United States-India Educational Foundation

Completing the IIE Online Application
Instructions for 2027-2028 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship (FNDR) Applicants
Application Deadline: July 1, 2026, 23:59:59 hrs (IST)

Please read all instructions carefully and follow the application guidelines below.

THESE INDIA-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS SUPERSEDE ANY GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

A complete and eligible F-N DR application must include:
- curriculum vitae/resume
- study/research objectives
- personal statement
- scanned copies of your mark sheets and diploma/degree certificates
- Ph.D. registration certificate
- writing sample (preferably a recent significant publication)
- three reference letters
- letter(s) of invitation from the U.S. host institution
- FNDR employer's endorsement, if employed
- FNDR applicant annexure

POINTS TO REMEMBER
- All applications must be completed online at: https://apply.iie.org/ffsp2027
- Your email address is your username. When you create an account for this online application, record your password in a secure place. You can log in and out of the application as frequently as you like using your username and password. If necessary, you can reset your password by clicking the "Forgot Your Password" link on the log-in page. Do not write in CAPS.
- You are not required to complete this application in one session. You can re-enter at any time and edit your application before you submit it. However, please remember that 60 minutes of inactivity will automatically log you out. You will have to log in again to resume your application.
- Once you submit your application, you can NO longer make any changes to it.
- Responses to questions on the application must adhere to established character limits**.**
- Prepare required documents and save them in PDF format. It is highly recommended that to preserve any formatting and special characters in your documents, you upload them in PDF format.
- Review the entire application before submitting it. The application should be free of grammatical and spelling errors.

CREATING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT
1. To start, click *Create an account*.
2. Enter your email address, first name, last name, and select your date of birth (Month-Date-Year) from the drop-down menus. **Your name must be entered exactly the way it appears (or will appear) on your passport. In case you do not have surname, please put FNU under Last Name.**

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Register

To register for an account, please enter the information requested below.

Email Address	
First Name	
Last Name	
Birthdate	▼ ▼ ▼

Continue

Note: Use an email address that you will be able to access for at least two years after submitting your application. Preferably use personal email address. This is the email address you will use to log in to your application account.

3. Click *Continue*. You will receive an email from apply@iie.org confirming that you have started the application. The email will include a temporary PIN. Follow the instructions in the email to activate your account using the temporary PIN.
4. You will be prompted to enter your pin and then create a password to complete login.

Login

A temporary PIN has been sent to your email address. If you do not receive this message in the next few minutes, please check your junk mail folder.

Email	
Account	
Temporary PIN	
Birthdate	▼ ▼ ▼

Login

Set Password

To protect the security of your account, please specify a new password. The password must meet complexity requirements.

New Password	
New Password (again)	

✖ At least one letter
✖ At least one capital letter
✖ At least one number
✖ Be at least 12 characters
✖ New passwords must match

Set Password

5. Returning users: Click *Log in* and enter your email address and password. If you do not remember your password, click *Forgot your password?* and follow the resulting instructions.

   In case you have created an application in the same portal in previous years you may log in directly using your previous email address and password and click on Start New Application to continue with your 2027-2028 online application.

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WELCOME
Please Confirm You Have Read the Fulbright Policy Guidelines.
Click on "Yes" and *Save and Continue.*

These questions address essential program eligibility. All questions are required.

Select the appropriate response from the drop-down list.

1. **Through which program country are you applying?** Select India from the dropdown menu.

2. **To which academic year are you applying?** The academic year 2027-2028 corresponds to initial grant periods between August/September 2027 and March 2028.

3. **Do you hold or are you applying for?** Select 'yes' or 'no' to indicate your response.
   Applicants cannot be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. to participate in the Fulbright Foreign Student Program from India.

4. **Have you reviewed and do you meet all program eligibility requirements for the country through which you are applying?**
   Select 'yes'.

