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EDUCATIONAL  
EXCHANGES

Under the Fulbright Act

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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EXCHANGES

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## EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

### Under the Fulbright Act

#### BACKGROUND

On August 1, 1946, the President of the United States signed an act (Public Law 584, 79th Cong., the Fulbright act) amending the Surplus Property Act of 1944 so that some of the currencies and credits of other countries acquired by the United States through the sale of surplus property abroad might be used for educational exchanges.

Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas launched this legislation in the face of two compelling factors: (1) the need for broader international understanding and (2) the shortage of dollars. Other nations wished to buy the millions of dollars worth of surplus property which the United States shipped abroad during the war, but they could not obtain enough American dollars to do so. The Fulbright act authorizes the Secretary of State to negotiate executive agreements to use foreign currencies and credits realized through surplus-property sales for sending Americans abroad and maintaining foreigners at American educational institutions abroad and for financing travel for nationals of other countries to the United States for study here providing they do not displace American students in our educational institutions.

The act limits to an equivalent of \$20,000,000 the amount to be devoted to educational exchanges in any one country. It specifies that sums thus allocated be spent at a rate of not more than the equivalent of \$1,000,000 annually. Only in the case of a few countries, however, do the sums available approach the figures named.

#### BENEFITS

More specifically, the act provides that the available credits may be used for—

(A) financing studies, research, instruction, and other educational activities of or for American citizens in schools and institutions of higher learning located in such foreign country, or of the citizens of such foreign country in American schools and institutions of higher learning located outside the continental United States . . . including payment for transportation, tuition, maintenance, and other

expenses incident to scholastic activities; or (B) furnishing transportation for citizens of such foreign country who desire to attend American schools and institutions of higher learning in the continental United States . . .

These provisions and their application by the Board of Foreign Scholarships are summarized in the following chart:

BENEFITS UNDER THE FULBRIGHT ACT<sup>1</sup>

	At approved American institutions in participating countries	At approved foreign institutions in participating countries	To approved institutions in the United States
To American citizens, for graduate study	Maintenance, tuition, incidental expenses, travel <sup>2</sup>	Maintenance, tuition, incidental expenses, travel <sup>2</sup>	
To American citizens, for teaching or research	Stipend, maintenance, educational materials, incidental expenses, travel <sup>2</sup>	Stipend, maintenance, educational materials, incidental expenses, travel <sup>2</sup>	
To foreign nationals for study	Maintenance, tuition, incidental expenses, travel <sup>2</sup>		Travel <sup>2,3</sup>
To foreign nationals for teaching or research			Travel <sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Personnel categories are based on activities planned under the act.

<sup>2</sup> In cases where surface and air lines will accept the foreign currency available.

<sup>3</sup> Subject to the immigration laws of the United States.

There are no American dollars available under the act. Since all funds are in foreign currencies, the act does not provide for exchanges between the continental United States and its territories, nor does it provide means of defraying expenses of foreign visitors within this country. While the act may provide transportation to and from the United States in those cases where travel can be paid in foreign currencies, in no case does it cover expenses within the United States.

Grants are usually made for a period of one academic year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year in exceptional cases. All grants, whether for study, teaching, or research, require connection with an educational institution, approved by the Board of Foreign Scholarships, in the foreign country involved. Persons going abroad to do research under this program may nevertheless establish a connection with such an institution without being required to register for courses. The grants vary in amount. Such factors as the cost of living, the candidate's professional level, and the availability of funds from other sources, will be taken into account.

In the case of American students, only graduate students are being

considered for scholarships during the first few years of the program. Foreign graduate students wishing to study in the United States are to be given preference over foreign undergraduates, though some exceptions may be allowed in cases where an undergraduate has completed all the studies offered in his chosen field by his own country. Veterans of World Wars I and II are given preference, provided their qualifications are approximately equal to those of candidates who are not veterans. Selection is also guided by the opportunities offered in the participating countries, by the needs of those countries, and by the requirements of the institutions with which the applicants wish to become connected. Candidates are expected to have a knowledge of the language of the host country sufficient to enable them to carry on the programs which they have formulated.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary of State is responsible for the general administration of the Act.

