

Fulbright STEM Impact Award 2019/20

The competition is open until June 28, 2019

General Information

Fulbright STEM Impact Award is a brand new addition to the Polish-U.S. Commission's grant offer. It is a short-term grant for researchers from STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields who manage research projects and have a supervisory role over other researchers at Polish higher education and research institutions. The grant allows them to spend 2-6 weeks at an accredited U.S. higher education institution, non-for-profit research institute or other approved non-commercial institution in the U.S.

Goal of the Grant

The goal of the award is two-fold:

1. To share one's expertise in relevant field by giving lectures/seminars/workshops and/or developing curricula, training materials etc., and/or conduct research (individually or by joining host institution's team/project in progress); and
2. To learn about the organizational and funding systems of U.S. scientific institutions, the commercialization of science and development of successful grant applications.

Disciplines

Awards are granted in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields. Priority will be given to projects in astronomy, chemistry, computer sciences, life sciences, mathematics, and physics. Projects requiring direct contact with patients are not supported by the grant.

Grant Length and Timeframe

The duration of the grant is 2-6 weeks (14 to 42 days). Candidates may apply for a flex award (serial grant) provided the grants do not aggregate to more than 6 weeks and there is a strong justification and work plan for the return visits. For flex awards the Commission covers the costs of one round-trip flight ticket to the U.S.

The grantee should leave for the U.S. in November or December 2019.

Grant Benefits

1. Stipend

- The stipend is intended for grantee's living expenses. Weekly rates depend on the location of grantee's affiliation and are as follows:

Weekly allowance w/accommodation expenses*	Weekly allowance w/o accommodation expenses (in case it is provided by the host)*
\$1,750	\$700
States of: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois (exc. Chicago), Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota (exc. Minneapolis, Saint Paul), Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming	
\$2,450	\$840
States of: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Maryland (exc. Bethesda), Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York (exc. NYC), North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, territory of Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington	
Cities:	

Minneapolis, Saint Paul	
\$3,150	\$980
States of: Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Massachusetts Cities: Bethesda, Chicago, NYC	

* Weekly rates are subject to change by the Commission.

The classification of areas in the U.S. into low, mid and high-cost and the respective estimation of the living costs is performed in cooperation with the Institute of International Exchange of Scholars (IIE).

- The grant will also cover travel allowance for grantee's round trip to the U.S. of up to \$1500.
- In rare cases, the host university may require additional fees, such as affiliation or health insurance fee. It is the grantee's responsibility to cover these costs as the grant does not fund additional expenses. Applicants will be encouraged to identify additional sources of funding to support their awards. Alternatively, the grantee may secure a different affiliation that does not require additional fees.

2. Visa

[J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa](#) for the grantee and J-2 Short-Term Scholar visas for the accompanying family members are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and are subject to the [two-year home-country physical presence requirement](#).

3. Medical Insurance

The grantee's [Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges \(ASPE\)](#) will be provided by the U.S. Department of State for the duration of grant. ASPE does not cover accompanying J-2 dependents, for whom the grantee is obliged to secure health insurance.

4. Ongoing Support

The Commission strives to ensure that all grantees are well-prepared for their grant in the U.S. It guides the grantees through the formal procedures and, if needed, different aspects of doing research/teaching and living in the U.S. The Commission also facilitates networking opportunities with Fulbright alumni, who have first-hand experience of the joys and challenges associated with moving to a new country.

During the grant, grantees have the ongoing support of IIE and the host institution.

Being part of the Fulbright community provides the grantee with the privilege of meeting exceptional scholars from across the world and participating in unique academic and social events, such as those described [here](#).

After the grant, in the fall, the graduating cohort of Fulbrighters is invited to an official ceremony, which celebrates their achievements and initiates their cooperation with the Commission as Fulbright alumni.

5. Alumni Network Membership

Behind the success of the Fulbright Program are its alumni – nearly 400 000 scientists, artists, journalists, and politicians from over 160 countries. The Fulbright grant allows the grantee to join the prestigious group of Fulbright alumni and leverage the connections in local and global Fulbright alumni networks.

Fulbright alumni are widely acknowledged as reputable experts. They provide academic reviews, and are often invited to deliver guest lecturers and media interviews. The Commission leverages the expertise and talents of the alumni by engaging them in promotional and recruitment activities.