IIE Privacy Statement & Safeguarding Guidelines

IIE values your privacy, and we encourage you to read our Privacy Statement, located on the privacy page on IIE's website.

The Privacy Statement outlines how IIE handles your data and includes the types of data we process, why they process it and with whom we share it. All application data is transmitted and stored in the United States.

Please note that IIE may be required to process data that is generally considered to be

sensitive. IIE only processes this information when it is necessary to execute the management of your application or program.

Please see the IIE Privacy Statement for more details.
Please click here to review IIE's Safeguarding Guidelines.

I have read IIE's Privacy Statement. I consent and acknowledge that IIE will process my data, and I have read the IIE Safeguarding Guidelines. Select "Yes" from the drop-down list and press "Continue."

Employment Eligibility*

Employees and their immediate families (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and of public or private organizations under contract to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development are ineligible to apply for a Fulbright grant until one year after termination of such employment.

Select the appropriate response from the drop-down list.

U.S. Residency

Have you resided in the United States for five or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application? Note: a period of nine months or more during a calendar year is considered to constitute a full year.

Select the appropriate response from the drop-down list.

Will you be residing in the United States at the time of your proposed grant start date?

Note: This question refers to your residence status **prior to** your Fulbright-Nehru grant start date. Select "Yes" if you are currently residing in, or plan to reside in, the U.S. prior to the proposed grant start date; otherwise, select "No."

Select the appropriate response from the drop-down list.

Reference Materials Waiver*

If selected for a Fulbright award opportunity, cooperating agencies may need to provide copies of forms and letters submitted by your recommenders to U.S. institutions on your behalf. In these cases, the responsible cooperating agency must indicate whether you waive your right of access to confidential references in accordance with the U.S. Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA), 20 U.S. C. 1232(g). If you indicate below that you **do not** waive your right of access, this will be indicated on the form provided to each recommender.

Select the appropriate response from the drop-down list. Click *Save and Continue.*

COUNTRY INFORMATION

This page provides information about USIEF, the Fulbright Commission in India, the name of the fellowship, website information, and the deadline.

Select/Change Award

Select "2027-2028 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships" from the drop-down menu.

Click *Save and Continue.*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Prefix: Select the most appropriate title from the drop-down menu.

First/Given Name, Middle Name and Last/Family Name: This will auto-populate based on the information you provided during registration. Please review and ensure that your name should appear exactly as it appears on your passport. This spelling will be used on all documents related to your Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship.

Biographical Information: Complete the items as per the online form.

The Fulbright Program complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (the "ADA") and is committed to diversity and inclusion. If you have any form of limitation that requires accommodation, please indicate in the space given. This information is gathered only for statistical purposes and to ensure appropriate accommodation at a prospective host institution.

Citizenship Information: Complete the items as per the online form.

National Identification Number: Please leave this blank. Do not add UIDAI number Click *Save and Continue* to save your responses and advance to the next section.

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CONTACT INFORMATION
Complete the items as per the online instructions.

Email: Please use the email you have used to create the application and use it frequently.

Emergency Contact Information: The individuals listed under emergency contacts (India and U.S.) may be contacted in the event of an emergency while undertaking activities related to this grant opportunity, including any possible travel required for interviews within India. This is mandatory.

Click *Save and Continue* to save your responses and advance to the next section.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION
Note: Prepare and upload documents in PDF format as required (*). Note page limits specified and ensure your documents do not exceed page limits.

Curriculum Vitae/ Resume: The curriculum vitae describes academic credentials and demonstrates a record of scholarly achievements (document should not exceed four (4) pages. Please upload your CV on this page of the online application). If you indicate books, articles or theses that are available online, please include the URL links. If you have a professional website (e.g., design and visual arts), please include this URL as well. Do not include photographs in CV.

Academic Background: List up to three completed degrees. Enter your highest degree first (e.g., Ph.D., Master's, Bachelor's). You may add additional institutions by clicking on "Add New Academic Background."

