

The Fulbright Program

A Fact Sheet

The Fulbright Program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas seeking "... *the promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science.*"

After six decades, it remains the U.S. Government's most prestigious scholarship program, operating in 155 countries, and dedicated to "*increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.*"

A hallmark of the Fulbright Program is its bi-national character. Under the principle of joint responsibility, the host country and the Government of the United States work together to set priorities and shape the program to meet shared needs.

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation by the U. S. Congress. This is augmented by contributions from participating governments and by cost-sharing and indirect support from host institutions in foreign countries and the United States.

Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has awarded more than 286,000 scholarships worldwide.

Under the Fulbright program some 9,800 Americans have come to India and 5,000 Indians have gone to the United States.

The Fulbright Program in India

On February 2, 1950 in New Delhi, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and U.S. Ambassador Loy Henderson signed the agreement which established a bilateral Fulbright commission in India, one of the first in the world. Known as the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI), the commission has played a pivotal role in promoting educational exchange between the two countries. In 1963 Foreign Secretary M. J. Desai and U.S. Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith signed a revised agreement which provided a broader and more flexible scope for educational exchange.

Under the new 2008 Fulbright agreement, USEFI will become the U.S.-India Educational Foundation (USIEF). The Government of India will contribute equally to the program, doubling the number of recipients of what will now be known as Fulbright-Nehru scholarships and grants.

The USEFI headquarters are at 12 Hailey Road in New Delhi, with branch offices in Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Benefits of Fulbright in India

Fulbright grants cover a wide range of disciplines. Liberal arts and social sciences were an early focus with the intent of developing the next generation of civil society leaders in India and the United States and realizing Senator Fulbright's vision of global harmony and mutual understanding.

More recently and in response to the expanding parameters of the bilateral relationship, Fulbright grants are also offered in new, critical areas of knowledge such as agriculture, environment, law, management, business, mass communications, public administration, public health, urban planning and language teaching.

Grantees are chosen for their leadership potential as well as their intellectual and academic ability. Fulbright grantees have the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, lecture, observe, analyze, exchange ideas and embark upon a vast array of scholarly and professional endeavors.

In addition to administering the Fulbright program, the Foundation provides educational advising services to Indian students interested in pursuing higher education in the United States and American students wishing to study and conduct research in India. The Foundation also provides briefings to visiting delegations and representatives from U.S. colleges and universities.

Distinguished Alumni of the U.S.-India Fulbright Program:

C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the 12th Finance Commission; former Governor of Reserve Bank of India; and former Governor of Andhra Pradesh

S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs

Tejendra Khanna, Lt. Governor, National Capital Territory of Delhi

Kuldip Nayar, journalist and former Indian High Commissioner, U.K.

N. R. Madhava Menon, Member of the Commission on Central-State Relations

Girish Karnad, actor and playwright

Kavita Sharma, Director, India International Center

Meenakshi Gopinath, Principal, Lady Shri Ram College for Women

John R. Hubbard, former U.S. Ambassador to India

Nathan Glazer, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Education, Harvard University

Hal Bruno, former Political Director, ABC News

Barbara Crossette, U.N. Bureau Chief and New York Times contributor

George A. Akerlof, 2001 Nobel Prize Winner

Leonid Hurwicz, 2007 Nobel Prize Winner in Economics

