

Candy's Tips for the Fulbright

"Preguntando se llega a Oaxaca"

Be persistent and contact as many people as you think is necessary

- Email people who have obtained a Fulbright in the country of your selection and ask them specific questions about their application process (i.e. what their process of getting a letter of affiliation was like; how they organized their timeline)
- Email several potential affiliates (3-4) ahead of time, ideally several months before the application is due. If you can, meet with host institution advisors in person to see whether or not they can provide you with a letter of affiliation. Bring copies of your C.V. and your Fulbright application with you for the host institution advisor to read.
- Create opportunities where there are not any (volunteer to organize film screenings in your host country or volunteer your time to non-profit organizations)
- If you do not get the Fulbright the first time around, try again!

Do your homework

- Look at as many successful personal statements and grant proposals as possible
- Look up sources on writing a strong Fulbright personal statement and grant proposal
- Figure out what projects the Fulbright has funded before and make sure that you are not proposing a project that Fulbright has funded already
- Ask a lot of different people to look at your statement and don't be afraid of critique. In all, I had a total of seven people look at my application materials.
- Make sure that you can get a language evaluation from either a professor from your graduate university or where you studied as an undergraduate.

Give yourself time

- Give yourself plenty of time to translate documents. I had to translate my statement of purpose proposal and a C.V. from English to Spanish so that a potential affiliate would be able to let me know whether or not they would be able to advise me. When I obtained letters of recommendation from my host advisors, I had to translate the letter of affiliation of letters from Spanish to English.
- Though it sounds corny, give yourself time and make room for inspiration to write the personal statement. I had a bit of fragmented serendipity moments when I was writing mine and I did not write it in one setting.

Tell your dreams

- I made personal, academic, and professional reasons for why I wanted to do a Fulbright in Oaxaca. Moreover, I told my family, friends, and colleagues the reasons why I wanted to do a Fulbright.

Be aware of safety measures: It's important to make sure that if you apply for a Fulbright, you check the travel advisory

warnings: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/worldwide-caution.html>

Fulbright will not fund a project where they deem is unsafe for research. This is a helpful spread sheet that can give you more or less an idea of places that Fulbright has funded (or not) in the last few years: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AlU2xDiVhQjK3quPy6qXJuhgXYghzzG8L4YNT0unX0/edit#gid=578086360> But please note that this is not a spread sheet endorsed by Fulbright, rather, it is one that has been gathered by Fulbright awardees to keep track of award locations/notification dates and places.

Interview Stage:

If you made it this far, congratulations! Create a list of questions that you might be asked, video record yourself going over those questions, find someone who is also applying for a Fulbright (ideally in the same country) and exchange mock interviews with them.