Applicants should enter their academic performance as follows:
- **For percentage-based systems:** Enter your percentage (e.g., 85 or 90) in the "Final cumulative GPA (grade point average)" field and 100 in the "Highest possible GPA of academic institution" field. The system does not accept the "%" symbol, but it is understood.
- **For GPA-based systems:** Enter your GPA (e.g., 3.2 or 3.5) in the "Final cumulative GPA (grade point average)" field. In the "Highest possible GPA of academic institution" field, enter 4 if your institution uses a 1.0–4.0 scale or 5 if it follows a 1.0–5.0 scale.

Professional Experience: List your current and relevant previous professional experience, if any. You may add additional information by clicking on "Add New Professional Experience."

Awards and Recognitions: Complete as per the online instructions. List your most significant professional accomplishments, honors, awards, up to three significant publications, teaching and research experience (if any), and membership/licensing in Professional Organizations. Please write 'not applicable' if none.

Experience Abroad: If you have traveled, lived, or studied in any country other than your own for more than one month, please list this experience below. This can include time overseas for education, research, business, vacation, etc. You may add additional information by clicking on "Add New Experience Abroad."

Indicate if you have entered the U.S. on J-I or J-2 visa and upload the copy of the previous DS-2019.

Previous Fulbright Grant(s):
If you have previously been awarded a Fulbright Grant, select yes from the dropdown menu. Please list the grant(s) by clicking on "Add Grant."

Click *Save and Continue* to save your responses and advance to the next section.

ACADEMIC MATERIALS (Transcripts and Diplomas):
Please select the corresponding institution from the list that appears and upload your documents when prompted. If you do not see an institution that you attended in the list, please first return to the Academic & Professional Information page and update your academic background.

Please upload the scanned copy of your degrees/diplomas certificates and mark sheets from post-secondary institutions you have attended. Transcripts are not required. You must include mark sheets for all yearly or semester examinations and not just the final one. You can upload consolidated marksheet. **Do not** include high school/senior secondary school mark sheets or certificates. Certificates and mark sheets in any language other than English must be accompanied by certified English translations.

Do not upload images taken by your mobile camera.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:
Complete proficiency of languages as per the online instructions.

Click *Save and Continue* to save your responses and advance to the next section.

TEST SCORES: Select "Add Test" below to add information about TOEFL you have taken or will take in the future. It is **not** mandatory to submit TOEFL scores at the time of application. If recommended for the fellowship, USIEF will provide vouchers for the TOEFL exam. However, if you have taken TOEFL/Duolingo in October 2025 or later, please upload your score report. Do not upload score report of IELTS etc.

SCORE REPORTS: Please upload copies of available score reports in the respective upload area. To add additional test types, please return to the Standardized Test Scores page.

PLAGIARISM in any part of your application will result in your disqualification from participating in the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. Please select the appropriate response and click on *Save and Continue*.

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Some U.S. universities and colleges have developed and published policies on the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) on applications for admission or affiliation with their institution. Some institutions may scan applications for the use of language produced by GenAI. While individual institutional policies range widely and policy responses from U.S. universities will continue to evolve, copying language/content produced by GenAI directly into your application may negatively impact admission or affiliation decisions.

STUDY PLAN:

For which degree objective are you applying? Select "Visiting Student Researcher" from the list.

* A Visiting Student Researcher is a current doctoral student enrolled in a Ph.D. program in their home country who seeks to advance their research at a U.S. institution.

