

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fulbright Foreign Student Application Process

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- **Is there an age limit for participation in the Fulbright Foreign Student Program?**

No. There is no specific age limit for participation in the program.

- **I am a senior student and will not complete my university degree by the time of application. Can I still apply for the program?**

No. Only applicants holding a Bachelor's diploma at the time of application can apply to the Program.

- **I am a senior student and will complete my university degree by the time of application, but will receive my diploma after the application deadline. Can I still apply for the program?**

No. Only applicants who have received a Bachelor's diploma by the time of application deadline can apply to the Program.

- **I am not currently living/studying/working in Kyrgyzstan. Am I eligible to apply for scholarship?**

No. Applicants should permanently reside in Kyrgyzstan throughout the application and selection process.

- **I obtained a degree from a U.S. university. Am I eligible to apply for scholarship?**

No. Eligible applicants must not have a university degree from a U.S. higher education institution.

UNIVERSITIES AND FIELDS OF STUDY

- **What specific fields of study are open for application?**

Participants can apply for any field of study, except for Medical Sciences; however Medical graduates may seek a Master's Degree in Public Health or Hospital Administration.

- **Which universities can I choose in the framework of the program?**

You can write up to three U.S. universities in your application that you would like to study at. However, there is no guarantee that you will be placed at any of the universities you indicated in your application.

LANGUAGE SKILLS / GRE, GMAT, AND TOEFL

- **Do I have to submit TOEFL test results to apply for the program?**

No. TOEFL test results are not required at the time of application.

- **What language skills do I need to apply for a scholarship?**

Applicants do not have to have any official English test scores at the time of application. However, finalists will have to take the tests. Finalists must have a sufficiently high level of English to undertake full-time graduate level study in the U.S. Acceptable TOEFL scores can range from 550 (79-80) to 610 (102-102) depending on applicant field of study. In some cases, successful applicants with lower TOEFL

scores can be nominated for an Intensive English Language program at a U.S. University preceding the Fulbright academic program.

- **Could I submit IELTS scores instead of TOEFL?**

Yes. Some U.S. universities do accept IELTS scores instead of TOEFL. However, if you are nominated for the program, you will receive a voucher to take TOEFL test free of charge if you have only IELTS score results.

- **I have read that the U.S. Embassy provides vouchers to nominated candidates to take TOEFL and GRE or GMAT exams. Could you provide more information about that?**

- *All nominated candidates will be requested to register for TOEFL and GRE/GMAT if they have not taken the tests already. **Only nominated candidates** are entitled to an exemption from the test fees by vouchers. Vouchers will be distributed by the U.S. Embassy.*

APPLICATION

- **Which documents do I have to submit?**

- *Copies of academic transcripts, diplomas, accompanied by English translations; if you are selected as a finalist, you will be required to provide with officially notarized copies and certified translations*
- *Three reference letters from university professors and/or employers*
- *Resume or CV*
- *Copy of passport bio-data page*

- **Do I have to provide a writing sample? For instance, an example of my published article.**

No. You should not submit any writing samples unless you are specifically asked to.

- **Do I have to submit printed copies of my application or any additional documents?**

No. You should only submit an online application. We do not accept applications sent via email or postal mail.

- **Which additional documents should I provide? For instance, certificates?**

Please do not provide any additional documents unless you are asked to. You could indicate your achievements in your CV or in the personal essay, without uploading any additional documents into your application.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **How does selection process look like?**

After the application deadline, all submitted online applications undergo a technical review. Applications that pass the technical review will then be reviewed by an independent reading panel that will evaluate and score each application based on a set of standard criteria. Applicants with the highest scores will then be invited to an interview, held in Bishkek. Nominations will be made from the top candidates, after the interviews.

- **According to which criteria does the selection committee make its decision?**

- *Nominees must have a sufficiently high-level of English to undertake full-time graduate level study in the U.S.*
- *Nominees should have a strong academic record.*
- *Nominees must have satisfactory TOEFL and GRE/GMAT test scores that will be taken only by finalists after the interviews.*
- *Nominees must demonstrate high motivation, serious commitment to completing the program, and the leadership potential to create positive influence upon returning home.*

- **How many scholarships will be awarded to Kyrgyz citizens? How big is the competition?**

Usually, 2-4 grants are provided to Kyrgyz citizens. We receive around 100 applications every year.

- **When I will be notified about results of my application?**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified on the results of the first stage of application and invited to the interview. We will contact you regarding interviews in June – August. Final results issued by the Fulbright program in Washington, DC, will be sent out to participants in the spring of the next year.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Can I bring my family with me?**

Yes, all eligible dependents (spouse and children) of a grantee will be provided visa support from the U.S. Embassy. No financial support for dependents is provided.

If your question is not reflected here, please send email to ExchangeBishkek@fan.gov