



MALAYSIAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Fulbright Specialist Program – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Can a project request more than one Specialist?

No. A Fulbright Specialist application/project is restricted to one Specialist. However, a host institution CAN submit more than one project proposal that would ultimately bring two different Specialists to work on distinct project activities. MACEE has the discretion to only approve one project per host institution in a fiscal year to ensure diversification and expand the program's reach and impact across Malaysia.

2. Can projects take place in more than one country?

No. All project activities MUST take place in Malaysia. However, projects can be designed to include multiple locations within the same country. This option is not only possible but encouraged. In these cases, the host institution will be responsible for all transportation costs for the Specialist to travel to each project location within the country.

3. Can a project have two or more host institutions?

Yes. A project can have multiple host institutions. However, the project proposal must be submitted by a primary host institution that serves as the coordinator of the project with all other participating host institutions. The primary host institution will be responsible for coordinating all project activities and logistics (lodging, meals, and in-country transportation) for the Specialist. If the project is co-hosted by an organization from the United States, MACEE would prefer to see the Malaysian host institution as the lead.

4. Can projects exceed the maximum length (42 days) if the host institution has the financial resources to continue to support the Specialist in-country?

Yes. MACEE can approve for the Specialist to remain in-country after their grant ends. However, any additional time in-country will not be under the sponsorship of the Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) and all grant benefits, including the limited health benefits plan for the Specialist, will not be continued.

5. Does the Fulbright Specialist Program support medical projects?

Yes. Projects with a medical focus are eligible and encouraged under the Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP). In addition, medical institutions such as teaching hospitals or public health organizations are eligible to serve as host institutions. However, please note that project activities cannot include clinic medical research, direct patient contact by the Specialist, or any active diagnosis of patients by the Specialist.



MALAYSIAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

6. Can project activities include English language teaching?

Projects requesting a Specialist to assist with activities focused specifically on the English language such as designing a curriculum or conducting a needs assessment, teacher training, or high-level educational consultations, are not eligible for the general Fulbright Specialist Program.

7. How specific should the host institution be when describing in-country arrangements in the project proposal?

Please be as specific as possible regarding the in-country arrangements (lodging, meals, transit) including information on how those arrangements will be funded. Failure to do so could impact the timeline for approval and viability of the project.

Here is an example of lodging information provided in a proposal that the Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S Department of State found to be particularly satisfactory :

“The Fulbright Specialist will be accommodated in a fully furnished apartment in Zagreb, close to the premises of the University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law. All accommodation arrangements will be made in advance of the Fulbright Specialist's travel. The costs of the lodging will be paid directly and the Fulbright Specialist will not have to pay anything herself. The apartment will have a fully furnished room with sleeping and working space, a kitchen with all the appliances, and a bathroom. It will have a functioning WIFI connection.”

8. Can Specialists self-fund any in-country costs (lodging, meals, and transportation) if they have the means?

No. Specialists are not permitted to self-fund any in-country costs including lodging, meals, and transportation to ensure that all qualified U.S. individuals can equally participate in the program regardless of personal financial means.

9. Can host institutions provide reimbursement for in-country costs (lodging, meals, and transportation) to Specialists at the end of the grant period?

No. Host institutions are not permitted to have Specialists pay for costs out of pocket and then seek reimbursement. If the host will provide a stipend to the Specialist to cover expenses, the stipend must be provided either before or immediately upon arrival in-country.

10. How does the host institution allocate the meals allowance?

The recommended guideline is as follows:

- a. If the accommodation comes with breakfast, then the allowance is RM 100.00 per day for lunch and dinner (weekends and holidays included)
- b. If the accommodation comes without breakfast, then the allowance is RM 150.00 - RM 200.00 per day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner (weekends and holidays included)



MALAYSIAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

11. Are homestays permissible for lodging accommodations?

Fulbright Malaysia does not support lodging in homestays or Airbnb.

12. Is the Specialist compensated for preparation or follow-on activities completed in the United States outside of the grant period?

No. The grant does not compensate the Specialist for any preparation or follow-on activities that take place outside of the grant period. As a result, host institutions should design project activities so that all deliverables are completed during the grant period, and not before or after. That said, the FSP strongly encourages Specialists and host institutions to continue mutually beneficial collaboration and to explore other opportunities outside of the FSP to support the development of formal partnerships and cooperation following the completion of the project.

Examples of successful follow-on activities between Specialists and host institutions are highlighted on the FSP website at <https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/making-an-impact/>

13. What determines a project's official start and end date?

Project Start Date: This is the date that the grantee departs the U.S. Example: A host institution requests that the grantee arrives on May 5, 2018. The grantee must depart the U.S. on May 4, 2018, to arrive on May 5, 2018. Therefore, the project's official start date is May 4, 2018, and this day must be counted against the maximum of 42 days allowed for a grant.

Project End Date: This is the date that the participant departs the host country. This day must be counted against the maximum 42 days allowed for a grant

14. Can the Specialist enter Malaysia with a social visit visa?

No. The Host Institution will be responsible to process the Professional Visit Pass (PLIK) visa for the specialist during the project duration.

15. Can the Specialist enter Malaysia before the start date of the project for a social visit on the Professional Visit Pass (PLIK) visa?

No. The Specialist will need to organize their journey after completing the project to avoid any complications. The specialist will need to go to the nearest border (Singapore or Thailand) to exit and re-enter Malaysia on a tourist visa. The visa will be stamped directly into their passport and is valid for 90 days.