

# Essay Writing and Plagiarism Presentation for Fulbright Foreign Student Program Applicants



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# Introduction to the Fulbright Foreign Student Program

- The Fulbright Program is designed to foster mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchange.
- As a Fulbright exchange student, you will join a group of more than 400,000 American and international Fulbrighters from over 160 countries and territories.
- The United States Department of State funds the Fulbright Program and Amideast administers the program on its behalf.
- The Fulbright Foreign Student Program is currently open for applications until May 1, 2024. Visit the link below for info on program requirements and the application process: <https://www.amideast.org/our-work/find-a-scholarship/graduate-study/fulbright/how-to-apply/fulbright-foreign-student-program-for-iraq>



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# Why Writing?

- Graduate-level study at American universities requires substantial writing that meets high standards.
- Advanced non-native English speakers often speak with much greater proficiency than they write.
- A well-written essay can significantly strengthen your application for admission to U.S. institutions.



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# Personal Statement

## Do not include:

- Specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study.
- Basic facts about yourself: date of birth, marital status, religion, home address, etc.
- Note: It is strongly recommended that you upload in PDF format

## Sources:

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/resumes-cover-letters/how-to-write-a-personal-statement>



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# Research Objective

## **Study Plan / Research Objective:**

- Write a clear and detailed description of your study/research objectives, and give your reasons for wanting to pursue them.
- Be specific about your field of study or research and your specialized interests within this field.
- Describe the kind of program you expect to undertake, and explain how your study plan or research fits in with your previous training and your future objectives.
- This statement is an essential part of your application and is required. Do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study.



# Writing Tips

## **PEEL method for paragraph writing**

P = point (topic sentence, what is the reason for this paragraph)

E = evidence (how is this point true)

E = explanation (how does the evidence prove your point)

L = link (connect the end of the paragraph to the main point of the essay and/or the next paragraph)



# Writing Tips (cont'd)

Example: My pursuit of a degree in solar science in the United States will benefit my home country. My country is currently experiencing a financial crisis due to the global drop in oil prices. The government budget is dependent on oil sales. Even before the crisis, people complained about the lack of good electricity service, and this will worsen with reduced government revenues. The country lacks people trained in solar energy, and therefore cannot develop an alternative to oil. By studying solar energy in the United States, I will be learning about an important industry that could help my country develop energy independence and thus improve our lives.



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# Writing Tips (cont'd)

- Make a persuasive argument
- Do not be vague
  - Example of how not to write: "It can be said that studying in another country can benefit both the host country and foreign student."
- Every sentence needs to have a purpose
- Use topic sentences
- Have a strong thesis statement in the first paragraph
- Use simple grammar
- Proofread
- Budget your time so you have time to review and revise your writing to avoid errors





# Plagiarism

**Definition: presenting someone else's work as your own.**

- Instances of plagiarism are easy to spot (we see it a lot).
- Plagiarism can be both intentional and unintentional.
- Any form of plagiarized writing is unacceptable for both the Fulbright Program and U.S. universities.
  - Consequences of plagiarism: Your application, both for Fulbright and the university, will be terminated
- Someone else's work is their intellectual property. If you want to borrow an idea from someone, you always need to credit your source.
- You cannot copy and paste text from an original source. You can paraphrase or summarize an author's idea by using your own words to restate their work.



# Plagiarism Example

## Original version:

- Imagine that you read the following passage from Michael Agar's book *Language Shock*: "Everyone uses the word language and everybody these days talks about culture. . . . 'languaculture' is a reminder, I hope, of the necessary connection between its two parts. ."

## Plagiarized version:

- This sentence borrows a word from Agar's work without giving credit for it. "At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that we might call 'languaculture.'"

## Acceptable version:

- Placing the term in quotation marks is insufficient. If you use the term, you must give credit to the source: At the intersection of language and culture lies a concept that Michael Agar has called "languaculture" (book, page #).





## Conclusion

Let your essays reflect your own objectives, experience, and interests written in your own words.



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