



Fellowships Roadmap: Fulbright ETA

This roadmap is meant as a guide to help you break down the steps towards putting together a Fulbright ETA application. It is not exhaustive, nor is it mandatory, but we hope it will be useful to you in the application process! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email fellowships@wellesley.edu, drop in to [Fellowships Virtual Pop-ups](#), or [book a Fellowships advising appointment](#) via Handshake. We'd love to talk with you!

Attention applicants for all postgrad fellowships!

Opt in for the [Fellowships Summer Starting Line](#) to access special appointments over the summer.

General Overview:

- Finding the right country/assignment
 - Answering the three key application questions
 - Interpreting your resume/experience and building your drafts
 - Securing recommendations
 - Meeting the [Optional Priority Draft Deadline](#) on July 25 and booking a follow-up appointment
 - Submitting your application by the campus deadline (typically late August)
 - Participating in campus committee process, including committee interview and feedback
- Remember: We do not nominate or decline your application: the sole purpose of the committee is to help you put forth the strongest application possible!*
- Submitting your final application by the national deadline (typically early October)

1. Explore!

- Where might you be interested in living and teaching? Is there a country or language in which you're particularly interested?
- What sort of assignment (e.g. primary vs. secondary schools, teaching assistant vs. independent teacher) appeals to you or works with your experience?
- Explore Fulbright's [Award Search](#), which enables you to filter awards by regions, language and degree requirements, types of assignments, and other helpful criteria.
 - o Pro-tip: With Fulbright, assignments and requirements vary significantly by country, so poke around [country pages](#) a bit. Each country page will be different but helpfully specific!
- Narrow your shortlist based on your parameters and Fulbright's.
- Get yourself set up in Fulbright's [online system](#)!

Outcome: settle on country and potentially a sense of assignment (if your preference is required).

2. Brainstorm

- Consider these three key questions and write down your ideas: why teaching? Why that country? Why you?
 - o Pro-tip: All ETA applications must answer these questions among the short answers and essays!
- Think further down the road: how might an ETA be a step towards your next goal?
- Practice making the case for your experience and how it is relevant.
- Check out Career Education's resources on personal statements ([here](#) and [here](#))!
- Explore Fulbright's upcoming webinars (on their [website](#) or [Handshake](#)), and their amazing archive of [recorded webinars](#).
- Don't neglect the short essays—use every opportunity to make your case!

Outcome: building blocks of an outline.

3. Talk to [recommenders](#) and language evaluators

- Start the conversation! You don't have to begin by asking for a recommendation; you can start by talking to potential recommenders about your plans and interests to see if they have feedback.
 - o Ideally you would ask for a recommendation as early as possible, but you should as at least a month before the campus deadline.
 - o As your application progresses, you can always share your drafts or an outline, but it's not required to start the conversation!



- Note: the ETA recommendation is a form, which is auto-generated to your recommender when you enter their name and email into the Fulbright application system.
- Pro-tip: even if the grant for which you're applying does not *require* fluency in one or more of the languages of the host country, a relevant language evaluation can be a huge boost to your application.

Outcome: getting the ball rolling with recommenders/language evaluators.

4. Rough draft

- Signpost! One-page application essays should lead with a thesis rather than an anecdote.
- Craft a narrative with specific examples: show don't tell (e.g., what lesson plans might you use? Has anything in particular worked for you in mentoring or a classroom before?)
- Show trajectory: how your experience brought you here and what you hope to do next
- Double check requirements: are you required to mention your classroom preference or outside engagement in your essays?
- Consider a dual audience (both US and international readers): be careful about sensitive political or cultural issues.

Outcome: draft 1!

5. Breather!

- Set your application aside and take a few days. You've done so much good work!

Outcome: self-care, brain-breather!

6. Review—checklist:

- Did you answer the three key questions?
- Signpost?
- Show not tell and provide specific examples?
- Show trajectory?
- Read aloud: does it flow? Does it sound like you?

Outcome: draft 2 ready for the [Optional Priority Draft Deadline!](#)

Note: The late summer and early fall are an incredibly busy season, but by thinking ahead and making progress over the summer, you've already done the lion's share of the work for an amazing Fulbright application!

7. **Follow up with recommenders/language evaluators:** Early August is a good time to follow up with your recommenders/language evaluators. Your application will not be penalized if your recommendation forms are not in by the campus deadline, but they should be submitted as soon as possible.

8. Submit your completed application before the campus deadline in late August.

Note: No one at the IIE or Fulbright will see your application at this point, even though it is technically "submitted."

9. Campus committee interview:

In early to mid-September, we will schedule your campus committee interview:

- This will be a 10-15 minute, informal sit down with the Fellowships team and a faculty member so that we can get to know you better and learn more about your interest in Fulbright.
- After your interview, you'll book another appointment with Fellowships to go over the committee feedback and any questions you may have.

10. Final drafts and editing:

Finalize your application with any last edits or polishing and hit submit at least 24 hours in advance of the national deadline (to avoid last minute issues like wifi outages or unexpected illness).

11. Celebrate!

You've submitted your Fulbright application, which is an incredible accomplishment. Be sure to take the time to acknowledge your hard work and be proud of what you've submitted... and keep in mind that all the hard work you've done on this application can give you a significant leg-up on other applications... where might another fellowship take you?