



**If you believe you have received this message in error and your in-person program start details have changed, please reach out to the [IIE advisor](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us>) to discuss your situation further and learn about next steps.*

Dear Fulbrighter,

The IIE Fulbright Advising Team would like to be among the first to wish you a warm welcome to the U.S.! During this exciting time at the start of your academic program, we want to bring your attention to time-sensitive visa reporting requirements and to explain the role of your IIE Fulbright Advisor in supporting your success during your program.

Reporting Requirements

After you have entered the U.S., you must submit arrival documents to IIE. Many of these documents must be submitted within 10 days of the program start date listed on your Form DS-2019, so please visit [Fulbright Online](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/>) and follow the [Arrival Checklist](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/login) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/login>) upon your arrival in the United States. You can also watch this [4-minute video](https://vimeo.com/347914671/c19c49ae24) (<https://vimeo.com/347914671/c19c49ae24>) on how to submit your required documents.

- You will submit your arrival documents through the [IIE Self Service Portal](https://connect.iie.org/user/login). (<https://connect.iie.org/user/login>)
 - To access the portal, enter the email address you indicated on your Fulbright application and click “Forgot your password?” An automatically generated temporary password will be sent to your email account.
 - Go to “My Details” and click on “Profile” to create a personal password you will use for the duration of your program.
- Use the same email and password to access the Fulbright Online website (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/>). Follow the Arrival Steps there to ensure you complete all arrival reporting requirements.

- Do not complete the Arrival Form in the portal, until instructed to do so by IIE advising.
- You will be covered by ASPE Health Benefits upon your arrival to the U.S. To learn more information about the coverage and to print your card please go [here](#).
(<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters/aspe-health-information>)

Public Assistance

- It is strongly recommended that Fulbright grantees NOT participate in federal, state, or local government-sponsored programs that provide housing subsidies or assistance, cash assistance, and/or food assistance.
- Under certain U.S. federal, state, county, and local laws, J-1 visa holders and their dependents may seem to qualify for “public assistance,” such as health insurance, subsidized housing, food assistance, or unemployment benefits. Accepting such benefits as a J-1 or J-2 visa holder can lead to the concerns related to the “public charge” inadmissibility ground under the Immigration and Nationality Act, which could ultimately result in deportation and/or prevent the grantee from re-entering the United States in the future.
- Detailed descriptions of non-allowable public assistance, as well as the most recent guidance on current regulations can be found on the USCIS website at <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/public-charge>

Set Up Your University Account

- Once you have arrived to campus, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of your Fulbright Grant Document to the university bursar's office. Based on the terms of your grant, you should also set up your student account to make sure the appropriate party (you or the Fulbright Commission in your home country) is billed for your tuition and mandatory fees.

Support and Resources from IIE

- The [Fulbright Online website](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters>) is a valuable resource for information related to your Fulbright program requirements and policies. You will find the answer to most program questions here. Please explore!
- [Your IIE Advisor](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us>) should be your first point of contact on matters regarding your J-1 visa status and any proposed changes in school, degree, or field of study. If you have problems that interfere with your academic progress or settling in on campus, please contact your IIE Fulbright Advisor to assist you before they escalate.
 - Your IIE Fulbright Advisor is at your disposal to address questions or concerns related to your program or status in the U.S. It is very helpful if you include your Participant ID number in email inquiries.
 - Your IIE Fulbright Advisor is also available to meet with you during Skype office hours each week. Please refer to your advisor's email signature to confirm his or her office hours and for additional information about scheduling a meeting.
- Fulbright Advisors host monthly web-based seminars (webinars) to discuss program-related topics. Upcoming webinars will discuss topics relevant to new Fulbrighters.

For additional support, please see below:

- If you are in your home country, contact your Fulbright Commission or Post.
- If you are participating in a **pre-academic program**, please review [this website](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters/before-you-arrive/pre-academic-programs) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters/before-you-arrive/pre-academic-programs>) for helpful information.
- To connect with other Fulbrighters, sign up for the Fulbright Networking Directory. Review instructions on how to join the Fulbright Networking Directory [here](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/104a145656f61620906a233a2/files/65d6289c-07d9-4280-821f-aa4eb20a139b/Joining_the_Fulbright_Networking_Directory.pdf). (https://gallery.mailchimp.com/104a145656f61620906a233a2/files/65d6289c-07d9-4280-821f-aa4eb20a139b/Joining_the_Fulbright_Networking_Directory.pdf)

Webinar Library

We encourage you to review the resources on the [Fulbright Online Webinar Library](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters/webinar-library) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/current-fulbrighters/webinar-library>) for helpful content on settling-in and preparing for your arrival in the United States.

We wish you a successful and productive Fulbright experience, and we look forward to working with you during your program.

Sincerely,
IIE Advising Team

This message is sent from an account that is not monitored. Therefore, please do not respond to this email, but contact your [IIE Advisor](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us) (<https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org/contact-us>) with any questions.
