

# HBCU Community Engagement in Fulbright Specialist Programs Grant Opportunities

By  
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## HBCU Community Engagement in Fulbright Specialist Programs Grant Opportunities

Review of grant applications submitted to the US. Department of State/Fulbright Specialist Programs for funding consideration revealed significant under-representation from HBCU community (inclusive of faculty, staff, and administrators).

From a Proposal Reviewer's demonstrated experiences, participants will be provided with a set of comprehensive tools and best practices aimed at developing and submitting award-winning grant proposals.

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## The Fulbright Specialist Program

An initiative of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Specialist Program is a unique opportunity for U.S. scholars and established professionals to participate in two to six week of active engagement in a wide of academic and related disciplines at host institutions in over 150 countries worldwide - ranging from Austria to Zimbabwe. Host institutions include institutions of higher education, governmental agencies, cultural institutions (museums, libraries, etc.), non-governmental organizations, and medical institutions (public health organizations, teaching hospitals, etc.).

Through collaborative projects, Fulbright Specialists share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. Activities conducted by Fulbright Specialists may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Delivering seminars or workshops
- Consulting on workforce or faculty development
- Developing training or academic curricula and materials
- Lecturing at the graduate or undergraduate levels
- Conducting needs assessments or evaluations for a program or institution
- Engaging in strategic or institutional planning
- Institutional Capacity Building
- Sponsored Research/Sponsored Programs Administration

# Fulbright Specialist: Eligible Disciplines

Successful Fulbright Specialist is expected to develop expertise in any one of the following disciplines:

- . Agriculture
- . American (U.S.) Studies
- . Environmental Science
- . Law
- . Anthropology
- . Archaeology
- . Library Science
- . Math Education
- . Biology Education
- . Business Administration
- . Peace & Conflict Resolution
- . Chemistry Education
- . Physical Education
- . Political Science
- . Communication & Journalism
- . Public Administration
- . Public/Global Health
- . Computer Science & Information Technology
- . Social Work
- . Sociology
- . Economics
- . Education
- . Urban Planning
- . Engineering Education

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## Fulbright Specialist Essay Question 1

Please describe why you are interested in serving as a Fulbright Specialist and how your participation would benefit a host institution abroad as well as your institution or employer in the U.S. Please include specific examples of activities that you may be interested in leading or completing at your host institution abroad as part of your program.

## Fulbright Specialist Essay Question 2

Please describe any previous experience working in an international environment and why you believe that you would be effective serving as a Fulbright Specialist at a host institution abroad. If you do not have prior experience in an international setting, please describe what strategies you would employ in order to be successful while serving as a Fulbright Specialist in a cross-cultural context.

# Fulbright Specialist Application Process

## STEP 1

Complete &  
Submit an Online  
Application

[https://world-learning-npsp.my.site.com/FSP/WL\\_SiteLogin](https://world-learning-npsp.my.site.com/FSP/WL_SiteLogin)



## STEP 2

Listed References  
Receive  
Automated Email  
to Complete  
Online Reference  
Form



## STEP 3

Peer Review of  
Completed  
Application



## STEP 4

Applicant  
Notified of  
Outcome of  
Submitted  
Application

If successful, you will join the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a maximum of 3 years; for eligibility to be matched with a host institution abroad.



To begin an application to the Fulbright Specialist Program or to access more program information such as application deadlines and eligibility criteria for Specialists, please visit

<https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/specialist-application-process>

## 5 Evaluation Criteria

### ***A. Professional Qualifications***

- Quality and breadth of the candidate's academic, professional or artistic excellence, as evidenced by professional standing and other achievements listed in the applicant's dossier.
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership within their field.

### ***B. Suitability for Specialist Grant Activity***

- Alignment of candidate's background and skills with their objectives for the program outlined in the candidate's application essays.
- Feasibility of the candidate to successfully engage in eligible grant activities.
- Quality of the references given on behalf of the candidate.

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# 5 Evaluation Criteria continue ---



## **C. Cross-Cultural Communication Skills and Adaptability**

- Quality of your previous international/intercultural experience.
- If the candidate possesses no international experience, demonstration of dynamism and flexibility necessary for active involvement in a host culture.



## **D. Overall Benefit to Stakeholders**

- Candidate's potential to contribute to a host institution abroad.
- Candidate's potential benefit to their employer in the United States. If the candidate is currently unemployed or retired, candidate's potential to impact organizations, institutions, and/or communities in the U.S.
- Potential for advancement of knowledge in the candidate's professional field.

## **E. Personal Qualities**

- Candidate possesses the professionalism, temperament, and adaptability to successfully complete a project designed by a host institution abroad and to serve as a cultural ambassador for the United States.

