



## PROSHEK-FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Instructions for Completing the Proshek-Fulbright Scholarship Application

**J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange in the Slovak Republic supervises and administers the Fulbright Program for Slovak citizens.**

Office Contact Information:

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### General Information

The application is supported by all modern browsers. We highly recommend that you use a current version of Google Chrome or Firefox, which supports Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms.

Prior to starting an application, please complete the following steps:

#### **Step 1: Learn requirements for submitting an application**

Before you begin an application, we recommend contacting the J. William Fulbright Commission in Slovakia (Fulbright Slovakia) regarding the requirements.

#### **Step 2: Record username and password in a safe place**

Your email address is your username. When you create an account for this online application, record your password in a secure place. You can log in and out of the application as frequently as you like using your username and password.

#### **Step 3: Complete the application**

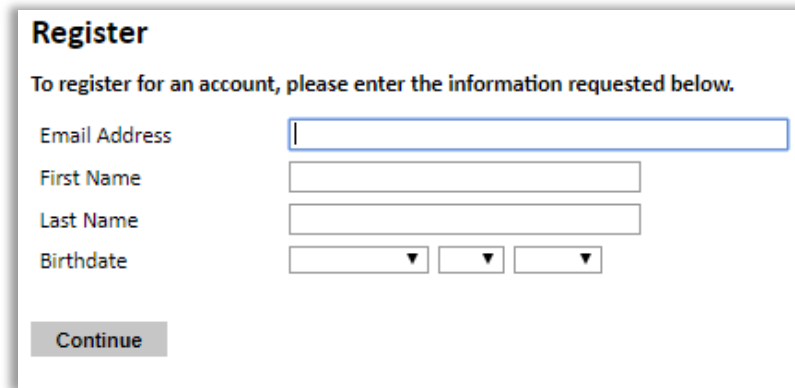
You do not need to complete this application at one time. You can re-enter at any time to edit your application. However, once you SUBMIT your application, **you CANNOT** make changes to it.

#### **Step 4: Submit the application**

Once you have entered all required information, including recommenders, review your application for errors. If all information is correct, submit your application. Once you submit **you CANNOT** make changes to your application.

## Creating Your Online Account

1. To start, click *Create an account*.
2. Enter your email address, first name, last name, and select your date of birth (Month-Day-Year) from the drop-down menus. **Your name must be entered exactly the way it appears (or will appear) on your passport.**



The image shows a 'Register' form with the following fields: 'Email Address' (text input), 'First Name' (text input), 'Last Name' (text input), and 'Birthdate' (three dropdown menus for month, day, and year). A 'Continue' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

**Note:** Use an email address that you will be able to access for at least two years after submitting your application. This is the email address you will use to log in to your application account. We recommend you do NOT use a work email address if you will not have access to it during your grant in the U.S.

3. Click Continue. You will receive an email from [apply@iie.org](mailto:apply@iie.org) confirming that you have started the application. The email will include a temporary PIN. Follow the instructions in the email to activate your account using the temporary PIN.
4. You will be prompted to enter your pin and then create a password to complete login.
5. Returning users: Click *Log in* and enter your email address and password. If you do not remember your password, click *Forgot your password?* and follow the resulting instructions.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE “PROSHEK-FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP 2025-2026” APPLICATION FORM (selected items only)**

Please read the instructions carefully before completing each item.

Before starting the application, please note that one of the crucial requirements is Slovak citizenship. Permanent residency in Slovakia and affiliation with Slovak institutions are preferred.

The Proshek-Fulbright Scholarship is designated for two categories of applicants:

- Category A:
  - o early-career physicians who have not yet received a Ph.D. degree or attestation
  - o Ph.D. students in medical science and related disciplines, including healthcare, dentistry, and pharmacy
  
- Category B:
  - o experienced physicians holding a medical attestation
  - o Ph.D. degree or an equivalent, and Ph.D. holders in medical science and related disciplines, including healthcare, dentistry, and pharmacy

### **Read the Welcome Section carefully**

We would like to stress the following:

- Do not use diacritics.
- You can log in and out of the application as frequently as you like.
- The requirements of Fulbright Slovakia are mandatory for Slovak candidates.