*The Board of Foreign Scholarships*<sup>1</sup> is responsible for the selection of participants. The act reads in part as follows:

"For the purpose of selecting students and educational institutions qualified to participate in this program, and to supervise the exchange program authorized herein, the President is hereby authorized to appoint a Board of Foreign Scholarships, consisting of ten members, who shall serve without compensation, composed of representatives of cultural, educational, student and war veterans groups, and including representatives of the United States Office of Education, the United States Veterans' Administration, State educational institutions, and privately endowed educational institutions".

In carrying out these duties, the Board is responsible for—

1. Approving policies for the educational programs under the act
2. Approving the types of programs and projects to be undertaken
3. Selecting institutions to be approved for participation
4. Selecting all candidates, both American and foreign

*United States Educational Foundations.* In accordance with the act, the executive agreements to be concluded by the United States with participating countries will establish in each country a United States Educational Foundation. The principal responsibilities of these Foundations are to carry on the exchange programs and to handle the funds involved under directives from the Department of State. The

<sup>1</sup> The present members of the Board of Foreign Scholarships are listed in a supplementary report attached to this pamphlet.

Foundations also recommend programs, institutions, and candidates to the Board. Their membership will vary according to the terms of each agreement. For instance in Burma the Board consists of—

“The principal officer in charge of the diplomatic mission of the United States of America to Burma . . . Honorary Chairman . . . the Chief Public Affairs Officer or such other officer of the United States diplomatic mission as the Chief of Mission may designate, Chairman; (b) two other members of the Embassy staff . . . (c) two citizens of the United States . . . (d) three citizens of Burma . . .”

*Preliminary Selection Agencies in the United States.* The Board of Foreign Scholarships has requested the assistance of three agencies in selecting candidates and in performing related services.

1. *The Institute of International Education* (2 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.) answers inquiries, receives applications, and makes the preliminary selection of applicants for student grants, both foreign and American. Under the chairmanship of the Institute, a national committee representing various other private agencies reviews the applications and submits final nominations to the Board.

2. *The United States Office of Education* (Federal Security Agency, Washington 25, D.C.) answers inquiries, receives applications, and makes the preliminary selection of teachers desiring to be placed in elementary schools, secondary schools, and junior colleges abroad operated by citizens or agencies of the participating countries. The Office of Education has established a national advisory committee, which, on the basis of opportunities described by United States Educational Foundations abroad, will recommend candidates to the Department of State and the Board of Foreign Scholarships for grants. The Office of Education also reviews applications of candidates recommended by the United States Educational Foundations abroad for travel grants to take up similar positions in the United States.

3. *The Conference Board of Associated Research Councils* (2101 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington 25, D. C.), composed of representatives of the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Council on Education, the National Research Council, and the Social Science Research Council, answers inquiries, receives applications, and makes the preliminary selection of persons wishing to go abroad as professors, specialists, or advanced research scholars. The Conference Board, through the American Council on Education, also handles teachers desiring placement in American primary and secondary schools in participating countries. The Conference Board's committee for the Fulbright program includes a representative from each Council together with representatives of other agencies in various specialized fields. The Conference Board makes a preliminary

selection of candidates in the United States and candidates abroad recommended by the United States Educational Foundations. As in all other cases, the Board of Foreign Scholarships makes the final selections.

An American living in a participating country should send his application for a grant to the United States Educational Foundation in the country of his residence. However, in cases where an American residing abroad desires to apply for a grant in a country other than the one in which he lives, he should write directly to the appropriate agency in the United States.

*Division of Exchange of Persons.* This Division in the Department of State carries the general administrative responsibility for the program, including—

1. Initiation of the agreements to be negotiated by the Government of the United States and the foreign countries which can participate in the program.

2. Establishment of and guidance to United States Educational Foundations in participating countries through the appropriate United States diplomatic missions.

