Previous Winner Profile:
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Second Year Law Student, Northwestern University

One of the best experiences I had during my Fulbright year was the Fulbright conference. It was particularly amazing because it provided the opportunity to meet Fulbright scholars from all over the world and be exposed to the interesting and important work they were doing.

My location in Germany and my schedule at the school made travelling easy. I made it a priority to see as much of Germany as I could. I also was able to visit other countries, including Italy, France, Croatia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, England, Scotland, and Portugal. It was surprising and exhilarating to be able to travel to all of these places in such a short amount of time and with such ease.

My students’ expectations about me as an American were also surprising. The first day I introduced myself in all the classrooms and opened the floor for questions. The first few were posed in this order: Do you have a gun? Did you bring it with you? Do you eat at McDonald’s every day? What do you think of Obama? I knew that as a Fulbright I could answer the questions honestly, but also give answers that would be representative of the American perspective. I was just surprised that the students were so eager and curious to learn (and hopefully let me debunk some of the myths) about American culture.

After my Fulbright year I was confident that I wanted to attend law school. My Fulbright grant made my application stronger. Fulbright also broadened my perspective and helps me think of issues on a global scale.

What advice would you give current Fulbright applicants? Working with the National Scholarships & Fellowships Program early on instead of waiting until the deadline will make your application stronger and make your life a lot easier. Make sure to leave plenty of time to write your personal statement and get multiple rounds of feedback.
Application Advice: 
Asking For Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are a critical component of award applications, providing information about your work and potential. Recommenders should be individuals who know you well and can speak to your abilities and potential related to the specific criteria for the award to which you are applying. NS&FP advisors are available to consult with you on selecting recommenders. After you have selected recommenders:

- Ask each recommender if she/he can provide a strong letter of recommendation
- Ask for recommendations at least a month in advance of the deadline
- Provide recommenders with materials about your accomplishments and future plans, including:
  - updated résumé/ CV
  - information about the award/ program to which you are applying, including specific information about the selection criteria
  - detailed information about when and how to submit the recommendation
  - copies of essays you are submitting as part of your application
  - a brief summary recapping how long you have known the recommender and in what context(s)
- A week before the recommendation deadline, follow up with your recommenders to remind them the deadline is approaching if they have not yet submitted their letters
- Be sure to send a thank you to your recommenders, expressing your appreciation for their support
- Keep your recommenders updated on the outcome of your application

Mentors are often able to write particularly effective letters of recommendation.

Next Issue: Cultivating mentoring relationships.

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