## Fulbright Specialist Program Dossier Scoring System

Based on the following 5-Point Likert-type Scale and associated 7 Statements:

**5 – Strongly agree with the statement; 4 – Agree with the statement; 3 – Neutral (neither agree nor disagree) with the statement; 2 – Disagree with the statement; 1 – Strongly disagree with the statement.**

I. Applicant displays significant experience in their selected professional field as evidenced by the quality and breadth of their academic, professional, or artistic excellence

II. Applicant has demonstrated capacity for leadership within their selected professional field.

III. Applicant's background and skills align with the objectives for the program outlined in their application essays.

IV. Applicant possesses the necessary cross-cultural communication skills and inter-cultural adaptability to participate in a Fulbright Specialist Grant.

Applicant has clearly articulated how their participation in a Fulbright Specialist grant will benefit their host institution abroad.

## Fulbright Specialist Program Dossier Scoring System

Based on the following 5-Point Likert-type Scale and associated statements:

**5 – Strongly agree with the statement; 4 – Agree with the statement; 3 – Neutral (neither agree nor disagree) with the statement; 2 – Disagree with the statement; 1 – Strongly disagree with the statement.**

V. Applicant has clearly articulated how their participation in a Fulbright Specialist grant has the potential to benefit a host institution abroad.

VI. Applicant displays potential for advancing knowledge in their field of study.

VII. Applicant possesses the professionalism, temperament, and adaptability to successfully lead a Host Institution designed project and serve as a cultural ambassador for the United States.

# Reference Checks

- You are required to provide the contact information of three professional references.
- Once you submit your completed application, each reference will automatically receive an email from [fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org](mailto:fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org) with a request to complete and submit the Fulbright Specialist online reference form.
- To enter reference information, click “Add Reference Record.” You will need to enter their full name, relation to you, email and phone number and click “Save.”
- Your application will not be considered complete until at least two of your references have completed the form. Therefore, kindly confirm the availability of your references before submitting their information with your application. Once two references are received, your application will be reviewed during the next peer review cycle.

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## Reviewers' Recommendations

- ◆ **Recommend** – Reviewer believes that the applicant is a strong candidate and recommends that they be placed on the Fulbright Specialist Roster.
- ◆ **Not Recommend** - Reviewer does not recommend the applicant be placed on the Fulbright Specialist Roster. A 'Not Recommend' rating indicates that the application has one or more of these characteristics:
  - Essay content or structure is weak or lacking in clarity to such an extent that host institutions are unlikely to have a favorable impression;
  - There is evidence that the applicant's intentions are contrary to the purposes of the Fulbright Specialist Program;
  - Letters of reference are weak;
  - Professional record is weak;
  - The applicant demonstrates no vision or a has weak vision for contributing to a host institution abroad;
  - It appears highly likely that the applicant would be unsuccessful in serving as a Fulbright Specialist; or
  - Other reasons identified by the Reviewer.



# Fulbright Specialist Application Checklist

- Eligibility
  - Personal
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Essays
  - Curriculum Vitae
  - Preferences
  - Languages
  - References
  - Survey - Optional
  - Submit



# Q & A

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Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Michael E. Ayewoh, with three Herrera Women – two in Traditional Attire, Namibia, 2014. NOTE: A Traditional Herero hat, a horizontal horned headdress called an otjikaiva, is a symbol of respect and pays homage to the horned cattle.



Fulbright Specialist Dr. Michael Ayewoh with some Senior Administrators & Academic Departmental Chairpersons of the Namibian University of Science & Technology, Namibia, Southern Africa, 2014.



Fulbright Specialist (right), Dr. Michael E. Ayewoh, with Rector or President of Namibia Polytechnic (now Namibia University of Science & Technology), Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Namibia 2014

# Fulbright Specialist Application & Notification Timelines

SPECIALIST APPLICATION DEADLINE (COMPLETED APPLICATION AND AT LEAST TWO COMPLETED REFERENCE FORMS)	SPECIALIST NOTIFICATION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023	OCTOBER 13, 2023
NOVEMBER 3, 2023	DECEMBER 8, 2023
JANUARY 5, 2024	FEBRUARY 9, 2024
MARCH 8, 2024	APRIL 12, 2024
MAY 10, 2024	JUNE 14, 2024
JULY 12, 2024	AUGUST 16, 2024
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024	OCTOBER 18, 2024
NOVEMBER 15, 2024	DECEMBER 20, 2024

Application Instructions for Specialists — Fulbright Specialist Program ([worldlearning.org](http://worldlearning.org))

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