

Fulbright-Cottrell Award 2021

Questions and answers for applicants

WHAT DOES THE AWARD INCLUDE?

The Award includes the following components:

- Funding of 63,000 € for a three-year project that combines innovative research and teaching approaches in the fields of chemistry, physics, or astronomy.
- Costs up to 5,000 € for transatlantic flights from Germany to at least two annual Cottrell Scholar Conferences in Tucson, Arizona. Costs will be covered as incurred, starting in May 2021.
- As an additional component, the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) will fund the scholar's conference fee, hotel accommodation and meals during the Cottrell Scholar Conference.
- Participation in the late spring 2021 [Fulbright-Cottrell professional development workshop](#).

The Award is a contribution to the scientific and academic program of the principal investigator's ("PI") institution ("Institution"), to be used in support of the proposed project only. It is a true Award to Institution, not a contract for research with Institution or PI.

HOW LONG DOES THE AWARD LAST?

The term of the Award is three years, with a single one-year extension possible to expend unused funds. The request for an extension must be made in writing to the German-American Fulbright Commission ("the Commission") at least 30 calendar days before the end of the second year of the Award.

WHICH PROPOSALS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

The primary criterion for research funding is to add to fundamental scientific knowledge in one of the three core disciplines (chemistry, physics and astronomy). Applied research without a significant fundamental knowledge component is not funded. "Applied research" is interpreted as any type of research aimed at developing new technology, methods or techniques, or the applications of methods and techniques to topics in disciplines other than the three core disciplines, and includes areas such as science education, social science, environmental remediation studies, geochemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition and food science, and the type of biomedical research typically conducted in medical schools or biomedical engineering departments. In addition, research in the life sciences is excluded, including physiology, ecology, cell biology and genetic studies. If unclear on whether a particular research area fits programmatic guidelines, please contact the Commission.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE AWARD MONEY?

The first of two Award installments is disbursed by July 1, 2021, upon receipt by the Commission of the Fulbright-Cottrell Award Program Authorization signed by PI and the Administrative/Fiscal Officer of Institution, which is expected by May 2021.

WHEN AND HOW DO I HAVE TO FILE REPORTS?

The applicant must submit financial and scientific reports to the Commission. Three reports are due annually within the 30 calendar days of the 12-, 24- and 36-month anniversaries of the award start date. Failure to provide the first or second annual reports may result in suspension of the Award and a request to return unspent funds. Failure to provide the final report will result in suspension of the Award.

Each report must summarize the findings under the Award, assess the degree to which the original goals have been reached or surpassed, and provide a summary of the financial expenditures over each year of the Award (as well as cumulative expenditures to date). PI and an authorized financial officer of Institution must sign all reports.

WHO OWNS THE RIGHTS TO MY PROJECT RESULTS?

The Commission disclaims any rights to any ideas or inventions or other intellectual property that may arise from the project.

HOW FREELY CAN I USE THE AWARD MONEY?

Since research by its very nature is unpredictable and may require adaptations in order to exploit promising leads, Institution and PI are allowed to make changes in the emphasis or direction of the project as it progresses. Within the project, funds may be expended freely within the allowed categories.

Allowed expenditures are:

- **Equipment and supplies:** expenditures appropriate to the project
- **Postdoctoral and graduate stipends** (in correspondence with Institution's guidelines)
- **Travel costs:** as appropriate to the objectives of the project
- **Other costs:** expenditures demonstrably essential to the project (e. g., construction of highly specialized equipment or devices, educational outreach, employment of teachers)

Expenditures not allowed include:

- Overhead or indirect costs
- Building construction or renovation (brick and mortar)
- Regular secretarial and support staff costs, or Institution services (including copying, reproduction, postage, instrument maintenance, and other routine services)
- Books, journals, and costs of publication
- Tuition and fees
- Faculty salary

WHAT IF THE FOCUS OF MY RESEARCH CHANGES?

Institution and PI are allowed to make changes in the emphasis or direction of the project as it progresses. However, Institution and PI must notify the Commission, in writing and in a timely fashion, of any significant change in the project or PI's status. Institution and PI must obtain the Commission's prior written approval for substitute research or teaching projects. In addition, because the Award is for a specific research and teaching project and for the purpose of fostering the development of the individual, substituting PI is not permitted. Any substitution of PI, or any substitute research or teaching project not approved in advance by the Commission, will terminate the Award.

WHAT IF I LEAVE/CHANGE MY INSTITUTION?

If PI leaves Institution, a final report must be submitted and any remaining Award funds returned to the Commission within 60 calendar days after PI's departure. As the Award is made to Institution, Award funds may not be transferred directly from Institution to another institution. However, the Commission may approve a transfer of the Award at its sole discretion if (A) a terminal report on the Award, including scientific and financial statements, from Institution and PI is submitted and accepted by the Commission (and any other outstanding obligations are fulfilled) and (B) PI submits a letter describing the opportunities for continuing the research and teaching projects, and requesting transfer of the remaining Award funds to PI's new institution within Germany. Proven primary affiliation with a German institution at which the project is hosted during the entire Award period (3 years) is mandatory.