Candidate's Profile

We are looking for candidates who:

- Present strong research track record in STEM (science, technology, engineering, fields);
- Manage research projects and have a supervisory role over Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists etc.;
- Propose projects that will contribute to scientific developments in Poland and the U.S.;
- Possess language skills that will allow them to fully take advantage of the grant and cooperate with the local experts;

- Are willing to promote Polish culture, scientific research and higher education in the U.S., and build sustainable links between their home and host institutions;
- Are open, creative and have the potential to further Fulbright Program ideas and initiate social change.

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals eligible to apply:

- Are Polish citizens who do not have dual Polish and U.S. citizenship or permanent residence in the U.S. (green card);
- Hold, at a minimum, a Ph.D. degree;
- Have at least 3 years of experience in managing research projects and supervising Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists etc., and currently hold such duties;
- Are employed at Poland-based: universities, federations of higher education and scientific institutions, the Polish Academy of Sciences and its research institutes, research institutes operating under the Act of 30 April 2010 on research institutes, international research institutes established on the basis of separate acts operating in the territory of the Republic of Poland, Lukaszewicz Center operating under the Act of 21 February 2019 on the Lukaszewicz Research Network, institutes operating as part of the Lukaszewicz Research Network, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and other entities conducting mainly research activities in an independent and continuous manner;
- Have a very good command of the English language;
- Meet formal requirements of the J-1 Short-Term Scholar visa;
- Are not in the U.S. at the time of submitting the application and have not resided in the U.S. for 5 or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application. Preference is given to those candidates whose stay in the U.S. within the past 5 years is shorter than 9 months.

Required Documents

The following documents should be delivered in English:

- Project Statement with bibliography in the MLA style. The project statement must include:
 - Detailed list of activities to be performed during the grant;
 - Substantiation why the project should be conducted at the selected institution in the U.S.
 The project statement should also include:
 - Description of expected grant outcome/impact on candidate's career, candidate's home institution and the discipline in general;
 - Proposal for dissemination of the results;
 - Plans for sustainable relationship with the host institution.
- Current invitation letter issued by the head of the hosting unit in the U.S. for the purpose of the competition. The letter must include information listed in the STEM Impact Award Letter of Invitation Checklist;
- Curriculum Vitae with a description of relevant professional experience as well academic and research track record, including awards, trainings, conferences, publications (including the ones under review and in print), patents (and patent applications) and other relevant accomplishments;
- Two recommendation letters submitted by referees through the electronic system.

The following document should be delivered in Polish:

- Current document confirming employment at one of the following Poland-based institutions: universities, federations of higher education and scientific institutions, the Polish Academy of Sciences and its research institutes, research institutes operating under the Act of 30 April 2010 on research institutes, international research institutes established on the basis of separate acts operating in the territory of the Republic of Poland, Lukaszewicz Center operating under the Act of 21 February 2019 on the Lukaszewicz Research Network, institutes operating as part of the Lukaszewicz Research Network, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and other entities conducting mainly research activities in an independent and continuous manner.

How to Apply

1. Before you apply, make sure you are eligible for the award.
2. Read all of the instructions carefully. In case of doubts, please contact the program officer for this award.
3. Create an account in the electronic Fulbright application system: apply.ije.org/fvsp2020.
4. Complete the application and attach the required documents listed in the Required Documents section. Before you submit the application, make sure it is complete and all required documents are uploaded. You will not be able to access the application after submission.
5. Submit the electronic application by **June 28, 2019, 11:59 PM CET**. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered for the award. Please note that the application must be delivered in an electronic form only. Do not send the paper version to the Commission.

Timeframe

When	What
June 28, 2019	Application deadline. Applications must be submitted by 23:59, June 28.
July 1-5, 2019	Formal check of the applications. Only complete applications will be considered.
July 8 - August 30, 2019	Application review by three independent subject matter experts. All applicants will be notified via email whether they have been selected for interviews.
September 2019	Interviews with the top-scoring candidates in the Fulbright office or via skype. Candidates will be notified about the results via email.
	Approval by the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission's Board and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. All nominees will be notified about the decision via email.
October 2019	Grant and visa administration
November - December 2019	Departure for the U.S.
September 2020	Graduation ceremony