

## *From First-year to Fulbright: planning ahead for graduate study abroad with a prestigious Fulbright fellowship*

### *First Year*

- Study hard and get good grades, to create a solid foundation for a strong GPA.
- Go to the study abroad fair in September to learn about the wide variety of programs offered by NIU.
- Concentrate on learning to write clearly and concisely.
- Identify and participate in at least one campus or community activity.

### *Sophomore Year*

- Study another language offered at NIU: there are 16 languages to choose from!
- Go to the study abroad fair in September and choose a program for summer study abroad; by participating you will gain needed international experience.
- Concentrate on improving your written communication skills.
- Continue your campus or community activity.
- Enjoy a fabulous summer study abroad program led by an NIU faculty member!

### *Junior Year*

- Identify the country where you would like to do a Fulbright and choose a program by surfing this site: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html>
- Continue language study, preferably of a language spoken in your proposed host country.
- Continue your campus or community activity.
- Talk with your major professors about the possibility of writing a proposal for the Fulbright; ask for their assistance and guidance.
- Consider taking a semester abroad or another summer program abroad.
- Meet with the Fulbright Program Advisor to discuss your plans.
- In the spring semester, explore potential universities for affiliation in your proposed host country and learn how to apply to them for admission.
- Over the summer, start writing your two essays for the Fulbright proposal: a one-page intellectual history and a two-page description of what you plan to do.

### *Senior Year*

- Continue meeting with the Fulbright Program Advisor.
- Continue your campus or community activity.
- Complete your essays; get them reviewed by your professors and by the Writing Center.
- Complete the Foreign Language Report assessing your proficiency in the language of your proposed host country.
- Complete and submit your proposal by early September!
- Interview with the campus Fulbright committee in mid September.

*For more information, please contact  
Dr. Taylor Atkins, Department of History, 753-6699, [etatkins@niu.edu](mailto:etatkins@niu.edu)*