

risd/careers/  
 2027/2028 Fulbright U.S. Student Program  
**Checklist & Deadlines – Applying in 2026**

	APPLICATION YEAR								THE FOLLOWING YEAR		
	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	JAN	SPRNG	FALL
<b>Get Started</b>											
<b>Initial Meeting(s)</b>											
<b>Project Development</b>											
<b>Kick-start Meeting / Intent</b>				MEET with FPA 5/21/2026							
<b>Host Country Affiliation</b>					DEVELOPED	CONFIRMED	LETTER RECEIVED 8/23/2026				
<b>Purpose Statement</b>					FIRST DRAFT 6/3/2026	DEVELOPED DRAFT July-early Aug	LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026	FINE-TUNE	SUBMIT 9/30/2026		
<b>Essays</b>					FIRST DRAFT 6/3/2026	DEVELOPED DRAFT July-early Aug	LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026	FINE-TUNE	SUBMIT 9/30/2026		
<b>Portfolio</b>							LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026	FINE-TUNE	SUBMIT 9/30/2026		
<b>Online Application</b>							LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026	FINE-TUNE	SUBMIT 9/30/2026		
<b>Transcript</b>							LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026				
<b>Language Self-Evaluation (LSE)</b>							LOCK - Campus Review 8/23/2026				
<b>RISD Fulbright Interview</b>								WEEK OF 9/14/2026			
<b>Foreign Language</b>									9/30/2026		
<b>Recommendation Letters</b>									9/30/2026		
<b>Semi-Finalist Notification</b>										Late Jan	
<b>Finalist Notification</b>											March-June
<b>Grant Begins</b>											Late summer to Early Winter

- **Get Started Between February and April**
  - Attend the RISD Fulbright Information Session.
  - Review Fulbright country program summaries and requirements. Revised for the new cycle early April. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries>
  - Review the Fulbright U.S. Student Program website, especially - About/Eligibility; About/Competition & Selection; Applicants/Application Components. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/>
  - Review carefully this RISD Fulbright Checklists & Deadlines document and the RISD Getting Started document on the RISD Career Center website. <https://careercenter.risd.edu/fulbright>
  - Review the RISD Fulbright Alumni website to learn about the impact the Fulbright has had on RISD Fulbrighters' career and lives. [www.risdfulbright.com](http://www.risdfulbright.com)
  - Develop organizational tools based on your style – set personal goals/timeline, create a plan and a to-do list, and be ready to capture your ideas in writing.
- **Initial Meeting(s) with RISD Career Advisors**
  - Meet with RISD Career Advisors to review the Fulbright process, gain advice and insights, and brainstorm ideas. <https://careercenter.risd.edu/meet-us> **Between February and April**
- **Project Development**
  - Conduct in-depth project, country, and affiliate research. **Start by February**
  - Consult with professors in your department and/or in other disciplines related to your project. Having a professor or expert in your field guide your project development early in the process will greatly strengthen your proposal. **Before summer break**
  - Access Fleet Library's collections at RISD and email or meet with a Research Librarian to expand on your findings, identify critical sources, and/or build research skills.
  - Meet with the RISD Center for Arts & Language to brainstorm and outline project ideas.
  - Reach out to RISD Fulbright Alumni in your discipline or of your country choice.
- **Kick-start Meeting / Intent to apply**
  - Meet with the RISD Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA) to confirm your intent to apply and discuss the viability of your proposal and the process. By 5/21/26  
At this meeting you should be prepared to talk in-depth about your proposal and address the following questions:
    - What country are you applying to AND why? What is unique about this country to advance your line of inquiry?
    - Are there specific country requirements/preferences and how do you intend to address them? (language, affiliation, fields of study, project type) Review and reference the country page: <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries>
    - What are your project ideas/grant activities ideas? What is your unique, narrowed-in angle that will make you stand out and make a case for feasibility?
    - Are you applying in the creative arts or academics? If arts, how are your activities, learning, engagement, lens, and outcomes a creative arts project versus focused on academic research or study?
    - What are your affiliate ideas and nature of relationship/support needed and/or graduate program of study AND why?
    - Why you? How are you prepared and what is the artistic area of growth?

- **Host Country Affiliation**
  - Research and determine potential affiliates. **Between February and April**
  - Meet with RISD Global to determine any RISD connections in your country choice and possible affiliate options. **Between March and May**
  - Reach out to the host country Fulbright Commission to ask for assistance with your affiliate development and/or specific questions. **As needed**
  - Begin outreach to potential affiliates. You may have to pick up the phone! **By the end of May**
  - Develop affiliation relationship. **By the end of June**
  - Confirm affiliate and check on status of affiliate letter. **By the end of July**
  - Receive affiliate letter on official letterhead signed by author (with English translation if applicable). **By early to mid-August**
  - Upload affiliate letter into the online application for application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. If the affiliation is not secured at this point, RISD may determine to not conduct the interview. **By 8/23/26**
  
