Connecting People, Promoting Science

Julianne Parayo and Danielle Roth. Photo: Archiwum Komisji Fulbrighta.

In this Issue: Fulbright Program
Dear Zoom Readers,

It is a great pleasure for the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission to be presented in this magazine. Fulbright is a worldwide program that is operated on bilateral basis, meaning in our case that we provide scholarships that allow us to send Poles to U.S. and to host Americans in Poland. It’s an academic program, so we aim at graduate level students, doctoral candidates and scholars. But beyond that, what distinguishes Fulbright from many other grant programs, is our emphasis on intercultural exchange and learning. Being a Fulbright grantee encompasses being an informal ambassador of your culture in the host country.

Sometimes our awards are associated with big names from the world of politics or business which might discourage young people from applying, thinking they’re not eligible. Not so! It’s true that our scholarships are for resourceful people who are achieving good results in their discipline, but one doesn’t have to be a genius to be successful in our recruitment. On the other hand, being a Fulbrighter may boost your career and profit in the future, as our scholarship is widely recognized and appreciated all around the world.

In the upcoming academic year 2018-19 over 50 Polish Fulbright awardees will start their adventure in the United States. Our program in Poland has a special focus in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) - we’d like to encourage more candidates from these fields to apply and receive an award. That said, we are open to almost all disciplines, as long as candidates can explain their need to study, conduct research or teach in the USA. Will you apply one day?

Our Programs

The Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission offers a wide range of grant programs for students, PhD candidates and postdocs. Fulbright grantees receive a monthly stipend to cover the costs of living in the USA, travel allowance, a lump sum for settling in, as well as partly or fully covered university fee or tuition. Depending on the program, grant duration, and needs of the particular grantee, our scholarships vary between $15,000 and $47,000. We also provide grantees with pre-departure orientation, support of our U.S based partner, and an enrichment program during the grant. We encourage all grantees to take part in our alumni program and stay part of national and worldwide network of Fulbrighters.

All of our programs require candidates with academic excellence and a very good command of English. We are also looking for people who are able to show that a stay at an American university fits well with their scientific and professional plans. And last, but not least - we are looking for open-minded, sociable people, who will be positive representatives of Polish culture and academia in the United States.

Fulbright Graduate Student Award

Awards are granted to graduates of higher education institutions, who intend to enroll in a graduate program at any accredited U.S. higher education institution (with an exception for medical studies requiring direct contact with patients, LLM, and MBA programs). As a rule, Fulbright grant can cover the first year of studies in the U.S. Given good academic results, our grant can be renewed for the second year.

Fulbright Junior Research Award

Awards are granted to doctoral students preparing their Ph.D. at higher education institutions, research institutes, Polish Academy of Science units, international scientific institutes and other scientific units in Poland, in all fields, except for projects which require direct contact with patients who would like to collect materials and conduct research at American universities or research institutions for their doctoral thesis. Grants are provided for a duration of 6 to 9 months.

Fulbright Senior Award

This scholarship is for researchers and teachers (who work at universities, research institutes, scientific units of the Polish Academy of Sciences, international scientific institutes and other scientific units in Poland) for the implementation of their own research projects at American universities, non-profit research institutes and some government institutions. Grantees, in addition to the implementation of the research project, can also teach courses. Grants are provided for a duration of 3 to 9 months.

Fulbright Slavic Award

The Slavic Award is a 4- or 6-month grant for scholars working in Polish academic institutions who specialize in the culture and history of Poland and East-Central Europe. The grant allows them to teach classes at one of the universities that cooperate with the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission.

Other Fulbright Programs available for Polish citizens:

Scholar-in-Residence Program

Awards are granted to lecturers and researchers of all fields to primarily undertake teaching activities supporting a U.S. host institution and local community. Awards are offered for a semester or full academic year. Priority is given to host institutions that are minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and liberal arts colleges located in rural areas.

During the stay at the U.S. institution, the grantee conducts lectures and performs other engagements agreed upon with the host institution and, optionally, his/her own research project. Polish grantees are either named specifically by the host institution or selected through a recruit-
Fulbright process administered by CIES/U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Commission.

Fulbright-Schuman Program

This program, administered by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Belgium, is jointly financed by the U.S. State Department and the European Commission. It funds projects exclusively dealing with U.S.-E.U. relations, E.U. institutions, or E.U. policy. Awards are available to Polish and American students and professionals, including professionals in training (decision-makers, policy-makers, individuals in industry, the media, politics, academia, and public administration), who wish to study, research, or lecture on a topic relevant to U.S.-E.U. relations, E.U. policy, or E.U. institutions. The results of eligible projects should be relevant to at least two E.U. member states.