	Study Plan
Home	
Welcome	Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required of all applicants for submission. Please review country-specific guidance to determine whether unmarked questions are required.
Preliminary Questions	
Country Information	
Personal Information	**What is your intended program/degree objective in the United States?** *
Contact Information	☐ Master's ☐ Doctorate ☐ Non-Degree* ☑ Visiting Student Researcher**
Academic & Professional Information	
Academic Materials	** A Non-Degree Student is expected to be enrolled in full-time studies at a U.S. institution and is typically charged tuition and fees for these courses (unless waived). A Non-Degree Student will not receive a degree from the U.S. institution (but may receive a certificate). This objective is also applicable to semester/year abroad programs, where the home-country institution will award a degree based on transferred credit resulting from this exchange.*
Language Skills	
Standardized Test Scores	*** A Visiting Student Researcher is usually a current doctoral student enrolled in a Ph.D. program in their home country who seeks to advance their research at a U.S. institution. A Visiting Student Researcher does not enroll in any credit-bearing courses (but may audit courses when allowed by the host institution), does not pay tuition (but may be subject to affiliation fees), does not receive any degree from the host institution and is expected to be engaged in full-time research. This option is also applicable to certain Fulbright faculty development programs that do not result in a degree.*
Plagiarism Agreement	
Study Plan	

What is your intended field of research? Select one discipline from the drop-down menu that is closest to your study objective.

Important note: The disciplines in the drop-down menu **may not** exactly match the list of eligible fields for the Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships. You will be required to indicate your chosen field of study in the **FNDR Applicant Annexure**, which you will download from USIEF website, and upload on the page: Additional Information under Country-specific materials of online form.

What is the title of your proposed research? Please provide the title of the project you intend to pursue under your proposed Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship in the United States.

Briefly describe the area of the field in which you plan to specialize in the United States: In 3-5 sentences, provide a summary of the Fulbright project that easily allows non-specialists to appreciate the significance of the project or any potential contributions to the field. (700-character limit, use Roman characters only).

Describe any resources that you will require to successfully complete your research while in the United States. (ex: archives, libraries, lab equipment, samples, interview subjects, etc.)

Briefly describe your future plans (should be no more than 300 words).

Intended Grant Period:
Proposed length of stay in the U.S.: Please indicate the duration of fellowship between 6-9 months.

Note: The duration will **not be** changed later. It is recommended that you plan your program during the U.S. academic year (generally August/September 2027 through March 2028), when your U.S. colleagues are more likely to be available. You cannot begin your grant before August 2027 or after March 2028.

Proposed date of arrival in the U.S.: Please indicate the expected date of your arrival in U.S. university. Please check the academic calendar of the U.S. university for more information.

Study/Research Objective: Upload a copy of a clear and detailed description of your study objectives and give reasons for wanting to pursue them. Your Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research fellowship should be part of your ongoing Ph.D. research in an Indian institution. Be specific about your major field and your specialized interests within this field. Describe the kind of program you expect to undertake and explain how your study plan fits in with your previous training and your future objectives. This statement is an essential part of your application and is required. Do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study. It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format.

Do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to research. It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format. It is advisable for you to limit your response to 50 lines (1-2 pages) of text.

FORMAT
- Do not exceed the page limit of the proposal.
- Begin the project statement with the project title at the top of page one.
- Organize your proposal in order of the following points, which appear in bold print, and use them as headings for sections of text in your statement.

GUIDANCE FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT
Background: Introduce the research topic. Place the project in an academic or professional context by referring to major works by others on the subject.
Objectives: Clearly define the aims of the project. It should align with you Ph.D. area of research.
Methodology: Describe the project. Explain the approach, methods and plan you will use (for example, interviews, library or archival research, or laboratory experiments). Indicate whether the proposed research is quantitative or qualitative.
Significance: Explain the importance of the project for the field, India and the U.S., and your own professional development. Indicate what effect you expect the opportunity to have on your teaching or professional work in India. (For example: new approaches to curriculum planning, student advising or pedagogy; expanding knowledge in the field through collaboration with U.S. colleagues). Briefly describe

the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community, or professional field.

Evaluation and Dissemination: Describe plans for the assessment and distribution of research results in your home country and elsewhere.

Justification for Residence in the United States for the Proposed Project: Indicate why it is necessary to conduct the research onsite in the United States.

