

Fulbright Graduate Student Program



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Beginning in 2000, senior students and graduates of Ukrainian colleges and universities became eligible to spend a year at an American university or to pursue a master's degree of one or two years. To date, 35 Ukrainian students have taken advantage of this program and the number of interested candidates is increasing every year.

When the program was first announced, 77 Ukrainian students applied. Last year we had 169 submissions. This spring the Fulbright office received 224 applications thanks to the extensive outreach programs and effective advertising campaigns throughout Ukraine. The program was featured at universities, through local press clubs, newspapers and radio, and a short documentary was repeatedly aired on 13 television channels. As a result, more educational institutions are represented in the group of students who apply to study in the US.

Perhaps the most important recruitment work is carried out during presentations at universities by Fulbright program officers. These face-to-face meetings encourage young people to submit application forms. The presentations serve many purposes, offering career counselling, encouragement and personal support to young people who are hesi-

tant about their futures or lack confidence in their abilities to pursue academic careers. These sessions offer information on preparing CVs, writing essays and composing statements of purpose which very often help the young scholar to identify a research goal and clearly articulate academic objectives, perhaps for the first time.

Fulbright application forms reveal interesting personal traits of young Ukrainian scholars, and specific cultural features. Traditionally, Ukrainian students were not encouraged to voice personal opinions in writing or to express individual thinking. As a result, "leadership" skills, originality of thought, and academic potential are hard to evaluate based on the essays alone. Sometimes these are generic statements about the research topic, often not developed well or argued convincingly. In other cases, the writer overcompensates for lack of experience by exaggerating his abilities and proposes research objectives that are unrealistic. For these reasons, the applications are carefully reviewed by several evaluators who try to "read between the lines" and identify those candidates who are open to new ways of thinking, have the most potential to complete their research projects, and to become influential leaders and change agents in their communities.



Orientation for Fulbright Graduate Students

Program applicants come from all regions in Ukraine. Most successful candidates come from Kyiv and usually include students and graduates of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the Kyiv National University of Taras Shevchenko and the Kyiv National University of Linguistics. Several regional institutions also regularly supply qualified individuals who go to represent Ukrainian scholarship in the US. These include the Horlivka Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, the Mykolayiv University of Humanities Studies, and Kirovohrad Pedagogical University.

Humanities, social sciences and not-for-profit subject areas are priorities for the Fulbright program. These areas have suffered a setback in Ukrainian institutions in recent years. More applicants are showing an interest in economics and related subjects and are submitting applications with well-stated objectives and realistic, clearly defined research goals. Fulbright encourages applicants pursuing theoretical directions in economics, which is also a priority of most public universities in Ukraine.

Of the 224 candidates being considered for the 2005 program, the most popular research directions are:

- Economics (39 applicants)
- Law and Legal Studies (29)
- Linguistics (19)
- Literature, including American Literature (15)
- Journalism (12)
- Education and Educational Administration (11)
- Ecology and Environmental Management (10)
- Sociology (8)
- Art (7)



Fulbrighters at Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra

These subjects are also the most popular among American Fulbright Graduate Students who come to Ukraine. This year, Ukrainian applicants have specifically requested to do research in Law and Legal Studies, especially International Public and Private Law, including Human Rights and Intellectual Property Law. Students are choosing more narrowly focused research areas with management of different sectors becoming increasingly popular.

The Fulbright Program aims to support those young people who are clearly interested in scholarship and who will continue their research after returning from the US. The Program encourages candidates from all universities to apply to study abroad. By supporting motivated young people with scholarly potential and who are about to make their life choices, the Program hopes to enable these students to have an impact on their society in the future.



Horlivka Institute for Foreign Languages, meeting with Rector V.M. Dokashenko