

# Fulbright Outreach Master's Degree Fellowships

## Program Overview

Fulbright Outreach Program Fellowships will be awarded to those planning to begin their Master's degree studies at American universities in the fall semester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

This program is open to **Arab citizens of Israel and to Israelis of Ethiopian descent.**

The program is open to students in all fields of study **except** those that require clinical activities and hands-on contact with patients.

Candidates who have been accepted to the Fulbright Outreach Program can choose between two placement tracks.

### Track 1: Self Placement

In this track, the candidates will research their own degree program options and independently submit, track, and follow-up on application status, university cost-share, and final admission offers. No assistance will be provided by IIE's University Placement division at any stage during the process for candidates who have selected this track. The grant in this track is limited by a cap that is derived from the average cost of studies in a U.S. academic institute. In this track, the submission plan is not limited to a specific number of institutions.

### Track 2: IIE Placement

In this track, the candidates do not apply directly for admission to U.S. universities. Instead, submission of their applications for admission is carried out by the Institute for International Education (IIE). IIE formulates a submission plan on the basis of the candidates' preferences, the placement officer's evaluation of the candidates' qualifications relative to university admission standards, financial consideration and geographical diversity and considerations growing out of Fulbright program objectives.

Application submission, admission and placement at academic institutions which are far from the top of popular ranking lists may occur especially in two-year

programs, and in disciplines where tuition cost sharing is less attainable and tuition costs stay high even while going down the ranking list, such as business administration, public health, architecture, practical art, practical film making, and more. However, an academic and cultural experience which is both enriching and empowering can be obtained even in U.S. institutions which have lower brand recognition is Israel. In this track, the submission plan is limited to four institutions.

---

## **Grants Benefits**

- Tuition and fees for a maximum of two years;
- Monthly maintenance allowance, fixed according to IIE estimates, for a maximum of two years for the grantee only;
- Books and equipment allowance;
- Round trip airfare from Israel to the U.S. academic institution for the grantee only;
- Basic health insurance for the grantee only for the duration of the grant;
- J1/J2 visa administration;

- Pre-departure orientation meeting in Israel;
- A support agency in the U.S. that assists with visas, events and networking.

## Eligibility criteria

- Israeli citizens of Arab origin or of Ethiopian origin are eligible. Dual American-Israeli citizens or permanent residents of the United States are not eligible to apply.
- Candidates will be considered without regard to race, religion, gender, age, and/or physical impairment.
- Candidates must be resident in Israel at the time of application and must continue to be resident in Israel until the beginning of their studies in the United States as Fulbright Outreach Fellows. Candidates working, residing, or studying outside of Israel are not eligible to apply.
- Students who have already begun their program of studies in the United States or who are planning to begin study in the U.S. before the 2025 Fall semester are not eligible to apply.
- Those who have already been awarded Bachelor's degrees and students who will complete their Bachelor's degree studies during the 2023/2024 academic year are eligible to apply. Selected candidates will be required to provide proof that they have been awarded a Bachelor's degree by December 31, 2024.
- Students in medicine, dental medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing and other programs which involve treatment of patients are not eligible for Fulbright grants.
- Candidates who have applied on two occasions in the past and whose applications have not been accepted are not eligible to reapply.
- Candidates invited for an interview must submit a recent [Duolingo English Test](#) score of a minimum 115.
- After the nomination process, selected candidates, including those who have studied in English-speaking countries, must submit a recent **TOEFL score by November 20, 2024**. ETS is offers a TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test. The test is identical in content, format and on-screen experience to the TOEFL iBT test taken at a test center. Please be sure to note that your score should be sent to USIEF (Fulbright Israel), code 5373, and to IIE, code 2326. Visit the [TOEFL website](#) for further information.
- After the nomination process, certain selected candidate will have to submit a GRE/GMAT score. When registering for the test, be sure to note that your score should be sent to USIEF (Fulbright Israel), code 5373, and to IIE, code

2326. Visit the [GRE website/GMAT website](#) for further information.

- Prior to their departure, nominees must provide proof of financial coverage for all expenses exceeding the grant, according to IIE's guidelines.
- Candidates must be in good health. All applicants selected for a Fulbright grant are required to submit a Medical History and Examination Report before their grants can be activated.
- Prior conviction or current indictment for a felony may result in disqualification.