Research Plan and Timeline: Provide a monthly/quarterly timeline of the execution of your Fulbright-Nehru project in the U.S.

English Proficiency: Describe your schooling in English, use of English and competence level in speaking, reading and writing.

Other: If applicable, indicate the quantity, format, and transportation requirements for any samples that you will need to bring to the United States for analysis.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT RECOMMENDATIONS

You might find the following additional advice from former Fulbright scholars, reviewers, and program staff useful in preparing a more competitive application.

- Submit a clear and complete project statement that introduces you professionally to your colleagues in the United States. The best applications are those that reflect the applicant's purpose and intent.

- Make sure that your qualifications and your expertise match the objectives in your project statement. You should be able to show that you are qualified to accomplish what you are proposing to do.

- Emphasize how your project will benefit the host institution or other scholars in your field both in India and in the United States. Address in your project statement the ways in which you will use the experience upon your return. What is the likely impact of your experience abroad? How will you use what you learned upon your return, professionally and personally?

- Discuss any preparatory steps you have taken or will take before starting your grant. For example, if you plan to bring samples of plants, chemicals, human tissue, etc., indicate that you have discussed your plans with your prospective host and applicable agencies to determine what clearance and approval processes are needed.

- Connect your experience to what you are preparing to do if you receive an award. Explain the project's significance and its importance to the field. Focus on what can be reasonably accomplished during the period of the grant.

- Do not assume that your suitability for the project is self-evident. Your standing in your field may not be well known to reviewers. You need to make a case for yourself based on your experience and current scholarly endeavors. Explain the significance of your project in a language that will be understood by reviewers from outside your field.

- Do not stress only how a Fulbright grant will benefit you or your career. Remember that the program is intended to foster mutual understanding between cultures and nations.

- Be specific in describing your previous work and in laying out the nature of your proposed Fulbright activity. A frequent failing in applications is that the proposal is underdeveloped or too imprecise to give reviewers a clear sense of the endeavor.

STYLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Express what you can bring to the program clearly and succinctly. Think of the basic questions that need to be answered: Why should I apply for a Fulbright award to come to the United States? If selected, what will I do and how will I do it? What preparations have I made to complete the project? What can I contribute to the Fulbright Program? What will the results of my participation be? Include only the most pertinent information in forming your responses so as not to exceed the page restrictions. At the same time, you should avoid writing a proposal so brief that it will be difficult for the reviewer to understand the project.

- Emphasize key points in the first paragraph of the proposal. Reviewers examine many Fulbright applications, and having to search for the main points of the proposed activity is not helpful. You should grab the reviewer's attention quickly and state clearly what you want to do, why it is important and how you will do it. You should use the rest of the proposal to support your statements in the opening paragraphs.

- Pay attention to style in your proposal. You may want to use the first person, but you should avoid flooding your proposal with "I's" or referring to yourself in the third person.

- Keep your proposal simple and straightforward so that an educated reader from another discipline can understand it.

Personal Statement: This personal statement should be a narrative statement describing how you have achieved your current goals. It should not be a mere listing of facts. It should include information about your education, practical experience, special interests, and career plans. Describe any significant factors that have influenced your educational or professional development. Comment on the number of years of practical experience already completed in the field in which academic work will be done in the U.S. Do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study.

It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format. It is advisable for you to limit your response to 50 lines (1-2 pages) of text.

Letter of Invitation: Please upload a signed letter of invitation on institutional letterhead. In case you receive an invitation after submission of the application, please send it to ffsp@usief.org.in for inclusion in the application form.

University Preferences: It is mandatory for the applicants to provide this information.

Online instructions say, "It is not a requirement, nor is it expected for you to identify institutions at which you would like to study. However, if you do have preferences, please list in priority order up to four schools of your choice." However, Indian applicants must complete this item and also indicate ranking (order of preference).

