Sub-Saharan Africa

(Use with the attached application form and instructions)

The Fulbright Program in Africa is administered as a regional program. Scholars from 20 or more Sub-Saharan African countries compete for awards not only with other applicants from their own country but also with other African applicants. The Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies announce the competition for visiting scholars to conduct research in the United States. They make application forms available in May or sometimes earlier and set a local deadline for receipt of applications.

AWARD CATEGORIES FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARS

Research

Research awards are available in all academic disciplines for three to nine months for African scholars to undertake a planned program of reading and research at a U.S. academic or research institution toward production of scholarly work. Research scholars are expected to be experienced university faculty or administrators, research institute specialists, professionals or independent scholars. All applicants are expected to have a record of scholarly research productivity in their field, including peer-reviewed publications, presentations or creative works.

Program and Curriculum Development

Program and Curriculum Development awards are available in all academic disciplines for three to five months for African university faculty or administrators from higher education institutions to undertake a planned program of reading and research at a U.S. academic or research institution toward strengthening higher education academic programs or curriculum. Proposals should demonstrate how the scholar will use the knowledge gained to develop new courses, curricula or programs at the home institution. This opportunity is especially designed for scholars who have not had access to new publications and current research developments on teaching and learning in their disciplines and who want to update their knowledge and skills to improve instruction in their home country.

HIV/AIDS

Awards for African scholars are available in all academic disciplines for three to nine months for scholarly research or three to five months for program and curriculum development on HIV/AIDS-related topics.

Application Notes:

- Please specify on the application form, #15 (*Project Title*), whether the proposal is for research or program and curriculum development and whether it is for HIV/AIDS. Applications should not be submitted for both research and program and curriculum development.
- If applicable, indicate in the project statement the quantity, format and transportation requirements for any botanical, zoological or mineral samples that will need to be brought to the United States for analysis as part of the proposed project.
- Proposals involving doctoral dissertation research, postdoctoral research immediately following completion of a doctoral degree, or general professional travel will not be accepted.

SELECTION OF FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

The selection of Fulbright Scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa is a three-stage process, as follows:

- (1) Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies organize the initial screening of applications in the applicant's home country, establish any priorities for disciplines of applications to be considered and notify applicants following the in-country review.
- (2) The U.S. Embassy forwards to CIES the applications recommended from the initial screening process. CIES convenes a review committee in the United States to consider the applications received from all over Sub-Saharan Africa.
- (3) Candidates recommended for an award by the U.S. review committee must then be approved by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB).

The Review of Applications in the United States

Academic review of the applications recommended from the initial in-country review is conducted by a multidisciplinary committee of U.S. scholars with extensive experience in and/or with Africa. Academic review is the hallmark of the Fulbright Scholar Program. It ensures that applicants will be evaluated on academic, scholarly and professional criteria.

A number of factors are taken into account including: traditional criteria for academic and professional excellence, compelling research methodology, suitability of the applicant for the endeavor to be undertaken, necessity of doing the work in the United States and the overall strengths of the applicant and application in comparison with others in the applicant pool.

Review Criteria

A basic objective of the exchange program is to provide educational exchange experiences to the maximum number of individuals not previously afforded the opportunity. Secondly, the exchange experience should be of some intrinsic value to the scholar as well as to the home institution in Africa, its faculty and its students.

Within the context of these basic objectives, the review committee evaluates each applicant on the following criteria:

- **Professional Standing:** An evaluation of professional standing is based on the applicant's educational training, academic rank, reputation as a scholar at the local level, record of service to the field, and the professional and scholarly achievements directly related to the proposed project.
- **Proposed Project:**
 - Justification to conduct research or program and curriculum development activities in the United States.
 - Feasibility of completing the project within the specified period.
 - Ability to conduct research or program and curriculum development activities in English.
 - A clear research design and methodology.
 - Academic, professional or institutional context provided for project in its references to major works by other scholars in the field.
 - The significance of the project to the field, home institution, country and applicant's professional development.
 - Plans for assessment and dissemination of research results in the applicant's home country, the United States and elsewhere.

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- **Mutuality:** Applicants should demonstrate potential to contribute to the host institution in the United States and, upon return, to their home institutions and scholarly and professional networks.
- **Invitations:** Letters of invitation are not required and, in fact, do not ensure favorable committee review or selection by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to explore possibilities for affiliation with potential host institutions in the United States, as letters of invitation may help establish the feasibility of proposals.
- **Previous Fulbright Grants:** Preference is given to applicants who have not already had a Fulbright grant.
- **Previous Experience in the United States:** Preference is given to applicants who have not had substantial research, teaching, study or employment experience in the United States, especially within the last five years.
- **Cultural Adaptability:** Evidence of cross-cultural adaptability, flexibility and sensitivity is considered.
- **Distribution:** To the extent possible, applicants are chosen to represent broad geographic distribution from Sub-Saharan Africa as well as to include representation by men and women scholars in a variety of disciplines, specializations and proposal topics.

NOTIFICATION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

CIES submits the applications of candidates recommended by the U.S. review committee to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) for final review and selection. After the FSB approves the list of candidates, the U.S. Department of State will determine funds available and announce the names of those selected as principal and alternate candidates to the Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Embassies will then contact applicants to inform them whether or not they have been selected for an award. This usually occurs in mid-February or early March of the year following submission of the application. Successful candidates will then need to complete and submit a Medical History and Examination Form and copies of the passport data pages for themselves and any accompanying dependents (those eligible are spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21). Details of the Fulbright grant, such as monetary benefits, host affiliation, housing in the United States and other issues important to Visiting Scholars will be communicated by CIES through U.S. Embassy staff.