

The Office for Fellowships  
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## **Fulbright Fellowships for Study Abroad** **For study in 2009-2010**

Welcome to the **Fulbright** competition! Each year Vassar College supports as many as 12-35 applicants for Fulbright Grants. This is a wonderful opportunity to propose a carefully constructed, well-researched study abroad project or to participate in teaching English in another country. Please begin by reading all of the material in the Fulbright program booklet and on-line at <http://www.fulbrightonline.org/us/home.php>. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with me about the process, please do so at any time (845) 437-5263. I can be reached easily via my office or on e-mail: LiKooperman@Vassar.edu--even over the summer!

From the Fulbright Website:

***What does the National Screening Committee look for in reviewing applications?***

***In general, screening committee members review all documents and supplementary material (in the arts) pertaining to an application. It is important that all required transcripts, letters of recommendation, and language report forms be available for consideration.***

***In addition to these documents, the Statement of Proposed Study is reviewed very carefully. The committee takes into consideration the nature of the project, its originality, the academic preparation for completing the project described, including language proficiency, and the interest of the student as evidenced by any advance research he/she may have done to determine that the resources he/she will need to accomplish his/her proposed project are in fact available in the potential host country.***

***It is important also that the Curriculum Vitae be completed carefully, since it is through this essay that committee members obtain a picture of the student as a person. Applicants, especially graduating seniors, should include information concerning their future career plans and the effect a Fulbright grant might have on those plans.***

Early consultation with faculty members and experts in your field of study is very important. The more specific your project, the better. If you can make contact with resources in the country in which you wish to study your prospects for receiving an award will be enhanced. Unless prohibited in the country-specific description, a letter of affiliation or an agreement to supervise/oversee your work is a definite plus. Try to make a connection. This type of letter will be submitted in addition to the letters of recommendation.

The Fulbright application is online and the brochures are available in the Office for Fellowships.

The On-Line application: You must register for an on-line application on the Fulbright website. Once you have access, you may work on the application at any location at which you have web access. **In order to be considered for a grant, all parts of the application must be printed and turned in by the Vassar Campus deadline of Friday, September 19, 2008. This includes the personal statement, project proposal, language evaluation (if required) and the letters of recommendation. You are responsible for making certain that the letters of recommendation reach the office in time.**

Once you have completed the online application, you will print it up and submit it to the Office for Fellowships by the campus deadline. The Committee on Fellowships reviews each application carefully and completes the campus evaluation form. This form can be viewed within the actual application and can act as a guide as you plan how to structure your proposal. Be sure your application materials provide information about all areas included on the evaluation form. You will be asked to set up an interview with at least one member of the Committee to discuss your proposed study. (Note: as soon as you are certain that you are applying, you can start the interview process. Members of the committee can be very helpful in giving you advice about your statements and proposal....make good use of the opportunity!)

Vassar College will forward to the Fulbright Commission all appropriately completed applications for a Fulbright award. We do not select or nominate at the campus level for this award. We are here to work as your advocates as you put forth your application.

Details regarding finalizing the applications will be available as you move through the process. For now, it is important to read all the information carefully, decide on your study project and country, consult your faculty and mentors and begin formulating your statements.

There are copies of past successful Fulbright applications on the shelf in my office for your review (these cannot be copied but may be read freely in the office). In addition, you should review the subject areas and academic level of past grantees to the country to which you are applying. This information will be helpful in getting a sense of the kinds of projects that are frequently selected. I have directories in my office that give this information or you can access it on line at the Fulbright website.

**Currently enrolled students must apply through the campus committee process.**

Good luck and please do stay in touch.