



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Program: Fulbright Malaysian Graduate Study and Research Program**

#### **General Questions**

**Q: Are high school students or recent high school graduates eligible for this program?**

A: No. This program is for graduate-level studies only. However, the U.S. Department of State offers many other educational and cultural exchange programs. Learn more at <https://exchanges.state.gov> and also visit the U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur website for other opportunities.

**Q: Can Fulbright participants remain in the U.S. after the program ends?**

A: No, Fulbright participants are subject to the J-1 visa two-year home residency requirement. This means they must return to Malaysia and reside there for a cumulative total of two years before they are eligible to apply for certain U.S. visas (such as H, L, or permanent resident status). However, this does not prevent you from visiting the U.S. temporarily on a tourist visa (B-2).

**Q: Can individuals with disabilities apply?**

A: Absolutely. Fulbright encourages applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

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#### **Application Questions**

**Q: Does the program support PhD studies?**

A: Yes. Awards are available for both master's and Ph.D. studies. The program provides partial funding, renewable for a second year based on academic performance.

**Q: Can international students apply through MACEE?**

A: No. MACEE only manages applications for Malaysian citizens. International applicants should apply through their country's Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy.

**Q: How do I apply?**

A: Applications are submitted through the MACEE website: [www.macee.org.my](http://www.macee.org.my)

**Q: When can I apply?**

A: Applications are open from April to June each year.



**Q: What level of English is required?**

A: A minimum TOEFL iBT score of 100 is generally expected for successful admission to graduate programs in the U.S. Test vouchers will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

**Q: Do I need to take the GRE or GMAT to apply?**

A: If the university you are applying to requires it, then yes. You must take the **GRE, GMAT, or GRE Subject Test** and achieve at least the **minimum score required by your chosen institution**. Always check the specific admission requirements of the programs you're applying to and test vouchers will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

**Q: Does the program support medical or dental degrees?**

A: No. Clinical programs in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary sciences are not supported. However, applicants can pursue related non-clinical fields such as public health or biomedical sciences.

**Q: Is there a fixed number of awards each year?**

A: The number of awards varies annually based on funding and other factors.

**Q: Can I apply if I've received other U.S. government scholarships before?**

A: Yes, but preference is given to those without significant U.S. experience. Exceptional applicants may still be considered.

**Q: I completed my undergraduate degree in the U.S. Can I still apply?**

A: Yes, but again, preference is given to those with limited U.S. exposure.

**Q: How long does it take for applications to be reviewed?**

A: Applicants are typically notified of their status 4–6 weeks after the deadline.

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**Finalist Questions**

**Q: How should I prepare for the interview?**

A: Be genuine, clear about your goals, and passionate about your field.

**Q: Can I choose the universities I apply to?**

A: Yes. You should provide a list of 4-5 preferred schools. MACEE will work with you to evaluate for best-fit options. Placements will be shared with you for approval.

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### **Pre-Departure Questions**

**Q: Can I work as a graduate assistant in my first semester?**

A: It depends. Graduate assistantship opportunities vary by university and department. Whether or not you can start in your first semester will depend on availability, your faculty advisor's approval, and departmental needs. This is something you'll need to check directly with your university and faculty advisor after placement.

**Q: Any tips for managing my stipend?**

A: Costs vary by city so you may seek advice from current students or your university's international office. You can also consider shared housing to reduce expenses. Stipends are fixed and cannot be increased.

**Q: Do I need a Social Security Number?**

A: Yes. Fulbright grantees must apply for a Social Security Number (SSN). If unable to obtain one, your Fulbright advisor will assist you.

**Q: Will I have health insurance?**

A: Yes. You are covered under the ASPE plan, which handles accidents and illness, not routine care. You are advised to check with your university once you have been placed as universities may require additional insurance.

**Q: Am I responsible for my own housing?**

A: Yes. You are expected to find your housing.

**Q: How do I open a bank account in the U.S.?**

A: You'll receive guidance during orientation or upon arrival.

**Q: Can I bring my family?**

A: Yes, you can bring immediate family members (spouse and children) on a J-2 visa. However, please note that your Fulbright stipend does not cover dependent expenses. You must show proof of sufficient personal funds and purchase insurance to support them for the entire duration of your program.

**Q: Who handles dependent insurance queries?**

A: You can refer to us and also the university's international student office once you have been placed. ASPE does not cover dependents.

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### **Current Student Questions**

#### **Q: What are my duties as a “cultural ambassador”?**

A: Fulbrighters are encouraged to participate in campus and community events, share their culture, and engage in volunteer work. Share your stories with MACEE for highlights.

#### **Q: Am I required to file U.S. taxes?**

A: Yes. All Fulbright recipients must file U.S. federal and state taxes annually. Your Fulbright advisor will assist you with the necessary forms once you are in the U.S.

#### **Q: Do I need to report all travel?**

A: Yes. All domestic and international travel must be reported and approved at least one month before you travel.