

REGULATIONS FOR THE FULBRIGHT STEM IMPACT AWARD

A. General Provisions

1. The Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Fulbright Commission") awards grants under award programs available to Polish and U.S. citizens.
2. Awards are funded by the governments of the Republic of Poland and the United States of America, higher education institutions and nongovernmental entities.
3. The Fulbright Commission grants the awards through open competitions, publicly announced in Poland and the U.S.
4. The regulations of the Fulbright award programs as well as total grant benefits are approved by the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission's Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board").
5. Selection Committee of the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Selection Committee"), consists of Board representatives, Fulbright Commission's staff and other invited persons. Selection Committee holds interviews with candidates and draws up a list of candidates recommended for the award. The list of candidates recommended for the award is approved by the Board.
6. For all award programs, preference is given to candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright grant within the same grant category.
7. Awards are finally approved by J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (hereinafter referred to as "FFSB"), headquartered in Washington D.C.
8. Decisions of the Board and FFSB are final and may not be appealed.
9. Pursuant to the FFSB regulations, the Fulbright Commission does not explain the reasons for the selection or non-selection of applicants.
10. The Fulbright Commission may disseminate the information about the results of the award competition through mass media.
11. The Fulbright Commission administers award programs in collaboration with the Institute of International Education ("IIE").

B. General Rules and Formal Criteria

1. Awards are granted through a competition open to researchers from STEM fields who manage research projects and have a supervisory role over Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists etc. at Poland-based: universities, federations of higher education and scientific institutions, the Polish Academy of Sciences and its research institutes, research institutes operating under the Act of 30 April 2010 on research institutes, international research institutes established on the basis of separate acts operating in the territory of the Republic of Poland, Lukasiewicz Center operating under the Act of 21 February 2019 on the Lukasiewicz Research Network, institutes operating as part of the Lukasiewicz Research Network, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and other entities conducting mainly research activities in an independent and continuous manner.
2. Awards are offered for the period from 14 to 42 days.
3. Awards are granted in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields. Priority will be given to projects in the following fields: astronomy, chemistry, computer sciences, life sciences, mathematics, and physics.
4. During the stay at an accredited U.S. higher education institution, non-for-profit research institute or other approved non-commercial institution in the U.S., the grantee:
 - a. Shares his/her expertise in relevant field by giving lectures/seminars/workshops and/or developing curricula, training materials etc., and/or conducts research (individually or by joining host institution's team/project in progress);
 - b. Learns about the organizational and funding systems of U.S. scientific institutions, the commercialization of science and development of successful grant applications.
5. The grantee may be affiliated at one host institution.
6. Candidates may apply for a flex award provided the grants do not aggregate to more than 6 weeks and there is a strong justification and work plan for the return visits. For flex awards the Commission covers the costs of 1 round-trip flight ticket to the U.S.
7. Individuals eligible to apply:
 - a. Hold, at a minimum, a Ph.D. degree;
 - b. Have at least 3 years of experience in managing research projects and supervising Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists etc., and currently hold such duties;

- c. Are employed in the institutions referred to in point B.1.;
- d. Are Polish citizens who do not have dual Polish and U.S. citizenship or permanent residence in the U.S. (green card);
- e. Are not in the United States at the time of submitting the application and have not resided in the United States for 5 or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application. A candidate who has lived in the United States for 9 months (or more) during a calendar year is deemed to have resided in the United States for that year. Additionally, preference is given to those candidates who have not had substantial recent experience in the United States, which is defined as a period aggregating more than an academic year (9 months) during the past 5 years;
- f. Have a very good command of the English language;
- g. Meet formal requirements of the J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa.

C. Grant Application

1. In order to take part in the award competition, the candidate must timely submit a complete grant application in the electronic application system.
2. The application consists of an application form, which includes the following documents in the English language:
 - a. Project Statement with a clear list of activities to be performed during the grant, substantiation why the project should be conducted at the selected institution in the U.S. and a bibliography in the MLA (Modern Language Association) format;
 - b. Current invitation letter issued by the head of the hosting unit in the U.S. for the purpose of the competition. The letter must include information listed in the STEM Impact Award Letter of Invitation Checklist;
 - c. Curriculum Vitae with a description of relevant professional experience as well as academic and research track record (including awards, trainings, conferences, publications, patents) and other relevant accomplishments;
 - d. 2 letters of recommendation submitted by the recommending individuals through the electronic system;
 as well as the following document in Polish:
 - e. Current certificate of employment at an institution referred to in point B.1.

D. Competition Procedure

1. The competition procedure consists of the following stages:

STAGE 1: Fulbright Commission's staff performs a formal check of applications and provides the Director with a list of complete applications.

STAGE 2: Fulbright Commission's staff sends the candidates' applications to independent subject matter experts for their evaluation of the proposed projects. Prior to evaluating projects, reviewers sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and confidentiality. The evaluations are the basis for the list of candidates recommended for interviews. The list is presented to the Board.

STAGE 3: Selection Committee holds interviews with candidates in the English language. Candidates are evaluated in accordance with the established evaluation criteria.
2. In particular, the following are considered in the assessment:
 - a. Candidate's Project Statement with a detailed list of activities to be performed during the grant, description of expected grant outcome/impact on candidate's career, candidate's home institution and the field in general, substantiation why the project should be conducted at the selected institution in the U.S., proposal for dissemination of the results, and plans for sustainable relationship with the host institution;
 - b. Candidate's professional experience as well as academic and research track record (including awards, trainings, conferences, publications, patents) and other relevant accomplishments;
 - c. Candidate's command of the English language;
 - d. Opinions in the letters of recommendation;
 - e. Candidate's ability and readiness to further Fulbright ideas and mission during and after the grant;
 - f. Contribution of the project proposed in the application to scientific developments in Poland and the U.S., and implementation of Fulbright Commission's priorities set for the given academic year.
3. The Director on behalf of the Management Board presents the results to the Board. The Board approves selected candidates by the majority vote as per the Statute of the Fulbright Commission. The list of candidates nominated for the award is sent for FFSB's approval.

4. Participation in the program requires a short-term J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa. Grants cannot be pursued on visas other than the J-1 Short-Term visa (e.g., F student visas, tourist visas or work visas).

E. Financial Provisions

1. The grant total depends on the location of grantee's affiliation, real needs and available funds.
2. The grantee is obliged to present to the Fulbright Commission all documents relating to financial aid received from other sources, apart from the Fulbright award, for the purpose of his/her stay in the U.S.
3. The grant is intended for grantee's living expenses. It also covers:
 - a. Travel allowance for grantee's round trip to the U.S.;
 - b. Free of charge J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa for the grantee and J-2 Short-Term Scholar visas for the accompanying family members;
 - c. Limited health care benefit plan for the grantee.