

INFORMATION SHEET

THE FULBRIGHT VISITING STUDENT –LONG TERM ENGLISH

Prepared by:
American Cultural Center
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

What is this program?

This is a program specially designed for graduating 4th year university students who have good English skills but who are not sufficiently fluent in English to pursue full-time graduate study in the U.S. The program allows such students to go to the U.S. for up to 8 months of intensive English language training and to then seek admission to a Masters (MA) degree study program in the United States under the Fulbright Visiting Student Program (FVS). If admitted to a graduate degree program the student has up to two years to obtain his or her Master's degree. Funding for both the intensive English language training and the Master's Degree program is provided by the government of the United States of America through the U.S. Department of State.

What kinds of people are eligible to apply?

Any person who is currently affiliated with and who is committed to continue working either at an **academic institution of higher education**, or at a **public or private educational, cultural, or professional institution** in their home country upon completion of their program.

What are the minimum requirements?

Only persons who meet the following minimum requirements can apply.

- Citizens or permanent residents of Burkina Faso who are qualified to hold a valid passport issued by Burkina Faso;
- Persons who have or will have by **July 2020** a university degree awarded after at least four years of full-time study that is sufficient to qualify the person to be admitted to a graduate study program at a university in the U.S.;
- Persons who have the endorsement of their home institution; and Persons who have good written and spoken English.

Who are the most competitive applicants?

Anyone meeting the minimum requirements may apply. However, people who have the

following characteristics are the most competitive applicants and therefore the ones most likely to be selected:

- Persons who are complying with Burkina Faso Development Goals
- 4th-year university students who graduated or who will graduate before the **July 2020** from an institution of higher education in Burkina Faso;
- Persons who wish to pursue a Masters (MA) degree and who intend to return to Burkina Faso
- Persons who have outstanding academic records, references, and academic preparation in their fields;
- Persons who can score at least 550 and
- Persons who have not previously studied in the U.S.

Applications from women and graduating 4th year students are encouraged.

What kinds of people are not eligible?

The following are examples of persons who are **not** eligible for this program:

- Persons who have already received a bachelor's or master's degree in the U.S.;
- Persons who have participated in a Fulbright program within the past three years;
- Persons wishing to pursue PH.D or Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degrees;
- Persons wishing to pursue Masters degrees or other study programs in English, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Linguistics, or English Literature; and
- Persons who cannot score at least 520 on The Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) before starting intensive English language training in the U.S.

If I am eligible and meet the minimum requirements, how do I apply?

- You must complete a package of application materials. **Application is available on the U.S. embassy web site <https://bf.usembassy.gov/> from December 04, 2019 to January 31, 2020.**
- **Application forms must be completed and returned to the American Embassy, Service CAC by January 31, 2020.**

How does the competition work?

- **In February-March 2020, candidates selected by the American Embassy will take the TELP test and will be interviewed. After the interviews, selected candidates to continue the competition will register for TOEFL that will be taken in Ouagadougou in April-May 2020 and GRE in October 2020.** The finalists must also fill out the online application and provide additional application materials (letters of reference, degrees and academic transcripts (in French and

English) to the American Embassy by **July 31, 2020**.

- **Finalists from Burkina Faso then compete against applicants from other sub-Saharan African countries, and the winners will be announced in late-2020 or early 2021**

Please do not call to find out if you have been selected to be interviewed. If you have been selected, we will contact you by telephone or e-mail to schedule your interview. If you are not contacted by mid-March this means that you were not selected to participate in the competition.

What if I am not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso?

If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso you cannot apply for this program through the U.S. Embassy or the American Cultural Center in Ouagadougou. You should contact the Public Affairs Section in the U.S. Embassy in your home country to find out whether your country participates in this program, and, if so, how to apply.

When will I go to the United States if I am selected?

The current competition is for English language training commencing in the U.S. as early as January 2021 and continuing through mid-August 2019 with the expectation that participants will then be placed in master's degree programs beginning in August 2021 and September 2021

If I am selected can my spouse or children come with me to the U.S.?

No. Grantee may request permission for his or her dependents to visit him/her for a short period of time after arrival in the U.S. if he/she can show proof of adequate personal funds to cover the living expenses of the dependents including the cost of health insurance for them. Request template can be asked to Post. Dependent will not get J2 dependent visa.

How do I get more information?

You can pull out the application from on our web site: <https://bf.usembassy.gov/>
Public information sessions: every Wednesday from **16:30 to 18:30**, beginning Wednesday, **December 4, 2019** and continuing through **January 29, 2020** at the **American Embassy Ouaga 2000. (Cell phones & computers not allowed.) Please go to: <https://forms.gle/WVnP28NSFkHVAA3x9> and register to be able to participate to the information sessions. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO LEAVE TIME FOR SECURITY CHECKS**