



**Prestigious Scholarships**

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## **THE FULBRIGHT STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE**

The project proposal is limited to two pages in length. Use this space wisely to fully describe your project. You should cover the essential details of your Fulbright project within the first paragraph, if not, then the second.

The project proposal should demonstrate that you are able to plan and implement a successful research project or course of study, and it will be your guide to completing it and meeting your objectives. The project proposal should be as specific as possible, while also being flexible enough to make the best of the reality you will find once you arrive overseas, which will inevitably be a little different than planned.

The following are questions you should ask yourself during your writing and editing processes:

- Overall, is the proposal persuasive, direct, concise, and easy to read? Short (three or four-line) paragraphs can be very effective.
- Does it emphasize the relevance and significance of the project from start to finish?
- Does the first paragraph answer who, what, when, where, why, and how?
- Do the next paragraphs detail what you propose to do and how you will do it?
- Is the timeline realistic, specific, acceptable, and appropriate? Does it include any pre- and post-grant plans?
- Are there clearly defined achievable goals, objectives (the activities/steps to reach your goals), concrete outcomes, and measurable results?
- Does the proposal fit within the context of your academic experience and skills?
- Are the methodology and activities comprehensive, relevant, appropriate, feasible, and approved/approvable if necessary?
- Does the proposal include an explanation of your field of study and context of the project?

- Does the proposal describe with whom you will work, the support that they have offered to give you in their letter of support/affiliation/invitation, and the significance of this assistance?
- Does it demonstrate why the project or study needs to be in the country selected, the resources the country provides, and how it will benefit from your work there?
- Does it imply the contribution the project will make in promoting cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding, including how it will impact the US?
- Does the proposal demonstrate that you have the academic and linguistic background necessary for your project?
- Does it demonstrate an interest to engage with the host country community through volunteer and extracurricular activities? (This is especially important for ETA applicants.)
- Does it clearly explain your future plans (immediate and long-term) and how your work will help further your academic or professional development?
- Does it leave the reader with a sense of why your project should be funded?
- Does the closing paragraph reemphasize what you will achieve and what makes your project exciting, necessary, and unique?

Overall, the project proposal should be compelling and easily understood by both an educated “lay” person and an expert in your field. Since you don’t know exactly who will read your application at the national and international level, write so that your proposal is clear and comprehensible to someone who knows nothing about your subject while also specific and detailed enough to convince an expert. Do not be afraid to use language or concepts specific to your field and to reference the work of other authors. If your project is highly technical, about 75% of your essay should be accessible to all readers.

Here is a generic outline that applicants are welcome to use as a guide. It is not necessary to follow it precisely, though applicants should take care to touch on all the components of this outline:

- Introduction
- Background
- Methodology
- Grant timeline (Get specific! Divide project into 3-4 phases and discuss objectives and tasks of each.)
- Affiliations and support
- Qualifications
- Project's significance
- Applicant's future academic and professional goals

*For feedback on your Statement of Grant Purpose, please contact:*

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