Fulbright Specialist Program

Call for Proposals in Belgium

FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

The Fulbright Specialist Program provides higher education institutions and other organizations in Belgium with the opportunity to draw on the expertise of American scholars and professionals. In addition to sharing their expertise, Fulbright Specialists can help develop links or strengthen collaboration between the United States and Belgium. Learn more about the Fulbright Specialist Program here.

2026 SPECIALIST PROGRAM CALL

The Fulbright Commission in Brussels is launching a call for proposals for the Fulbright Specialist Program with the following conditions:

- **Eligibility**: Participation is open to a wide range of host institutions in Belgium, including institutions of higher education (e.g., universities, university colleges, art schools) as well as research institutes, think tanks, non-profit organizations, public institutions, cultural organizations, and other educational or research-focused entities. For-profit companies and partisan organizations are *not* eligible to participate.

- **Duration**: Grants are 14 - 42 days (2-6 weeks), including travel days and weekends.

- **Funding**: Projects selected under this call will be fully funded by the Fulbright Commission in Brussels. Host institutions are *not* required to provide cost-sharing or financial contributions, but may be asked to provide an estimation of local food, transportation or accommodation costs for budgeting purposes. Institutions should also identify appropriate staff contacts who can coordinate project implementation and support the Specialist.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES & ACADEMIC FIELDS

The Fulbright Specialist Program offers substantial flexibility as to the types of projects that can be funded. Host institutions are encouraged to tailor projects to their own needs; however, all projects should have an educational, training, research dissemination, or public engagement focus. Due to the short-term nature of the exchange, projects should have concrete objectives that can be achieved over the course of the Specialist's visit.

Examples of eligible activities include:

- Conducting needs assessments, surveys, and other activities related to institutional or development;
- Participating in specialized academic programs, conferences, or policy discussions in conjunction with other scheduled activities;
- Consulting with administrators, faculty, researchers, policymakers, or practitioners;
- Presenting lectures, seminars, workshops, or public talks;
- Developing or assessing curricula, educational materials, policy resources, or institutional strategies;
- Conducting professional training programs;
- Facilitating dialogue among academic, policy, civic, and community stakeholders.

Please note that personal research projects, including clinical medical research or projects involving patient contact, are *not* eligible for funding under the Fulbright Specialist Program.

PRIORITY AREAS

Priority will be given to proposals that relate to one or more of the following themes:

- **Space policy and space innovation,** including commercial space development, satellite technologies, national security dimensions of space, international cooperation, space governance, STEM education, and the economic impacts of the space sector;
- **Financial technology (FinTech),** including digital payments, financial inclusion, digital currencies, financial regulation, cybersecurity, innovation in banking and capital markets, and the future of financial services;
- **Artificial intelligence**, including governance, ethics, public policy, workforce implications, innovation, education, and societal impacts;
- **Trade and economic policy**, including international trade, supply chains, tariffs, industrial policy, and economic competitiveness;
- **Defense and security spending**, transatlantic security cooperation, NATO-related issues, and defense policy;
- **U.S.–EU trade relations**, including the future of trade cooperation and potential trade agreements between the United States and the European Union;
- **Immigration and migration policy**, integration, labor market impacts, and demographic challenges;
- **Freedom of speech and freedom of expression**, including legal, social, technological, and educational dimensions.

AMERICA 250

All proposals should include a public engagement component connected to the 250th anniversary of the United States. Examples could include collaborating with the Specialist to deliver a guest lecture on American contributions to the project field; outreach highlighting aspects of American history, society, innovation, or culture; or public events acknowledging this historic milestone. Activities may be hosted independently by the institution or developed in coordination with the Fulbright Commission.

Commission for Educational Education Between the USA, Belgium and Luxembourg
Boulevard de l'Empereur 4 Keizerslaan
1000 Brussels, Belgium

IDENTIFYING A FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST

Through the Fulbright Specialist Program, a host institution in Belgium can *either* identify a particular U.S.-based expert with whom they would like to work ("Named Proposal") *or* request to be matched with an existing Specialist ("Unnamed Proposal").

- **Named Proposal:** Host institutions with a specific person in mind have the option of naming a Specialist in their application. If the candidate *is* already on the Fulbright Specialist Roster and is eligible to participate in an exchange, the match must be approved by the Fulbright Commission before the Specialist can participate in the project. If this candidate is *not* already on the Fulbright Specialist Roster, they must complete the full application process and be approved to join the Roster before they are eligible to participate. The candidate should begin this process at the time of application to ensure they can be on the Roster in time.

- **Unnamed Proposal:** Host institutions are not required to submit the name of a Specialist with their application; should the project be approved, a list of Specialists whose experience matches the needs of the project will be provided for the host institution to select.

All Specialists have a doctorate, an equivalent terminal degree in their field, or another higher education degree with a commensurate amount of experience in the field. Professionals have recognized professional standing and accomplishments. Both academics and professionals must work in one of the eligible academic disciplines listed here and have a minimum of five years of either postdoctoral teaching experience or appropriate professional experience.

SUBMITTING A PROJECT PROPOSAL

Host institutions interested in applying to the Fulbright Specialist Program should have their international relations manager or another officer in the international relations department submit a short (1-3 page) proposal to the Fulbright Commission in Brussels.

Proposals should include the following information:

1. **Name, title, email address, and phone number of contact person** at your institution.

2. **Intended project dates** (between 1 October 2026 and 31 December 2027). *Remember that projects must have a duration ranging from 14 to 42 days, including travel days and weekends. When selecting dates, please note that Specialist projects can only be implemented 3-4 months after a full project description is submitted; this may be longer if no Specialist is named and our partners in the U.S. need to find a specialist to implement the project.*

3. **Intended project activities** and relation to the priority areas of this call.

4. **Name, title and contact information of the Fulbright Specialist** (for Named Proposals) or **Description of the ideal Specialist's proposal** (for Unnamed Proposals).

5. **Overview of America 250 public engagement activities,** including any planned or proposed outreach activities connected to the anniversary celebration.

Applications should be sent in .pdf format to jace@fulbright.be and will be accepted on a rolling basis.

TIMELINE

Step 1 **Submission of initial proposal**
Institutions interested in the Fulbright Specialist Program should submit an initial 1-3 page application to the Fulbright Commission.

Step 2 **Evaluation of proposal**
The Fulbright Commission will review the application and provide information about next steps, including detailed instructions for developing a full project description and information about required changes to the project.

Step 3 **Submission of detailed proposal**
Institutions selected for participation in the Fulbright Specialist Program will be required to submit a full project description to the Fulbright Commission, including information on costs in the country to host the specialist.

Step 4 **Visit of Fulbright Specialist**
Once the Fulbright Commission has approved the full project description, it is sent to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in Washington, D.C. for final approval. After ECA approval, the project is sent to World Learning for processing, at which time they will begin recruitment of and match projects with qualified candidates from the Fulbright Specialist Roster or, if you have nominated a specific candidate, notify them of the project's approval. The project must be completed no later than 31 December 2027.

CONTACT DETAILS

Institutions in Belgium with questions about this call or who wish to discuss potential project ideas should contact Program Officer Jace Jasper at the Fulbright Commission in Brussels via email at jace@fulbright.be.

Additional information about the Fulbright Specialist Program for host institutions and candidates is available at https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/.

Please note: the Fulbright Commission is not able to assist prospective Specialists in finding a host institution that they could match with. Prospective Specialists should contact World Learning directly for more information via the link above.