Find more information at: https://en.fulbright.edu.pl
J. William Fulbright was a prominent and gifted American statesman of the 20th century. His unequaled contribution to international affairs and his tenure as the longest serving chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee distinguished his political career of over thirty years in the United States Congress. He had profound influence on America’s foreign policy, and his vision for mutual understanding shaped the extraordinary exchange program bearing his name.

With the support of the United States government and through binational partnerships with foreign governments, the Fulbright Scholarship Program sponsors U.S. and foreign participants for exchanges in all areas of endeavor, including the sciences, business, academe, public service, government, and the arts and continues to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

His legislation establishing the Fulbright Program passed the Senate by unanimous consent in 1946 and drew strength from the United States’ national commitment to develop post war leadership and engage constructively with the community of nations. The first participants in the Fulbright Program went overseas in 1948, funded by war reparations and foreign loan repayments to the United States. This program has had extraordinary impact around the world. There have been more than 380,000 Fulbright students, scholars and teachers; many of them have made significant contributions within their countries, including the United States, as well as to the overall goal of advancing mutual understanding.

J. William Fulbright was born on April 9, 1905 in Sumner, Missouri. He was educated at the University of Arkansas where he earned a B.A. degree in political science in 1925. He then attended Oxford University where he received an M.A. degree and was transformed by his international experience.

When Fulbright returned to the United States, he studied law at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. During the 1930s, he served in the Justice Department and was an instructor at The George Washington University Law School. In 1936, he returned to Arkansas where he was a lecturer in law and, from 1939 to 1941, president of the University of Arkansas, at the time the youngest university president in the country.

He ran for political office in 1942 and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; he entered Congress in January 1943 and was appointed to the Foreign Affairs Committee. In September of that year, the House adopted the Fulbright Resolution supporting an international peace-keeping mechanism encouraging United States participation in what became the United Nations. His leadership on this issue brought national attention to Congressman Fulbright.

In November 1944, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served there from 1945 through 1974, becoming one of the most influential and best-known members of the Senate. In 1949, Senator Fulbright became a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. From 1959 to 1974 he served as chairman of the committee.

His Senate career was marked by notable instances of principled dissent. In 1954, he was the only Senator to vote against an appropriation for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which was chaired by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy; and, in 1961, he lodged serious objections to President Kennedy in advance of the Bay of Pigs invasion. However, Senator Fulbright also worked to build national consensus, for instance, he supported creating a national center for the arts, and his initial legislation led to the founding of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

He was particularly in the spotlight as a powerful voice in the turbulent Vietnam War era, when he chaired the Senate hearings on U.S. policy and the conduct of the war. In 1963 Walter Lippman wrote of Fulbright: “The role he plays in Washington is an indispensable role. There is no one else who is so powerful and also so wise, and if there were any question of removing him from public life, it would be a national calamity.”

After serving five consecutive terms in the U.S. Senate, Senator Fulbright was defeated in Arkansas’ 1974 Democratic primary. He then served as counsel to the Washington law firm of Hogan & Hartson and remained active in support of the Fulbright Program. He received numerous awards from governments, universities, and educational organizations around the world for his efforts on behalf of education and international understanding. In 1993, he was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton.

Senator Fulbright was married to Elizabeth Williams Fulbright for more than fifty years, from 1932 until her death in 1985. They had two daughters, Roberta Fulbright Foote and Elizabeth Fulbright Winnacker. Senator Fulbright married Harriet Mayor in 1990.

On February 9, 1995, Senator J. William Fulbright died in Washington, DC at the age of 89.

Text from the website of Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/about-fulbright/history/j-william-fulbright
Senator J. William Fulbright established the Fulbright Program, “...to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.” As a researcher and representative of the United States in Krakow, I strive to embody these core values.

I continue to gain “a little more knowledge” in the field of analysis and non-destructive research of cultural heritage at LANBOZ. One of the Hebrew manuscripts I am conserving, an eighteenth century legal manuscript on paper, underwent a series of scientific investigations last week, prior to conservation treatment. The manuscript was examined using x-ray fluorescence (XRF), confirming the presence of iron sulfate in the ink, as well as additional tests to determine the overall materiality and condition of the manuscript. The manuscript will be analyzed again in July, post conservation treatment. The information obtained from the scientific examinations will inform upcoming conservation treatments, storage requirements, and exhibition parameters.

In the upcoming months, scientific analysis will be conducted on the second object I am conserving, a Torah on vellum. In preparation for analysis, I have been stabilizing the Torah using various techniques. On the right are images of the dry cleaning process, which involves the removal of surface dirt and debris.

