



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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- Who you are
- Why you're applying
- Why you'll be a good candidate
- What you want to do in the future
- Mixture of **personal and academic**
 - Background, goals, qualifications,
- Also known as "**statement of grant purpose**"

What is it?

Difference from Résumé

- It is not **merely a reiteration of your résumé**. It is where you *contextualize* your experience, goals, and skills.
 - Always mention things that speak to the skills/abilities/passions that will make you a good fit for this program
 - Do not mention hobbies or experiences that aren't relevant or that don't give the committee reading it an idea of your skills, goals, or abilities

GENERAL COMPONENTS

Timeline Structure

Who you are



What you've done/what you're doing now



What you're going to do with this program



What you're going to do after this program



Basic Components

Who are you and what do you want to do

- Brief background, current career goal or objective
- End with **concise statement**

Qualifications

- Key academic coursework, research experience, publications or presentations, leadership roles, relevant community experience

Basic Components Cont.

Plan

- Show your familiarity with school or program
- What draws you to the program and makes you uniquely qualified

Conclusion

- Meaningful gestures towards future, post-grad plans
- Be specific

Key Questions They Want Answered

Who are you?

- Academic and relevant background

What do you want to do?

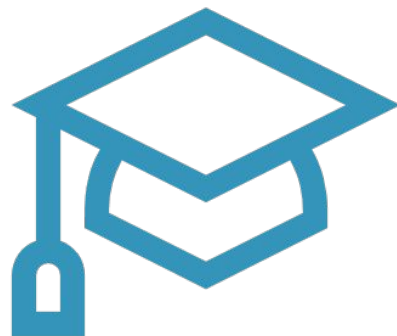
- Specific goals and objectives

Why do you want to do it?

Why are you the right candidate for this opportunity?

Why this program/scholarship- what are you hoping to get out of it?

What do you want to do in the future- eg, what will you plan to do with your degree once you have it?



GRADUATE SCHOOL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

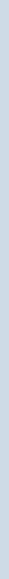
- Mention **key professors or courses** you want to take/work with
 - Look on their webpages. See what they've taught in the past and what the professors are writing about (publications, research interests).
 - Make sure they're still at the program and not on sabbatical
 - Tie it to your **previously mentioned research goals**

How to Be Program Specific

- Look for **other things** that the school is doing that interests you, if possible
 - Do they have a **student organization/program** that is unique and will connect to your interests?
- Don't say "Because it's a top ranked school". Instead, is it known for its specific program or research? Does it collaborate with companies you want to work with?

How to Be
Program
Specific Cont.

FULBRIGHT GRANT STATEMENTS



Structure

1st Paragraph: Start with a personal moment that ties in with your goals/ education/ interests

- Paragraph of a moment that is important to you as a teacher, researcher, student.
- Tells the reader something important and personal about you

2nd – 3rd Paragraphs: Past and current education that makes you qualified for this opportunity

- Coursework, specific skills you've gained, relevant work or extracurricular experiences

Structure Cont.

4th Paragraph: What you're going to do with the Fulbright

- Host country engagement project

5th Paragraph: What you're going to do afterwards

- Life after Fulbright- work, future degrees, be specific
- How Fulbright will have helped you achieve this

- **What** is your plan of study?
 - What is important about going to this specific place to complete it?
- **Who** do you want to work with?
 - Required Affiliation letter with a school
- **How** will this project/study opportunity help you further your academic or professional development?

- Read all the components at:
<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/academic>

Open Study

- What is your research plan?
 - What is **innovative** about it? This mainly means why should Fulbright pay for you to do this.
 - Specific **methodology and timeline**
- Do you have **sufficient language and academic skills** to successfully complete this research? (if in non-English dominant speaking country)
- Tip: Avoid discipline-specific jargon- not everyone reading your application will be an expert in your field. Be specific without being too technical.
- Read all the components at:
<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/academic>

Open Research

- Teaching Pedagogy
- Specific **qualifications, training, or experience** that you will bring to the classroom
 - Specific examples of you as a teacher.
 - If you have zero or limited teaching experience, mention times that you were in leadership or mentorship roles, even amongst your peers.
- **Personal attributes and skills** that will assist you in the challenge of living and working abroad
 - Be specific to how you have demonstrated them before
- Read all the components at:
<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/eta>

English Teaching Assistantship

- **Specific ideas** for engaging with students in host country
 - Clubs, organizations,
- Flexible and Feasible
- Don't make this location-specific *unless requested to* since you will be placed after being accepted. Ex, don't mention specific cities or organizations only in one city/region (you can be like "I would like to work with a program like _____ ")

Required Host Country Engagement

- Write in an **active, not a passive** voice
- Show- **be specific** and detailed
 - Ex: “During my engineering days, I helped a local NGO by joining as a math tutor, where I taught basic math concepts to school children” < “During my second year of engineering, I joined ‘Teach Math’, a local NGO, where I was a part of the Math tutoring team. For a period of 10 months, I taught basic math like algebra, geometry and arithmetic to more than thirty 5th and 6th grade students”
- You’re a professional writing to other professionals: don’t try to be too funny, too smart, or informal.

Tips

- Answer any and all questions they ask
 - You most likely will have slightly different statements for each program you're applying to (not just program specific differences). Read what they specifically want answered and make sure you do that.
- Follow their length requirements- **do not go under or over.**
- If you can, have your recommenders and/or someone in your field read it over and give feedback.

Tips Cont.

Resource: NCA Office

- Feel free to come in for 1 on 1 help and/or collaborate electronically on drafts or guidance

NCA Blog:

<http://blogs.cofc.edu/nationalawards/>

NCA Website:

<http://nationalawards.cofc.edu/statements/index.php>

NCA Office Hours:

11-3 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

11-2 Wednesday

Office Location: 6 Green Way, Room 203

- <https://www.hs.iastate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Personal-Statement-Worksheet.pdf>
- <https://louisville.edu/writingcenter/for-students-1/handouts-and-resources/handouts-1/personal-statements>
- <https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/2018-19/ReflectionQuestionsPersonalStatements.pdf>
- <https://ahf.usc.edu/files/2015/07/Fulbright-Grant-and-Personal-Statement-Tips-and-Guidelines-1.pdf>

Helpful Links