

Writing Your Fulbright Essays

1. Be aware of your two **audiences**.
 - **U.S. audience** – academics from many fields
 - Readers are skeptical about feasibility and looking for excitement and novelty
 - **Host country audience** *KEY* – local authorities (diplomats, government officials, etc.)
 - Readers share concerns about feasibility and need to see value of being in country
2. Be mindful of your **purpose**.
 - To reveal who you are, what you are passionate about, and why you want to pursue a Fulbright
3. Unify each essay with a **thesis or theme**.
4. Use **concrete examples** that are unique to you and to your experience
 - Limit abstractions or general statements that any candidate might write (e.g., "I want to change the world by touching the lives of others.")

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Addresses **WHY?**

Why do you want to be abroad for a year? Why do you want to travel to X country? Why are you a good candidate?

1 page; single-spaced; 12 point Times New Roman

Offers an authentic, passionate, and gutsy personal narrative/intellectual biography

Produces a picture of you as a person and a potential award recipient

Emphasizes how the grant would affect your future life and goals

Tips to help grab the reader's interest:

- Create action/movement and possibly use humor
- Incorporate concrete examples and anecdotes to illustrate your claims or tell a story

STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

Addresses **HOW?**

How are you going to succeed in landing in the host country, acclimating quickly, and making the most of your year abroad? How are you going to undertake all aspects of your project? How are you qualified to do this project?

1 page for ETA; 2 pages for research/study; single-spaced; 12 point Times New Roman

Intellectual heart of application/guiding document

Addresses the following questions:

- Where are you going?
- What are you doing?
- What is the central question or mission of your project or course of study?
- Why do you have to pursue it in X country?

Statement goals:

- Reassure readers
- Provide a vision of your year abroad
- Provide an intellectual context
- For full grants, provide a sharp focus/research question, explain methodology, and address practical and logistical concerns