

East Asian & Pacific Regional Travel Program (RTP) Program Description

U.S. Fulbright scholars in the East Asian and Pacific (EAP) region are eligible to receive funds to support short-term (3-14 days) travel to other EAP countries for activities such as lectures, workshops, graduate or faculty seminars, master classes or recitals, curricular advising or panel presentations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, currently participants in the RTP can only be requested/invited for the following host countries (subject to change): **Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.**

Fulbright scholars may pursue their own invitations for appropriate short-term activities, or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Sections (PAS) or Fulbright commissions may extend invitations to individual scholars for specific activities. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State funds the EAP Regional Travel Program, and it is administered by the Fulbright Commission in Indonesia, AMINEF.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to share the expertise of American Fulbright scholars already in the region more widely. For instance, a Fulbright scholar based in Vietnam might travel to Mongolia to lecture in social philosophy, as well as to hold discussions about collaborative research efforts; a Fulbright scholar in Cambodia might travel to Samoa to conduct seminars in environmental science and meet with emergency service personnel; or a Fulbright scholar based in South Korea could be invited by PAS Burma to participate in a program related to the role of the media in U.S. elections. U.S. Fulbright scholars may wish to use some time for research, cultural or other personal activities, however, such activities should not take up more than a small portion of their time spent in another country (e.g., one or two days before or after the expertise-sharing/collaborative activity takes place). The duration of the visits should be between three days and two weeks.

Fulbright commissions should alert their U.S. Embassy Public Affairs colleagues of scheduled visits so they may take advantage of programming opportunities.

How to Apply

U.S. Fulbright scholars in possession of a letter of invitation should contact their local Fulbright commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section stating their wish to apply for travel funds through the Regional Travel Program. Requests may also be submitted by commission/PAS in the receiving country where the activity will take place. Requests should be sent approximately four weeks in advance of the projected visit to: RTP@aminef.or.id (attention Ms. Astrid Lim, Senior Program Officer, or Mr. Rizqi Arifuddin, Associate Program Officer). Fulbright scholars may not submit requests directly to AMINEF without going through a commission/PAS.

Approval

Upon receiving applications, AMINEF will assess Scholars' proposed activities. AMINEF will also seek confirmation and/or approval from PAS/Fulbright Commissions in countries that will be visited by the Scholars. PAS/Fulbright Commissions may weigh in if RTP visits are inadvisable due to the pandemic situation in the respective country.

Eligibility

U.S. Fulbright scholars may only apply for RTP funds when abroad during their Fulbright grant period. ECA reserves the right to limit the number of visits to and from any country in order to ensure equitable usage. An individual scholar may not receive more than two RTP grants in a given program year, although exceptions may be made.

Recipients of U.S. Fulbright Student awards (student researchers or English Teaching Assistants) are not eligible to apply for the RTP.

Funds

RTP funds cover between-country travel and not per diem or accommodation. Scholars will be reimbursed for the round-trip travel from their EAP base country to the destination country by the most economical route. RTP funds can also be used to cover in-country ground travel from the arrival city to the city where the activities are taking place. Cost sharing by receiving-country institutions, commission, or U.S. Embassy is highly desirable, but not required in the event the scholar assumes responsibility for his/her own accommodation and per diem costs. RTP funds can also cover COVID-19 tests and quarantine expenses if required by grantees' home and/or destination countries.

Please note that reimbursement of travel expenses will occur within four weeks of the scholars' submitting their travel report (see below) and proof of travel expenses incurred.

Honoraria

According to Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) policies, Fulbright scholars are not permitted to receive honoraria from either commissions or PAS. However, “. . . any honoraria or other fees received abroad for special guest lectures or similar events during the grant period may be accepted by the grantee, subject to the concurrence of the sponsoring commission or PAS.” Although receiving institutions are not required to pay an honorarium to the Fulbright scholar, such support is welcome and viewed as a contribution toward cost sharing.

Reports

Scholars must present a report to AMINEF and U.S. Embassy/Commission within 30 days after their visit. The information contained in the report will be shared with the Fulbright Office at ECA. The purpose of the report is to help Fulbright scholars reflect on the achievements of their visit, both in terms of research collaboration and institutional partnership building, and to help the Fulbright Program assess the impact of this additional effort to enhance knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation in EAP.

For more information contact: [Rizqi Arifuddin](mailto:Rizqi.Arifuddin@aminef.or.id), RTP@aminef.or.id