

# UNITED STATES – INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)

*Promoting Mutual Understanding*



# USIEF's MANDATE

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Administer the  
Fulbright-Nehru and  
other Fulbright  
fellowships for Indian  
and American  
students, lecturers,  
researchers and  
professionals

Advance U.S.  
leadership in higher  
education, research,  
and innovation  
through  
EducationUSA India

Serve as a resource  
for fostering  
linkages between  
higher education  
institutions in the  
U.S. and India

# USIEF's STRUCTURE

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Activities guided by a  
**binational  
Board of Directors**

Program management  
and staff overseen by  
the Executive Director,  
**Adam J. Grotsky,**  
and  
Deputy Director,  
**Megha Sunger**

Headquarters in  
**New Delhi**  
with regional offices  
in **Chennai, Kolkata,**  
**and Mumbai**

# THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM: ESTABLISHED IN 1946



## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

**Increase** mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries

**Create** a large academic and cultural network around the world

## FULBRIGHT IN INDIA

**Since** 1950, USIEF has awarded over 21,000 Fulbright Fellowships to Indian and American citizens

**For 2026-27**, USIEF has awarded **123** Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships to **U.S. citizens**

**For 2026-27**, USIEF has awarded **105** Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships to **Indian citizens**



# THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN INDIA

February 2, 1950



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and U.S. Ambassador to India Loy Henderson sign the Fulbright Agreement for India

July 4, 2008



Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon and U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford declaring both India and U.S. equal partners

# Grant Dates

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- All U.S. Fulbright-Nehru scholars are required to enter grant status anytime between **August 23, 2026, to May 31, 2027**
- All Flex scholars are required to enter grant status anytime from **August 23, 2026, May 31, 2027**, for not less than one month and complete the final grant phase by **August 31, 2028**
- All U.S. Fulbright scholars to India are required to meet virtually (or in person if you will be in a city with a USIEF office, i.e., Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai) with a USIEF official within 24 hours of their arrival in India



# Certificate of Affiliation

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- All Fulbrighters will be affiliated with ONE primary affiliating institution. USIEF will secure your Certificate of Affiliation (CoA) from your proposed host institution
- All Fulbrighters must be affiliated with institutions/organizations of higher education approved and listed on the website of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, including institutions accredited by [AICTE](#), [UGC](#) and other [Apex Level Bodies](#) of the Ministry or medical institutions accredited by the [National Medical Commission](#)
- This means that Fulbrighters cannot be affiliated with non-government organizations (NGOs), think-tanks, research organizations or other institutions that are not recognized by these regulatory bodies
- This CoA is used to apply for your Student Visa/ Project Clearance
- Once you receive your CoA, please be in touch with your academic host in India to plan your teaching/ research

# Medical Clearance

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- Medical clearance is a prerequisite for starting your grant
- This process is managed by our partner IIE in the U.S. IIE will send a detailed email regarding the medical clearance process
- The *Medical History and Examination Form* should be completed and submitted within 2-6 months of the grant start date
- Questions related to medical clearance can be addressed to [FulbrightScholarAdvisingSCA@iie.org](mailto:FulbrightScholarAdvisingSCA@iie.org)



# Grant Award Letter

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- USIEF issues the Fulbright Grant Authorization document (Non-IIE grant doc)
- USIEF will also provide a digital copy of the Visa / Project Clearance Support Letter 6-8 weeks prior to the start of your grant
- Please sign, scan and return a copy of the grant document to IIE and USIEF

# Student Visa or Project Clearance

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- All Scholars must apply for **Student Visa**
  - For grants less than 5 months (including flex grants), scholars must apply for a six-month Multiple Entry Student Visa (visa less than 180 days)
  - For grants that are between 6 to 12 months in length, scholars must apply for a one-year Multiple Entry Student Visa

**OR**

- All Scholars who are Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders require a Project Clearance from the online OCI services portal: <https://ociservices.gov.in/welcome>

**IMPORTANT:** Please check whether your OCI card is linked to your current passport. This is a mandatory requirement by the Government of India before applying for Project Clearance

- Official dependents –Student Visa or OCI card holders
- Please send USIEF a copy of your visa/project clearance as soon as you receive it

# Registration in India

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- All Student Visa holders (for visas valid for more than 180 days) **MUST** register with GOI's Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)/ Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) at your place of affiliation within 14 days of arrival in India
- For registration, grantees must show proof of accommodation at city of affiliation for the entire duration of grant period
- Registration process may vary from place to place and may take time. Grantees should plan their grant-related travel in India only after the completion of the registration process. In some cases, this could take up to two weeks
- Some FRROs require your registration to be channeled through your affiliating institute
- Visa extension/residency extension also need to be processed at the place of your FRRO registration 60 days before the expiry of your current residential permit
- USIEF will guide you regarding the FRRO process upon your arrival in India



# Travel Arrangements

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- USIEF arranges round-trip air tickets for all Fulbright-Nehru grantees. For Flex grantees, USIEF will provide two or three round trip air tickets for the grantee only (as per the IIE Fulbright application)
- Travel must comply with the ‘Fly America Act’
- Fulbright-Nehru grantees can also use Air India
- Tickets will be issued after issuance of Student Visa/ Project Clearance as well as Medical Clearance

# Allowances

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- Allowances are paid in dollars and are wire transferred to your designated U.S. bank account
- USIEF absorbs wire transfer charges up to \$15 upon submission of bank statement
- First transfer is made one week prior to your arrival
- Subsequently, USIEF advances funds for two months
- USIEF will provide a *Schedule of Payment* to scholars before arrival in India

