



Prestigious Scholarships

University Honors College, Oregon State University, 439 Learning Innovation Center, Corvallis, Oregon 97333

T 541-737-1996 | F 541-737-6401 | <http://topscholars.oregonstate.edu>

THE FULBRIGHT PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement (PS) should narrate your personal and intellectual development. It should illustrate how a Fulbright grant is the next logical and necessary step in your life, and how you are qualified to carry out your project. It is your opportunity to illustrate what a unique and exceptional individual you are! Here are questions to consider while writing:

- Overall, is your PS interesting and easy to read? Does it show, rather than tell, who you are?
- Does your PS demonstrate your motivation and ability to work independently?
- Does it show who you are, and make the reader want to know you better?
- Do you demonstrate your experience and interest in intercultural learning and sharing?
- Will the reader feel confident you would act as an “ambassador” for the US?
- Do you maintain a theme or connecting concept throughout the PS?
- Does your PS explore connections between your academic life and the rest of your life?
- Do you repeat information included in other parts of your application? Omit them unless they are necessary for further explanation or emphasis. Be careful not to turn the PS into an extension of the proposal.

Mistakes often made by applicants when writing essays:

- Turning the essay into an extended version of a resume. Applicants often ask how they should incorporate activities into their essay when they have already listed them separately on the application. Leave out less important things (or limit them to other portions of your application—there are sections in the Fulbright applications for listing honors, awards, and activities). Also, the personal statement is not simply a list of personal reasons you wish to go to the country of application.

- Exaggerating your histories and situations. Do not believe that all applicants expand on the truth and that if they do, you may as well expand too. Experienced interviewers often uncover exaggeration during interviews. This can be embarrassing and disastrous for an applicant.
- Being overly clever or cute in writing the essays. Selection committees have read quite literally hundreds of essays and they find overly clever essays annoying. This reaction can do nothing but harm the future of your application.

For feedback on your personal statement, please contact:

LeAnn Joy Adam
OSU Advisor for Prestigious Scholarships
Learning Innovation Center (LInC) 439
University Honors College
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97333
leann.adam@oregonstate.edu
(541) 737-1996

For more application tips, please visit:

<http://topscholars.oregonstate.edu/scholars/tips-competitive-scholarship-applications>