

UNITED STATES – INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)

Promoting Mutual Understanding



USIEF's MANDATE

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

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

- All U.S. Fulbright- Nehru **Non-PhD Students** will arrive in India on **August 30, 2026**, for a mandatory in-country orientation
- All U.S. Fulbright- Nehru **PhD Students** to India are required to enter grant status anytime between **August 23, 2026, to May 31, 2027**
- All PhD Students 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

Medical Clearance

- 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 FulbrightStudentAdvisingSCA@iie.org

Certificate of Affiliation

- 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 supervisor in India to plan your research

Grant Award Letter

- 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 each to IIE and USIEF

Student Visa or Project Clearance

- All Students must apply for **One-Year Multiple Entry Student Visa**
- 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

- 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

Allowances

- 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
- Students are eligible for dependent allowance for one dependent for \$200 per month

Travel Arrangements

- USIEF arranges round-trip air ticket for all Fulbright-Nehru grantees
- 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

Housing

- Initial 7 days accommodation at the city of affiliation is provided and paid by USIEF **upon arrival**
- Non-PhD Students will receive additional 4 nights of accommodation upon arrival at the city of orientation
- 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 \$500 (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

- 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

- For advice on immunizations, please contact your doctor or travel clinic. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention website (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

- 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...

- All Fulbright-Nehru Students 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
- Travel expense: Grantee's responsibility
- Stipend is continued but ASPE is suspended
- International travel is not permitted towards the end of the grant

Taxes

- 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

Working with your academic supervisor

- Fulbright students must keep both USIEF and their academic coordinators informed of any domestic or international travel plans
- Fulbright students are expected to maintain regular communication with their academic supervisor and to visit the campus in- person at least once a month to discuss project timelines and deliverables
- Prior to concluding your fellowship, it is mandatory to present your final research outcomes or findings to your academic supervisor and/or the student community through a presentation, talk, or workshop
- Before concluding your Fulbright Fellowship, we strongly recommend that you arrange meetings with your academic supervisor, colleagues, and any individuals with whom you have forged friendships or professional relationships during your time in India. Consider expressing gratitude for their support and collaboration through a heartfelt thank-you note or other thoughtful gesture

Reporting Requirements

- USIEF
 - Monthly Report (for first 3 months)
 - Mid-term report
 - Final report
- IIE - Online Reports
 - Mid-term report
 - Final report

Google Group and Social Media

- Group designed to connect all Fulbrighters to India to share information and resources. Group will be formed after the VPDO: 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?

- Grant related: USIEF Delhi
 - Neeraj Goswami and Kalden Shringla
- 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

