



**2009 INTERNATIONAL FULBRIGHT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD
FOR
OUTSTANDING FOREIGN STUDENTS**

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the opening of the worldwide competition for the FY 2009 International Fulbright Science and Technology Award for outstanding foreign students. Last year's competition for this significant new program produced an extremely talented group of candidates whom leading U.S. scientists on the review and selection panels deemed outstanding. The award is designed to be among the most prestigious international scholarships in science and technology. The International Fulbright Science and Technology award is for Ph.D. study at top U.S. institutions in science, technology, or engineering. The program is funded by ECA and aims to convey the message that the U.S. remains the premier destination for serious scientific study and research, and that America not only welcomes top-notch talent, we encourage future leaders to shape their careers through U.S. study.

Winners of 2008 Awards came from 35 countries (with all world regions represented) and represent a wide variety of fields in science, technology and engineering, including biology, computer science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, neuroscience, and physics. Thirty-five percent of the winners were women. Recipients were chosen through a rigorous, multi-tiered, merit-based selection process consisting of in-country competition and review, field and discipline merit review by top-level U.S. academic leaders, and nomination by a blue ribbon Advisory Panel, which includes university deans and presidents. Final selection was made by the Presidentially appointed Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Winners are currently being placed at top U.S. institutions. Winners of FY 2007 Awards were placed at leading universities including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Stanford University.

This year, approximately 40 awards will be competed worldwide for candidates who demonstrate unique aptitude and innovation in scientific fields.

PROGRAM DESIGN:

ECA is now soliciting nominations for candidates to participate in the FY 2009 International Fulbright Science and Technology Program. Grantees will be enrolled for Ph.D. study at top U.S. universities in the fields of science, technology, or engineering for academic year 2009-2010. The International Fulbright Science and Technology Award is a worldwide program.

ELIGIBLE FIELDS INCLUDE:

Aeronautics and astronautics/aeronautical engineering, astronomy/planetary sciences, biology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, computer sciences/engineering, energy,

engineering (electrical, chemical, civil, mechanical, ocean, and petroleum), environmental science/engineering, geology/earth and atmospheric sciences, information sciences and systems (engineering focus only), materials science/engineering, mathematics, neuroscience/brain and cognitive sciences, oceanography, public health (theoretical research focus only) and physics.

Please note: A brief description of each field of study is available at <http://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/scienceandtech>) The Office of Academic Exchange Programs (ECA/A/E) will fund grants for up to three years for this award. After three years, U.S. universities will be expected to cover the remaining expenses toward completion of a Ph.D. Placement of students will be handled by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be citizens of countries where there is an active Fulbright Foreign Student Program and must apply through the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in their country of citizenship. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree before August 1, 2009, and be proficient in English with a recent TOEFL score (or equivalent) of 580 or higher. A GRE General Exam score report is requested for nominees prior to presentation of applications to U.S. screening committees. A nominee is expected to achieve a quantitative score of at least 700. (Note: a GRE Subject Exam score report will also be needed for all selected candidates in the following fields of study: biology; biochemistry, cell, and molecular biology; chemistry; computer science; mathematics; and physics.) Test vouchers for exams will be provided for all nominees. Nominees should be registered for exams as soon as possible in order to ensure that test scores can be sent to IIE by August 1, 2008.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Each applicant will be required to submit an online application at <https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/international>, along with all supporting documents. Public Affairs Sections and Fulbright Commissions are encouraged to post this link on their websites. The online application for 2009-2010 will be available on February 1, 2008. A complete application package, consisting of electronic and paper items, for each nominee should be forwarded to IIE no later than July 1, 2008. A complete application includes:

- An online application which includes:
 - a clearly written research objective
 - a professional resume
 - a completed Fulbright committee nomination advice form
- Three letters of reference (submitted electronically and attached to the online application or official paper copies sent by mail)
- Official (or scanned and attached to the online application; official paper transcripts should also be sent at a later date) academic transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended
- Score reports (as soon as available but prior to U.S. screening committee review)
 - TOEFL or IELTS or other English language proficiency exam (when required)
 - General GRE exam
 - GRE Subject exam (if applicable and available)

DEADLINE:

A hard copy (print out of the online application **MUST BE SUBMITTED** to the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy, Rruga Elbasanit, No. 103, Tirana Albania (att: Mirela Cupi) no later than April 16, 2008.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SECTIONS AND COMMISSIONS: Initial screenings, based on criteria outlined above, will be conducted by the Public Affairs Section. Up to two principals and one alternate from each country may be nominated.

U.S. SCREENING AND SELECTION:

ECA will review all principal and alternate nominees. In addition, IIE will conduct a technical review of all nominee applications. Should a principal nominee not meet eligibility requirements, the Public Affairs Section or Commission will be informed that the principal has been disqualified, provided with a justification for disqualification, and the alternate nominee will be upgraded to principal nominee status. Up to two principal nominees from each country will be presented for review to a U.S.-based selection committee, which will include prominent academics and professionals in the appropriate scientific fields. Final selection will be made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB). Selection of principal and alternate nominees will be determined by September 30, 2008. Candidates will be notified of their status by October 15, 2008. Posts and Commissions will be asked to inform applicants of selection decisions.

U.S. UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT:

IIE will be responsible for placement of all Fulbright Science and Technology Award recipients. IIE will work closely with the recipients and ECA to ensure the best placement available for field of study and research interests. In addition, IIE will keep Posts and Commissions abreast of submission plans for grantees and admission decisions. ECA will approve all final placements and will inform Posts and Commissions of final placement. Posts and Commissions will be asked to inform recipients of final placement decisions.

VISA SPONSORSHIP:

Grantees will receive J-1 visa sponsorship under the Fulbright Student Program for up to five years. After five years, if necessary, ECA will transfer sponsorship to the host university assuming satisfactory continuing progress toward Ph.D. completion. Grantees not able to secure an entry visa to arrive in time for their program start date may lose their fellowships. Selected candidates must provide IIE with a valid passport prior to the issuance of Form DS-2019.

FUNDING:

All grantees receive tuition, a monthly stipend for up to 36 months, health and accident coverage, a book and equipment allowance, professional conference allowance, travel support, and specially tailored enrichment activities, and are eligible to apply for additional research funding. After three years, U.S. universities will be expected to cover the remaining expenses toward completion of a Ph.D.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Recipients of the Fulbright Fellowship must return to Albania for a minimum of two years. Family members are not allowed to accompany Fulbright Fellows to the United States during the Fellowship.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS please contact: cupim@state.gov