- **Purpose Statement – 6,000 characters (with spaces)**
  - Make progress on your narrative structure - bullets, an outline, or rough draft. Getting your thoughts in writing will help you move things along. **By mid-May**
  - Email 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Purpose Statement to the FPA. You can use the “Key Content” (see RISD Fulbright Getting Started) as headers for this 1<sup>st</sup> Draft and respond to each. However, this draft should be in narrative form, not bullets. This draft should identify the country and why, and include a defined project and possible affiliates. **By 6/3/26**
  - Meet with the RISD Center for Arts & Language to discuss your drafts and revisions. **Between June and early August**
  - Meet with your professor or mentor to discuss your drafts. **Between June and early August**
  - Email Developed Draft Purpose Statement to the FPA, addressing all the “Important Fulbright Points” (see RISD Fulbright Getting Started). *This draft should include affiliate details, and have a clearly defined research topic, compelling reasons for choosing a particular country, a straightforward project plan, and distinct expected results/outcomes.* **Between July and early August**
  - Copy/paste your Purpose Statement into the Fulbright online application for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
  - Fine-tune your Purpose Statement after your RISD Fulbright Interview. **September**
  - Copy/paste your Final Purpose Statement into the Application. **By 9/30/26**
  
- **Essays – various character counts**
  - Meet with the RISD the RISD Center for Arts & Language to discuss your Essays along with your Purpose Statement. **Between June and August**
  - Email 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Essays to the FPA with your Purpose Statement, particularly: **Flexibility & Adaptability, Community Engagement, Impact of Fulbright Award, and Arts Experience Summary**. Develop compelling essays that align with you Purpose Statement in content AND quality, and help make the case of “why you.” **By 6/3/26**
  - Meet with the RISD the RISD Center for Arts & Language to discuss your Essays along with your Purpose Statement. **Between June and August**
  - Consider and develop all short answer Essay responses (there are more, shorter ones, in addition to the main four!). **Between July and early August**
  - Email Developed Draft Essays to the FPA. **Between July and early August**
  - Copy/paste your Essays into the Fulbright online application for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
  - Fine-tune your Essays after your RISD Fulbright Interview. **September**
  - Copy/paste your Final Essays into the Application. **By 9/30/26**

- **Portfolio**
  - Review Portfolio requirements for your chosen discipline and the uploading process. **By the end of June**
  - Review the Portfolio narrative questions and character counts. **By the end of June**
  - Determine and prepare images and narrative responses. **Between June and early August**
  - Upload images and narrative into the Fulbright online application for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
  - Fine-tune your materials. **September**
  - Upload your final images and narratives. **By 9/30/26**
- **Online Application**
  - Register an account by going to the Applicants tab at <https://us.fulbrightonline.org>. Go to Applicants tab, Fulbright Online Application. **By the end of May**
  - Review biographical data that will be needed. **By the end of June**
  - Collect information and prepare the online application. **Between June and early August**
  - **LOCK** your application to receive a RISD full application package review, a RISD portfolio review, and a RISD Fulbright Interview. **By 8/23/26**
  - Fine-tune field answers, format, and order. **September**
  - Complete and **SUBMIT** your final application to Fulbright. **By 9/30/26**
- **Special Requirements for Country**
  - Determine if there are any additional requirements of the country (translations, statements in the host country language, admission letters, communication with officials, etc.) **By the end of June**
  - Determine if your country offers the Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA), and if you are eligible and interested. Complete the CLEA form and address this in your plans in the Statement of Grant Purpose. **By the end of July**
  - Complete and upload any additional documents for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
- **Transcripts**
  - Obtain transcripts from the Registrar from each of your post-secondary schools (a student copy rather than official is fine; however, the RISD unofficial transcript will not work as there is not enough detail). **In July/early August**
  - Scan, adjust, and upload your transcript for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
- **Language Self-Evaluation (LSE)**
  - Determine if an LSE form is required or recommended by your country. **By the end of May**
  - Review the requirements and instructions. **By the end of July**
  - Complete the form in the online application for the application **LOCK** RISD reviews and interview. **By 8/23/26**
- **Application LOCK for Campus Review**
  - **LOCK** your application to receive a RISD full application package review, a RISD portfolio, review, and RISD Interview. **By 8/23/26**
  - Do not unlock your application until after the interview.
- **RISD Fulbright Interview**
  - Confirm that all materials are complete and uploaded into the online application for review by the RISD Fulbright Interview Committee. **LOCK** your application. **By 8/23/26**
  - If the affiliation is not secured or the application incomplete at this point, RISD may determine to not conduct the interview.
  - Attend the RISD Fulbright Interview via Zoom; arranged by the FPA. **The week of 9/14/26**

- **Foreign Language Evaluation (FLE)**
  - Determine if an FLE is required or recommended by your country. **By the end of May**
  - Determine who your evaluator will be (a professional language teacher) and review the requirements and instructions with them. **By the end of July**
  - Complete the evaluation with your evaluator. **In August/September**
  - Register your evaluator in the online application and make sure they understand the uploading process. **In August/September**
  - Ensure your evaluator has uploaded the form. **By 9/30/26**
- **Recommendations – 3 Required**
  - Reach out to recommenders who can speak to your ability to carry out the project. **By the end of July**
  - Register your 3 recommenders in the online application and make sure they understand the uploading process. **By mid-August**
  - Ensure ALL 3 recommenders have uploaded their letter. **By 9/30/26**
- **SUBMIT**
  - Make final, limited, select edits to your application after your interview. This final stage is up to you! **Mid-September**
  - Proof all the pages of your final application carefully. **Late September**
  - **SUBMIT** your final application. **By 9/30/26**
  - The national deadline is **10/6/26**.
- **Award Notification**
  - The U.S. Fulbright Screening Committee will review applications and notify candidates if they are a Semi-Finalist, which means they have been recommended to the host country for review. **In late January/early February.**
  - The host countries review applications and make award decisions. Final award notifications will trickle in during the spring. **Between March and June.**