

## Fulbright Foreign Student Program Application FAQs

### The West Bank and Gaza

#### Program Information

Q. What is the Fulbright Foreign Student Program?

A: The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational and cultural exchange program, creating connections in a complex and changing world. Led by the U.S. government in partnership with 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers

Participating in optional Pre-Academic Training and Enrichment Seminars  
Obtaining opportunities for professional development and research at U.S. universities

Covered costs include tuition, living stipend, and round-trip travel.

Q: When does the Fulbright Program start?

A: The academic year in the United States typically runs from July-August until the end of the following Spring (May or June). However, if you are selected to complete an LTE (Long-Term English) program, you will travel to the United States before your Fulbright Program begins.

Q: What is the Long-Term English Program?

A: Qualified Fulbright applicants who need to enhance their English language skills may be nominated to participate in a Long-Term English (LTE) Program before the start of their Fulbright academic program. LTE Programs are 6-8 months in duration and begin in January and March

Eligibility Information:

Q: Are high school students or recent high school graduates eligible for the Fulbright Program?

A: No, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program supports graduate-level studies only.

However, the U.S. Department of State offers many other educational and cultural exchange programs, for various audiences. To find out more, please visit the website of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural: <https://exchanges.state.gov/>

Please also visit the website of the U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs for additional details on specific programs for Palestinians.

Q: Does the Fulbright Program provide support for PhDs?

A: Most Fulbright Foreign Student Program awards are for master's level studies. However, a few countries provide one- to two-year opportunities for Ph.D.-level research or non-degree programs. Please see your country's page for further information.

Q: Which nationalities can apply?

A: Amideast administers awards for students from select countries and territories throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Applicants from the following countries and territories are invited to apply: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, West Bank and Gaza, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates. Please note that you must be a national and current resident of the country/location which nominates you.

If you are from another country or region not listed above, please check the U.S. embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country for details regarding Fulbright Program opportunities.

Q: I am currently living outside my home country. Can I still apply?

A: Applicants may only apply through the country or territory of their citizenship and must remain physically resident there for the duration of the application, nomination, placement and selection processes.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements?

A: The requirements are:

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Must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution;

Must have a strong academic background;

Preference is given to students who have little or no previous experience studying or living in the United States;

A candidate who has resided in the United States for five or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application is ineligible for the program.

Persons of all backgrounds, including those with disabilities, are encouraged to apply.

Be proficient in English or able to attend a Long-Term English (LTE) program prior to the start of your study program. Recommended English language test scores for U.S. university admission are at least 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 on the IELTS, but those who test at slightly below, who have strong credentials, may be eligible for LTE. Candidates are strongly encouraged to independently study for the TOEFL in advance of taking it.

Please note: Amideast staff members and consultants, employees of U.S. missions who work for the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Agency for International Development, and their immediate family members, are ineligible to apply for the Fulbright Program during the period of their employment and until one year following the termination of employment.

Q: Can I still apply if I have previously received other State Department-sponsored scholarships?

A: Applicants who do not have significant experience in the United States are preferred, but outstanding applicants who have previously received other U.S. government-sponsored scholarships may be considered.

Q: I completed my undergraduate degree in the United States. Can I still apply?

A: Yes, but preference is given to those applicants who have not had significant experience living in the

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## Application Information:

Q: How do I apply?

A: The most up-to-date information on how to apply, including eligibility requirements, is available here: <https://www.amideast.org/our-work/find-a-scholarship/graduate-study/fulbright/how-to-apply/how-to-apply>

For the 2024-2025 cycle, the link to the application is: <https://apply.iie.org/ffsp2024/>. Please ensure that you are selecting the 2024-2025 cycle if you are applying in 2023.

Q: When can I apply/ when is the deadline?

A: The application for 2024-2025 opens on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The application deadline for West Bank and Gaza is May 1, 2023.

Q: Can I resubmit an application that I used last year?

A: Unfortunately, you cannot re-use an application that you have submitted in previous years. Old applications are archived and cannot be retrieved. To be considered, you must submit a new application with new supporting documents.

Q: What level of English do I need to apply?

A: Applicants of all English language skill levels are invited to apply for the Fulbright Program. There is no minimum TOEFL score required; however, graduate study in the United States typically requires students to have an IBT TOEFL score of 80 to be successful.

Qualified applicants with TOEFL scores slightly below this level, and therefore who need to enhance their English language skills, may be nominated to participate in a Long-



Q: What can I upload in the Additional Documents section?

A: Candidates can submit certificates, previous university admissions, and other documents to strengthen their Fulbright applications.

Q: How long does it take the Amideast field office and the U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs to review applications?

A: In general, applicants are notified of their nomination status in the Fall. However, as the selection process is a comprehensive, merit-based, and multi-step process that takes place over several months, the U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs or your local Amideast office determines the timeline.

### Testing Questions

Q: Will my TOEFL score affect my interviews? If I have a high TOEFL score, am I more likely to get an interview?

A: A number of factors are considered when selecting nominees. TOEFL scores are taken into consideration, but are not a primary factor in the final selection.

Q: Can I submit an application without a TOEFL test score?

A: Yes. You can apply with or without a TOEFL score. The absence of a TOEFL score will not negatively affect your application. If your application is selected for further consideration, you will be required to take the TOEFL test and any other tests required for admission such as the GRE/GMAT exam. At that time, the test fees will be covered by the Fulbright Program.

Q: Do I need to submit GRE/GMAT scores with my application?

A: It is not required to submit a GRE/GMAT score with your application. If you are selected after the interview, the Fulbright Program will cover the cost of your taking the GRE/GMAT, if required.