



## Fulbright U.S. Student Program: Guidance for Recommenders of \*ETA\* Candidates

Thank you for supporting a UT English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) candidate for the [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#). **For ETAs, the Fulbright requires the submission of an ETA Recommendation Form and not a letter of recommendation. Please note that the Fulbright Program will not accept recommendation letters for ETA candidates. A sample of the rec form is found [HERE](#).** Because the Fulbright is a nationally competitive scholarship, these recommendations are of critical importance to the student's application and likelihood of success. The [Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships](#) (ONSF) serves as UT's official point of contact for the Fulbright, with ONSF Director Andrew Seidler the UT Fulbright Program Adviser (FPA). We hope the information provided here is helpful; however, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew at [aseidler@utk.edu](mailto:aseidler@utk.edu).

You will receive from the Fulbright's Embark application system an e-mail with instructions on how to submit your recommendation online. ONSF requests that **recommendations be submitted online, via Embark, by the UT Campus Deadline of August 28.** This allows us to provide as complete an application as possible for our UT faculty committee's campus review process.

Fulbright ETAs serve, under supervision, at their assigned placements and will be expected to develop and carry out a variety of learning activities, make presentations on U.S. culture and society, and/or assist faculty in an English Language Department with their teaching responsibilities, as needed. Facility with and knowledge of English usage, grammar, spelling, and writing is important. You may be able to comment on the applicant's abilities in those areas from tests or papers they have prepared for your course or from formal presentations, classroom discussions, service activities, experiences abroad, or individual interviews and experiences with the applicant. In addition, some countries request that applicants describe an academic or other project or activity they would pursue concurrent with the ETA assignment. This is a secondary component of the grant and may provide insight into the applicant's interest in the host country, academic or career interests, and/or suitability for the program. Generally, ETAs are placed outside of major cities. Candidates' likelihood of integration into the host community is of great importance to review committees.

In the case of the Fulbright, while ONSF facilitates campus interviews, there is no national interview, so all the Fulbright's national screening committee will have is what is before them on paper. Your recommendation will therefore provide perspective not otherwise present in the application, perhaps highlighting particular strengths. **In writing your recommendation, please keep in mind that Fulbrighters serve as cultural ambassadors representing the U.S. and that personal suitability, as well as academic excellence, is an important criterion.** Wherever possible, **please use concrete examples to illustrate the student's relevant preparation and suitability for this opportunity.** What a review committee needs to hear are those things that set apart a particular student from the others they will be reading about. *You might consider how the student: showed resilience and adaptability; initiative and ability to be creative and self-directed; developed/matured over the duration of your relationship.*