## **Evaluation criteria**

- Academic excellence.
- Leadership qualities
- Demonstrable, ambassadorial skills required to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Israel. Fulbright fellows serve as cultural ambassadors and should be prepared to speak about their countries, cultures and research to academic and community groups.
- Potential for gaining value from the program.
- English language proficiency.
- Since the aim of the Fulbright Program is to foster cultural understanding between the U.S. and Israel, preference will be given to applicants who have not had a substantial recent academic experience in the United States or any other English-speaking country.

## **Conditions of award**

- Funding is for a maximum of two years for the grantee only.
- While applicants' personal academic and professional plans and university preferences are taken into consideration, candidates should be aware that the final decision as to which programs of study will be supported by Fulbright Outreach Degree Fellowships is made by the United States Department of State, taking into account all relevant considerations.
- Prospective candidates who plan to earn a PhD at a later stage, at an Israeli university, are strongly advised to check in advance whether and to what extent credits earned in an American Master's degree program will be recognized by the Israeli PhD programs in which they wish to enroll.
- Grantees must travel on a J-1 Exchange Visitor visa sponsored by the Fulbright program.

- After completion of their Fulbright Outreach program, Fulbright grantees are eligible to apply for a visa for up to 12 months of academic training (provided the fellow has a concrete job offer).
- It is a condition of the visa that after completion of their Fulbright program, including any transfer of visa sponsorship, grantees must return to Israel and reside in the country for two years before being eligible to immigrate to the U.S., to take up permanent residence there, or to enter the U.S. with a work permit. The purpose of the two-year home residency requirement is to ensure that exchange visitors return home and fulfill the exchange objectives of the Fulbright program.
- Holders of J-1 student visas who have departed from the United States after a stay of six or more months will be required to remain abroad for up to twelve months before being allowed to re-enter the United States with a J-1 professor/research scholar visa.
- The above restrictions do not apply to re-entry to the United States as the holder of a J visa in another category (short-term scholar, specialist, international visitor), or as the holder of a student or tourist visa.
- Dependents of grantees will enter the U.S. as holders of J-2 visas. Many conditions applying to the grantees as holders of J-1 visas, such as the two-year home residency requirement and other restrictions, also apply to the holders of J-2 visas.
- Unless they have received a waiver of the two-year home residence requirement, Fulbright Students holding J-1 visas are ineligible to change their status from J-1 to J-2 while in the U.S. Similarly, accompanying dependents, who possess J-2 visas, are ineligible to change their status from J-2 to J-1 while in the U.S., unless they have received a waiver of the home residence requirement.
- Grantees must begin their studies in the United States no later than the fall semester of the 2025/2026 academic year.
- Awards cannot be deferred to the following academic year.
- Fellows will be asked to act as Fulbright Israel Programs Ambassadors – to share their experiences with others, to disseminate fellowship information among colleagues and potential candidates and to participate in information sessions for new candidates that may be held in their region. Alumni will also be invited to attend Fulbright Israel's activities and events and, from time to time, asked to assist in the reviewing process for incoming candidates.

## **The Interview Process**

The highest-ranked candidates will be invited for an interview. All interviews are held on the same day. In order to be considered for an award, applicants must be available for interview in person on the date fixed by Fulbright Israel (USIEF).

It should be noted that initial admission to the program does not guarantee that a candidate will be awarded a fellowship. Various additional conditions apply, mainly the requirement of admission to at least one academic program in the U.S. whose overall cost is within the budget, and, for that matter even receive cost sharing from the academic institute. The final decision whether or not to award a scholarship will be made by the United States Department of State. It should also be noted that if it is decided to offer a fellowship to a candidate, for IIE-placed candidates, the Department of State retains sole authority to select the institution at which the candidate's studies will be supported. Candidate preferences will be taken into account when making such decisions, but other considerations, such as cost, geographic distribution, etc. will also be taken into account.

The Foundation reserves the exclusive right to determine, within the framework of applicable law and regulations, the qualitative standards for the evaluation of applications and the selection of the candidates to be referred for placement. The Foundation is not under any obligation to provide the reasons for its decisions regarding the allocation of Fellowships.

## **Timetable for 2025/2026**

Earliest date for submission of applications	March 18, 2024
Final deadline for submission of applications	June 26, 2024
Academic referees review applications	July/ August 2024
Interview day for finalists	September 2024
Candidates notified of results	September 2024
Placement process begins	September-October 2024
J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board approves selection of candidates	October 2024
Nominees notified if accepted to studies by American universities	February-April 2025
Program Fellows begin studies in the United States	August 2025, Fall semester

## **Alumni Experience & Tips**

**Ameer Bashir**

Digital Culture

Arizona State University, 2017