3. Staff services for the Board of Foreign Scholarships, including the maintenance of liaison with the cooperating agencies and with the United States Educational Foundations abroad.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

The restriction of funds authorized by the act to currencies other than dollars indicates the great need of cooperation with other exchange projects. Nongovernmental groups are encouraged to initiate projects of their own, thus providing American dollars which the Fulbright program cannot supply. An American and a Chinese university, for example, might plan a direct exchange of professors, estimate the financial contribution each could make, and present a joint request for supplementary Chinese dollars.

“*G. I. Bill of Rights*” (*Public Law 346, 78th Cong.*). A student who wishes to draw G.I. dollar benefits may also apply for a Fulbright grant in local currency to cover such extra expenses of overseas study as round-trip transportation and supplementary maintenance. There is, however, a basic difference between the two programs. While the G.I. Bill of Rights provides benefits which any eligible veteran may receive, the Fulbright Act makes awards for which the veteran must compete with other candidates, whether veterans or not, on the basis of his personal and scholastic qualifications.

*Smith-Mundt Act* (*Public Law 402, 80th Cong.*). In January 1948, Congress passed and the President signed the Smith-Mundt Act, which includes in its provisions an extension throughout the world

of the Department of State's authority to carry on various kinds of educational, scientific, and cultural exchanges. The Department is now permitted to conduct, in cooperation with other American agencies, a program of academic and professional exchanges with other countries which may be prepared to reciprocate. The extent of this program will depend on the funds which Congress allocates annually for such purposes.

*Private American Programs.* The impressive story of the contribution to international exchanges made by private American organizations and agencies aside from the Federal Government has never been fully told. Justice cannot be done to it here. It should be said, however, that the Board of Foreign Scholarships and all other groups implementing the Fulbright program plan to use local currencies wherever possible to strengthen and extend existing private programs and to encourage new ones.

*Foreign Government Programs.* The governments of some of the countries expected to participate in the Fulbright program are carrying on their own exchanges to an increasing degree. Most significant are their programs for sending qualified students, professors, and specialists to the United States for study. A few countries have allocated funds for partial payment of American professors in their universities. Since the payment offered in such cases is relatively small, Fulbright funds may be used by way of supplement.

Supplementary announcements with respect to educational exchanges under the Fulbright act will be issued as programs develop.



# Educational Exchanges Under the Fulbright Act

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT NO. 2

## Program Developments, November 1948

### *Countries now participating under the Act*

Belgium and Luxembourg, Executive agreement signed October 8, 1948  
Burma, Executive agreement signed December 22, 1947  
China, Executive agreement signed November 10, 1947  
France, Executive agreement signed October 22, 1948  
Greece, Executive agreement signed April 23, 1948  
New Zealand, Executive agreement signed September 13, 1948  
Philippines, Executive agreement signed March 23, 1948  
United Kingdom, Executive agreement signed September 22, 1948

Programs have been initiated in China, Burma, Greece, and the Philippines. Opportunities in the other four countries with which agreements have been concluded will be announced early in 1949.

### *Opportunities now open to Americans*

Applications for grants permitting graduate study in Greece and the Philippines, as well as inquiries respecting student programs to be developed with other countries, may now be addressed to the Institute of International Education. Applications for college teaching and research awards in China, Burma, Greece, and the Philippines are now being received by the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils. Applications for teaching in American secondary schools in Greece are also being received by the Conference Board.

### *Future programs*

Programs are also anticipated in such countries as Austria, Australia, Egypt, India, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, and Turkey. Other countries may participate at a later date. At the moment there are no foreign currencies in the other American republics available for this purpose.

As agreements with these countries are concluded, supplementary announcements will be made by the Department of State, the Board of Foreign Scholarships, and the preliminary selection agencies. Until such announcements are made, the preliminary selection agencies are not accepting applications for grants in these countries.

→ (Substitute for Supplementary Report No. 2, May 1948, enclosure in Department of State publication 3197, *Educational Exchanges Under the Fulbright Act*)