### **Section: Preliminary Questions**

Country You Are Applying From:

Slovak Republic

Academic Year:

Select 2025-2026. Please note, that the deadline to submit the application is **February 15, 2025 (23:59 CET/5:59 p.m. ET)**.

U.S. Permanent Residency:

If you have or are applying for U.S. permanent residency, you are ineligible for the Fulbright Program.

Program eligibility requirements for Slovakia:

If you are unsure whether you meet all eligibility requirements, please contact Fulbright Slovakia at [dasa@fulbright.sk](mailto:dasa@fulbright.sk) or +421-919-496-191.

IIE Data Privacy Consent for Applicants in IIE-Managed Programs

Please read the provided Program Privacy Statement carefully.

### **Section: Country Information**

Please do not hesitate to contact Fulbright Slovakia with any questions that may arise during the application process.

In the 'Award Information' section, select 'Proshok-Fulbright Program' as the Current Award.

**Section: Personal Information**

Name: Enter your name exactly as it appears on your passport. Do not use diacritical marks.

Country of Citizenship: Slovak Republic

Country of Permanent Residence: preference will be given to candidates with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic.

**Section: Contact Information**

Be sure to indicate your current mailing address if it differs from your permanent address.

Email:

The email address used to create your account will appear in the primary email address field and will not be editable. You may provide an alternate/secondary email that can be used to contact you if Fulbright Program officers cannot reach you via your primary email address.

Note: All system-generated emails will continue to be sent to your primary email address.

Emergency contact:

Please include the information for your emergency contact in Slovakia.

**Section: Academic & Professional Information**

Curriculum Vitae:

The application asks for similar information but provides limited space for your responses. In your curriculum vitae, you should elaborate on these topics to more fully showcase your accomplishments.

Note: If your file exceeds 6 pages, an error message will appear on the Review page, preventing the submission of your application.

Academic Background:

Please enter the highest degree you have earned first. Include only post-secondary institutions (Bc, BA, Mgr/Ing, MA, PhD, etc.)

Relevant Employment History & Significant Professional Accomplishments, Organizational Membership:

Please indicate the name of your employer as accurately as possible. List the name of your department/office and home institution in English.

Professional accomplishments may include teaching and research awards, publications, etc. List up to three significant publications, including the title, date, and publisher's name. A comprehensive list of significant publications should be included in your curriculum vitae.

Letter of Support from Home Institution:

**Not required.**

Experience Abroad:

Please ensure that you have included all your professional-related stays abroad. Specially, do not forget to mention any previous stay in the U.S., if applicable. If you have participated in Work and Travel Program, you do not need to provide a copy of the respective DS-2019.

**Section: Language Skills****English Language Proficiency:**

Indicate your personal assessment of your English language skills. No test is required. However, if you have taken an English language test in the past, please upload the results in the 'Additional Information' section.

**Section: Plagiarism Agreement**

Read this section carefully and provide your answer. Please be aware that plagiarism in any part of your application will result in disqualification from the Proshek-Fulbright Program.

**Section: Project Proposal****To which category of grant are you applying:**

You may apply in only one category:

- Research

**Project title:** Briefly describe the focus of the proposed activity.

**Brief Summary of Project Proposal:**

Rationale: In a few sentences, provide a concise overview that allows non-specialists to easily understand the significance of the project and its potential contributions to the field. (Please keep within the 700-character limit.)

**Project Statement:**

The project statement is the cornerstone of the Fulbright application. It should span three to five single-spaced pages (approximately 2,700 words). We advise structuring your proposal according to the points outlined below, using them as headings for sections within your statement. While these points provide a framework, you are not bound to follow them in sequence; however, ensure that each is adequately addressed.

***Background/Introduction:***

Begin by introducing your research topic and providing context within the medical or healthcare field. Situate your project within the current academic or professional landscape, referencing relevant research or key works by others in your area of expertise.

***Objectives:***

Explicitly define the aims of the project in detail. Since your project proposal will be reviewed by peers in the field, do not hesitate to be specific.

***Methodology:***

Describe your project in detail. Explain the approach, methods, timeline, and plan you will use (e.g., research, medical case studies, laboratory experiments, data collection, consultations, or collaborations). Specify whether your proposed research is quantitative or qualitative and how you plan to carry out your research at the University of Minnesota, Medical School.