# Dependents

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- Distinguished Scholar and Academic and Professional Excellence:
  - Travel allowance - up to two dependents
  - Dependent allowance - up to three dependents. Dependents must accompany the grantee for at least 80% of the grant period
  - Tuition fees to be reimbursed up to \$5,000 per child or \$10,000 per family for accompanying dependent children in grades K-12 on reimbursement basis
- Flex Scholars:
  - Dependent allowance - up to two dependents. Dependents must accompany the grantee for at least 80% of the entire grant period

# Housing

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- Initial 7 days accommodation at the city of affiliation is provided and paid by USIEF **upon arrival**
- Flex scholars will receive total of seven nights initial accommodation (room only) as arranged by USIEF that can be availed during any of the phases of the grant
- In cities where USIEF has offices, housing assistance is provided through realtors/agents
- In other cities, USIEF encourages host institutions to provide support for identifying housing
- USIEF shall reimburse brokerage fee up to \$600 (maximum) one time only, upon submission of brokerage receipt
- Certain cities may require 4 to 6 months rent in advance by homeowners as security deposit



# Facilitation

- USIEF provides the support of a facilitator at your place of affiliation to ease your settling in process
- The facilitator will assist you in obtaining cell phone & internet connection, apprising about the local neighborhood and travel within the affiliating city





# Safety & Security

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- U.S. Fulbrighters should get an Indian phone connection immediately upon arrival in India. Please provide your Indian phone number to USIEF as soon as it gets activated
- USIEF will activate a phone tree at the time of an emergency, including natural disaster, civil unrest, terrorist attack, etc.
- Fulbright grantees should familiarize themselves with the State Department's information on India:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>
- Fulbright grantees are required, upon arrival in India, to register their names with the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy through the Smart Traveler Enrolment Program (STEP):  
<https://step.state.gov/step/>

# Health

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- For advice on immunizations, please contact your doctor or travel clinic. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) has comprehensive health information for travelers
- Please make sure to familiarize yourself with India's mosquito borne and water borne diseases, air pollution challenges, et al.
- The U.S. Department of State has contracted a third-party administrator to offer Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE), a limited healthcare benefit to help pay covered medical expenses. This benefit is valid during your grant period in India only. This is a health benefit plan and not comprehensive health insurance; it is subject to specific limitations. Fulbright recipients are responsible for providing their dependents with insurance
- In case of any medical emergency, please contact USIEF immediately

# Travel & Leave Policy

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- Fulbright grants require a full-time commitment, therefore travel (domestic and international) which is unrelated to the grant purpose is to be kept to a minimum
- Grantees must inform USIEF by email when they travel outside their city of affiliation
- Any travel outside of India without prior permission of USIEF will result in immediate revocation of the Fulbright grant
- Jammu and Kashmir: Fulbright students and scholars in India are prohibited from traveling to Jammu & Kashmir. Any travel to this region will result in the immediate revocation of the Fulbright grant



# Travel & Leave Policy continued...

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- All Fulbright-Nehru grantees are eligible for 14 days of out-of-country travel with prior permission at least 2 weeks in advance from USIEF. Out-of-country travel includes weekends and holidays. APE Flex Scholars are eligible for a total of 7 days of out-of-country travel across all grant phases with prior permission from USIEF
- Travel expense: Grantee's responsibility
- Stipend is continued but ASPE is suspended
- International travel is not permitted towards the end of the grant

# South and Central Asia Regional Travel Program (SCA-RTP)

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- Provides travel grants to Fulbright Scholars to spend a period of three to fourteen days in another South and Central Asian country during their grant period to participate in professional activities
- Offers local academic institutions, U.S. Embassies and Consulates, and Fulbright Commissions in South and Central Asia the opportunity to benefit from the academic and professional expertise of U.S. Fulbright Scholars currently in the region
- The SCA Regional Travel Grant is not counted towards 14 days of international travel provided to Fulbright scholars
- Flex Grantees are now eligible for SCA Regional Travel Grant. However, there is a maximum of seven days allowed
- USIEF will announce the SCA-RTP award in September 2026

# Taxes

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- No taxes are withheld from Fulbright grants
- USIEF cannot provide advice on filing taxes
- Grantees should refer to the Grant Authorization and Schedule of Payment when doing taxes
- Also, please refer to the section on taxes in the Fulbright to India Guide



# Reporting Requirements: Distinguished Scholars and Academic and Professional Excellence Scholars

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- USIEF
  - Mid-term report (for grants more than 6 months and flex grants)
  - Final report
- IIE - Online Reports
  - Mid-term report
  - Final report

# Google Group and Social Media

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- Group designed to connect all Fulbrighters to India to share information and resources. Group will be formed after the VPDO: [fulbrighttoindia@googlegroups.com](mailto:fulbrighttoindia@googlegroups.com)
- You are encouraged to share photos and videos about your Fulbright experience for USIEF social media postings
- Please tag USIEF and Fulbright on X, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook whenever posting about your work

# Who Is Your Contact?

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- Grant related: USIEF Delhi

Distinguished Scholar and Academic and Professional Excellence Scholars: Pavitra Soram, Anupam Anand and Priyanjana Ghosh

- Local issues such as housing, health concerns, etc., contact USIEF regional office:

- Chennai: Maya Sundararajan, Shinu Shoba
- Kolkata: Jhulan Ghose
- Mumbai: Ryan Pereira, Suranjana Das

# QUESTIONS