You will be affiliated to one U.S. host institution for your grant. Mention three U.S. institutions with which you would prefer to be affiliated in the order of preference. Do not just list the name of a university in which you are interested. Be

specific. Provide the name of the department and specialization within that department in which you are interested. If you have been in contact or correspondence with a faculty member, please provide the name and contact information for that individual. Upload all letter(s) of invitation, indicating date and duration of your visit on the Page: Study Plan under Letter of Invitation as one .pdf file. If you receive letter(s) of invitation after the application deadline, please forward to ffsp@usief.org.in

Authorization of Release of Information: Read carefully and type your name in the box.

GRANT & TRAVEL PLANS
Please leave the columns given under "Family Funds," "Expected Additional Funding," and "Travel Funds" blank.

Passport/Travel Document: If you have a valid passport, please upload the bio page of your passport that bears your name, place and date of birth, passport number, place and date of issue.

Accompanying Dependents: Please indicate if you plan to take any dependents (spouse and children below 21 years of age) with you to the U.S. At this stage of your application, passport information for your dependents is not required. **Note:** The Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships *does not* provide any financial support for dependents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Country-Specific Materials:
FNDR Applicant Annexure: Upload the PDF format of the completed **FNDR Applicant Annexure** on this link. You can download this from USIEF website. Please type your name (as per the passport). Digital signature is not required.

Writing Sample: Once you have uploaded the FNDR Applicant Annexure, upload the PDF format of a writing sample (not exceeding 20 pages) - a copy of the original article or paper published/presented or extracts from the Master's/M.Phil. thesis in the online application form.

Supplemental Materials: Upload scanned copy of Ph.D. registration certificate on this section of the online application form. The Ph.D. registration certificate should specify the date of Ph.D. registration, title of the Ph.D., and name of the Ph.D. supervisor.

DO NOT UPLOAD IMAGES TAKEN BY YOUR MOBILE CAMERA.

Additional Documentation: Please upload FNDR employer's endorsement form (if applicable). Candidates enrolled in Ph.D. **alone** need not complete endorsement form.

Outreach Survey: Please complete as per online form instructions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

You must have three letters of reference submitted on your behalf. All letters of reference should be written by teachers under whom you have studied or pursued research or by someone who has supervised you in work related to your proposed field of study. Letters of reference should not be written by persons related to you either by blood or marriage or by personal friends. *In your online application form, one of the recommendations must be from your Ph.D. supervisor.* S/he must comment on your research work and the usefulness of the fellowship and indicate the Ph.D. registration date and topic. The letters should be written in English if possible. If they are not, an original English translation must be provided.

Click the "Add Recommender**"** button in the application form to register your referees. You will need to complete this form to allow your referee(s) to submit your references online. It is imperative that you accurately enter the information as your referee will receive an automated email informing him/her of the online reference process. Your referees will receive an email from Fulbright@iie.org directly, asking them to register for the website and complete their recommendations. You will receive an email notification after the referee submits the online recommendation letter. You must follow up with the referee if you do not receive the reference submission notification. References must be submitted no later than **July 1, 2026.**

Your referee will be able to submit the recommendation even before the submission of your online application.

SIGNATURE
Read carefully and type your full name in the box.

REVIEW
Before you submit your application electronically, your application will be reviewed for completeness. If there is missing data, you will be prompted to correct it.

Preview Application Proof: You can download the pdf copy of the application, review and keep a copy for your record.

IMPORTANT: REFER TO THE FNDR APPLICATION CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ONLINE APPLICATION.

Note: On submission of your online application, you will receive the following automated response:

"Congratulations! You have successfully submitted your online application to the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. You may also receive a confirmation email from the Fulbright agency in your home country/country of application to verify that your application has been received…"

United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) - Fulbright Commission in India - will not send any additional confirmation e-mail to you.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2026, 23:59:59 hrs (IST)

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If you have any questions, please write to ffsp@usief.org.in