***Significance:***

Articulate the project's importance for the field, your home country, and your professional development. Highlight the anticipated impact on your professional work or teaching in your home country (e.g., new approaches, techniques, methods, expanding knowledge through collaboration with U.S. colleagues). Briefly outline the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community, or professional field.

### *Evaluation and Dissemination:*

Outline how you will assess and disseminate your research results, both within Slovakia and internationally. If relevant, discuss how your findings will influence healthcare practice, education, or policy in your home country or elsewhere.

### *Justification for Residence in the U.S. for the Proposed Project:*

Briefly clarify why conducting your project at the University of Minnesota, Medical School, is essential for its completion. Explain how the resources, expertise, or collaborative opportunities at this institution are crucial for advancing your research, particularly in ways that are not possible in Slovakia.

When crafting the project statement, bear in mind:

- The "rule of 4Ws" – *what* (what do you want to focus on, what are your objectives/goals), *where* (rationale what University of Minnesota can offer you as the host institution), *why* (importance of the research), and *with what result* (what will be the benefit for Slovakia after your return home, what will you use this experience/results for).
- Tailor to the audience: While your project statement should demonstrate your expertise in your field, remember that it will be reviewed by a diverse panel, including experts and non-experts alike. Ensure that your language is accessible to a broad audience while still conveying the depth of your knowledge.
- Highlight feasibility: While it's important to propose ambitious and innovative projects, make sure they are also realistic and achievable within the timeframe and resources available. Providing a clear plan for implementation will strengthen your application.
- Stay true to yourself: Your project statement is an opportunity to showcase your unique perspective, experiences, and aspirations. Be authentic and true to yourself in your writing, and let your individual voice shine through.

### Intended Grant Period:

Candidates from Slovakia can propose a grant duration of three to six months. Indicate as precisely as possible the period during which you intend to carry out your proposed program in the U.S. It is recommended that you plan your program during the U.S. academic year (typically from September through May), when your U.S. colleagues are more likely to be available. The length of the stay should reflect the time needed to complete the proposed project in the U.S. The precise dates of the scholar's visit may be adjusted after nomination for the grant.

### Institutional Affiliation:

We require our candidates to arrange their affiliation at the time of submitting the application. If you haven't established contact with your counterpart at the University of Minnesota Medical School, you can reach out to [Veronika Bachanova](#), who will help you make the connection. Applications without an invitation letter will not be accepted

### Letter of Invitation:

Letter of invitation should be typed on institution's official letterhead and signed.

There is no specific format for the Letter of Invitation. However, it should specify:

- name of applicant,

- country of origin,
- research activity (topic/title) related to the proposed project during the grant period at the University of Minnesota,
- exact start and end dates (which might be subject to change upon nomination for the scholarship),
- expected outcomes. It should reflect both the existing and planned cooperation in the future,
- facilities available to the candidate during their stay, such as access to a library, office desk etc., or any in-kind arrangements the institution can provide to the scholar,
- include any contingencies the host may have.

### **Section: Grant & Travel Plans**

#### Financial Information:

Please indicate whether you expect to receive sabbatical pay and if you plan to apply for or have already applied for other sources of funding.

#### Passport:

Please upload the current bio-data page of your passport and those of all your dependents. If your passport is about to expire, you may still upload it and provide us with the new one if you are selected for the program.

#### Accompanying Dependents:

Please indicate all accompanying dependents (defined as a spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21) who you would like to travel with you for at least 80% of your stay. The Commission will assist you in obtaining J-2 visas for all of them. If available, please provide scanned copies of the passports for all dependents in the Additional Information Section – additional documentation.

### **Section: Additional Information**

In this section, you can upload the results of your language test, if applicable.

Please download the Authorization to Process Personal Data (Súhlas so spracovaním osobných údajov) form, complete and sign it, and upload it to this section.

### **Section: Recommendations**

List the names and contact information of three individuals from whom you have requested a letter of reference. By registering these individuals, you enable them to submit the letters of reference directly to the online application system. They will receive a notification email with instructions on how to write or upload the recommendation. Please note that the letter is confidential.

We strongly recommend requesting letters of reference online. It is your responsibility to ensure that the letters of reference are submitted by the application deadline (February 15, 2025).