

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fulbright
U.S. Scholar
Program



FAQ - U.S. SCHOLAR PROGRAM

How many U.S. scholars does Colombia accept in a given year?

On average, no more than 15 U.S. Scholar Grants will be awarded by the Fulbright Commission in Colombia each year, depending on available resources and negotiations with stakeholders.

Do I need a terminal degree to apply to this award?

Yes, for the U.S. Scholar Fulbright Award, a Ph.D. or other terminal degree is required.

Can I apply if I am both a U.S. and Colombian citizen?

Yes. All U.S. citizens are eligible to apply, regardless of dual citizenship or residency.

Can I teach and/or conduct fieldwork as part of the grant's activities?

Yes. During your grant period in Colombia, you may conduct research, teach graduate or undergraduate courses, participate in conferences and seminars, carry out fieldwork, and advise students or faculty members, among other activities. Please note that projects that involve work with communities outside the host institution are of particular interest.

There is not a required Teaching/Research combination. The ratio of grant activities can be defined by the candidate according to their interests, project details, and previous agreements with the host institution. As such, there are no specific requirements related to minimum teaching load or desired ratio of Teaching/Research activities.



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What does the public conference typically look like? Are they open to the general public, or reserved for experts in the field?

These conferences are typically open to the academic community within host institutions, and they are generally attended by a non-expert audience, mainly undergraduate students in related fields, but also graduate students and faculty. The purpose is often to encourage engagement and inspire curiosity about the subject matter. However, grantees are welcome to negotiate the terms of this event with the host institution and with Fulbright officials to ensure that it aligns with their goals and interests. Depending on the context, some conferences may also be open to the general public or specific community groups, offering an opportunity for broader outreach.

How can I secure a letter of invitation?

To secure a letter of invitation signed by the director of the department, academic unit, institute, or research center interested in hosting you, you must try to establish contact with faculty members or researchers in Colombia. See the question below for more information on this.

How can I contact faculty and researchers in Colombia? When should I start to do so?

It is never too early to start contacting potential host institutions, so we strongly recommend that you start to reach out as soon as possible. To do this, we have prepared a document with a general overview of Colombian higher education institutions and research centers, classified by the most relevant fields of research at each institution. You may access these files by [clicking here](#).

We also suggest that you browse through the web pages of institutions that may be of interest, so that you may be able to identify faculty members or researchers that could potentially host you. If you need help either identifying or contacting faculty in Colombia, please email Ana María Carvajal at consejeria@fulbright.edu.co stating your research interest and field of study.



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What if I don't hear back from faculty members and researchers in Colombia?

Don't wait too long for a reply. If after 2 weeks you have not heard back from the faculty members and researchers you have contacted, email our Educational Advisor, Ana María Carvajal, at consejeria@fulbright.edu.co.

Who do I contact if I am worried about safety?

The general recommendation for U.S. citizens is to stay within city limits and avoid areas deemed unsafe by the U.S. Embassy in Colombia. If you have concerns about your location's safety, we recommend contacting your host institution, as they can provide valuable insights into local safety conditions.

Upon arrival, you will be provided with the telephone number to contact the Commission for any questions and the U.S. Citizen Services Office at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá for emergencies.

Can the Fulbright Commission in Colombia help me find housing?

Fulbright Colombia provides grantees with general information about housing options. While the Commission can assist in providing housing information, it cannot make housing arrangements. It is the grantee's responsibility to secure housing in Colombia during the grant period according to their preferences and needs. You may contact the International Relations Office at your host institution for advice and support in securing housing.



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Do I need a visa for this program? And what do I need to do to apply for it?

Yes, you will need to apply for a Colombian visa, as immigration regulations require that anyone staying in Colombia for more than 3 months must apply for a Colombian visa to regularize their immigration status. If you are selected, the Fulbright Commission in Colombia will guide you through the visa application process, ensuring you meet the requirements and deadlines set by the Colombian government.

Please note that each case will be reviewed on an individual basis, and the Commission will provide tailored guidance on each grantee's specific situation when the time comes.

Finally, dual Colombian-U.S. citizens do not need to apply for a visa, since according to immigration regulations, they must enter Colombia with a Colombian passport.

Who should I contact if I need help with my application?

You may contact Julia Lieber (she/her) at westhem@iie.org, or call her at 646-768-8319.

Is Spanish language proficiency required?

Spanish language proficiency is required. Language requirements may vary depending on the specific grant activity. Candidates with basic or limited Spanish proficiency may be considered if the research topic and proposed grant activities do not require fluency in Spanish, although an intermediate or higher level of Spanish is recommended.



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What is life like in Colombia for a U.S. Scholar?

If you are interested in the experience of previous U.S. Scholars in the country, please visit the Fulbright Commission [website](#) and follow the Fulbright Commission's official accounts on social networks.

Visit our [Scholar Directory to view and search all Fulbright alumni](#).

You can also [learn more about Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors](#).

To learn more about Colombia as a travel destination, visit: www.colombia.co



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