My main objective, not only in my current research, is to preserve cultural heritage for future generations. The eighteenth century legal manuscript – with texts in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Polish – offer an incomparable glimpse into historic legal proceedings of the local community. Entries contain historic legal records related to property ownership, debt, trade issues, prenuptial agreements, and dowries. The sense of honor and humility I feel working with manuscripts of such significance gives me “a little more reason” to advocate for and contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide.

Research aside, the collaborative nature of outside scholars from universities and conservation institutes has dramatically increased my desire to engage in future interna-
Briana Krewson Teaches English in Rzeszow

Since October, I’ve been teaching English at Uniwersytet Rzeszowski for two departments: the Institute of English Studies and the Center for Foreign Languages. Half of my students are second-years who I drill on speaking and writing in English. The other half of my students, some first-years and some Master’s students, are learning biological English from me.

In my time outside the classroom, I engage in community outreach. I volunteer with adults in Rzeszów so they can practice their English with a native speaker. I also teach weekly at different primary schools and high schools in Rzeszów, sometimes travelling to towns outside of Rzeszów to teach students under-exposed to native speakers. I’ve held multiple workshops for university students, I organized International Education Week activities, and I am mentoring a Polish high schooler through the USA college application. I organized Poland’s Fulbrighters to come to a Holocaust Commemoration conference at my university, whereby participants traveled to multiple small villages in the southeastern region of Poland. I also recently represented Fulbright Polska at the Berlin Seminar.

I spend my free time exploring European culture. I’ve traveled to a majority of countries throughout Europe, and, more importantly, I’ve travelled to every major city in Poland, learning about Polish history, traditions, nature, holidays, and regions. My Fulbright grant has opened my eyes to appreciating languages, customs, currencies, and eatery. I’m excited to share my newfound perspectives in America, where I will become a “teacher” of health.

As part of my Fulbright experience, I have engaged in a variety of community outreach projects. Removing myself from the research environment gave me “a little more compassion.” Most notably, I assisted two Krakow School of Art and Fashion Design students in drafting clothing patterns from original designs. I plan to participate in fashion and jewelry design courses over the summer as a way of exploring and incorporating Polish design aesthetics into my life.

Learn More:

- Fulbright Poland, American Grantees: https://en.fulbright.edu.pl/current-american-grantees/

Special Thanks:

- Fulbright Polska
- National Archives Krakow
- National Museum Krakow

Text and photos Ivey Barker

Briana Krewson Teaches English in Rzeszow

My time in Rzeszów with Participation in the Fulbright Program has taught me a lot about confidence, authority, independence, and diplomacy.

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ACTIVITY PAGE

Exercise 1. Reading

Read the articles on pp.: 2-6 and decide whether the sentences below are true or false:

1. Participation in the Fulbright Program can teach you a lot about confidence, authority, independence, and diplomacy.

2. J. William Fulbright was a prominent and gifted American pianist of the 20th century.

3. The Fulbright Slavic Award is a 1-month grant for scholars working in Polish academic institutions who specialize in the culture and history of Poland and East-Central Europe.

4. Fulbright had profound influence on America's foreign policy, and his vision for mutual understanding shaped the extraordinary exchange program bearing his name.

5. Fulbright academics help teach English.

Exercise 2. Speaking

Work in pairs.

What does a teaching job involve? Think and put down a list of advantages of the teaching profession while your partner should prepare a list of disadvantages.

When you finish compare your lists and discuss the advantages and disadvantages you have listed. Can you give an example of each from your classroom experience?

Would you make a good teacher? What characteristics should a good teacher have?

Finally, describe to your partner the best teacher you have ever had.

Exercise 3. Reading

Scan read the articles on pp. 5-6 and decide who wrote the sentences below: Briana or Ivey.

1. In my time outside the classroom, I engage in community outreach.

2. I assisted two Krakow School of Art and Fashion Design students in drafting clothing patterns from original designs.

3. I plan to participate in fashion and jewelry design courses over the summer as a way of exploring and incorporating Polish design aesthetics into my life.

4. Half of my students are second-years who I drill on speaking and writing in English.

5. I've traveled to a majority of countries throughout Europe, and, more importantly, I've travelled to every major city in Poland, learning about Polish history, traditions, nature, holidays, and regions.

6. Research aside, the collaborative nature of outside scholars from universities and conservation institutes has dramatically increased my desire to engage in future international exchanges and the probability of making a positive impact in the field.
Fulbrighters Jiwon Park and Evan Gaj at an event to celebrate 100 Years of Polish - American relations. 
Photo: Archiwum Komisji Fulbrighta