English Teaching Assistantships (ETAs) are offered in many countries worldwide in the following regions:

- Africa
- Asia
- Eastern Europe
- Eurasia
- Middle East
- Western Europe
- Western Hemisphere

For more information visit:
http://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_teaching.html

In most cases ETAs:

- Are placed in schools or universities outside of capital cities
- Are assigned various activities designed to improve their students' language abilities and knowledge of the United States.
- Are fully integrated into the host community, increasing their own language skills and knowledge of the host country.
- May pursue individual study/research plans in addition to ETA responsibilities.

Contact Information: Deb Pierce, Associate Provost, Division of International Programs, NIU. Phone (815) 753-1989, E-mail: dpierce@niu.edu

“My Fulbright tenure was a tremendously productive and fulfilling experience. The research time allotted and proximity to critical primary source materials facilitated by this fellowship have helped me to establish the framework for what I hope will be a first-rate dissertation.”
Mike Hawkins, 2007-2008 Student Fulbright to Philippines/ current Assistant Professor Creighton University

The Fulbright Program:
- Is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.
- Is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.
- Was established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to “enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.”
- Awarded approximately six thousand grants in 2008, at a cost of more than $275.4 million, to U.S. students, teachers, professionals, and scholars to study, teach, lecture and conduct research in more than 155 countries, and to their foreign counterparts to engage in similar activities in the United States.
- Receives its primary source of funding through an appropriation from Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries, and in the United States, also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, e.g., through salary supplements, tuition waivers, and university housing.
- The U.S. Student Program grant numbers are subject to the availability of federally appropriated funds. The United States Department of State reserves the right to alter, without notice, participating countries, numbers of awards, terms of agreement, and allowances.

“Fostering leadership, learning and empathy between cultures was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program.” Senator J. William Fulbright
Participating Regions

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- East Asia & Pacific Region
- Europe and Eurasia
- Near East/North Africa
- The Western Hemisphere
- South and Central Asia

Countries Where NIU Students Have Received Fulbright Grants

- Austria
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Moldova
- Philippines
- Slovakia
- Thailand

Applying for the Fulbright

1. START PLANNING EARLY (April or May).
2. Research your host country, if possible have a contact person(s) there.
3. Write a draft of your proposal and get assistance from the Writing Center (http://www.niu.edu/uwc/ or call 815-753-6636 for an appointment).
4. Be specific with your plan: write as if the reader has no idea what you are discussing. In your first paragraph state clearly the what, where, why and how of your project, grab the reader’s attention.
5. What is your goal for the Fulbright? Be specific about what you wish to accomplish with your grant.
6. In your personal statement be aware of honest weaknesses; demonstrate intellectual honesty and sophistication. Mention your major/minor and challenges you’ve overcome. Little details can make you stand out.
7. SPELL CHECK – SPELL CHECK – SPELL CHECK
8. You will need 3 letters of reference: start early and alert your professors that you will need these letters. Some countries need a language proficiency report; research this criterion.

Applying for a Fulbright is all electronic, read the instructions closely. For more information visit http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html

NIU Timeline for Competition

- Last full week of September, campus deadline
- First or second week of October: Interviews with the NIU Campus Fulbright Committee
- Mid-October:
  - Deadline for online applications due to the campus Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA)
  - After all final corrections are done, the FPA submits online applications electronically to Fulbright (IIE New York)
- Late October: FPA submits Memorandum of Transmittal and any supplemental materials to IIE New York
- December: Proposals are reviewed by national screening committees
- January 31: Letters sent to student applicants notifying them whether their proposals have been recommended for further review.
- Host country Fulbright Commission reviews recommended proposals.
- March—late June: Final selection letters will be sent to applicants whose proposals were recommended to the host country selection committee
- Next academic year: Successful candidates serve the Fulbright year in their host countries