Advice to help you write a strong proposal for a Fulbright Award.

Source: SWS listserv from Southern Connecticut State University,

Reformatted by Sarah L. Keller for the College of Arts and Sciences, 18 July 2013

• The Fulbright is meant to be an exchange that benefits all parties: you, your current institution, and the institution you will visit. Elucidate how all three will gain. For example, will there be lasting ties? Will there be exchange of pedagogical content or practices? Activities by which you contribute to the host department may include curriculum development, faculty development, and program evaluation. Will your experience benefit your home institution, for example through development of new courses, programming, or collaborations? What is the broader impact on the students and on the country you will visit?

• Why have you chosen the particular country you will be visiting? (You are not expected to know everything. You will bring your knowledge, and you will learn during the award period.)

• Be realistic. Are your plans feasible?

• Portray yourself and your plans as adaptable. For example, how will you adapt your teaching style for non-English speakers, or within a different cultural context, or according to norms or traditions of your host country and institution? How will you make your courses relevant?

• Outline your teaching strategies. Explain why you will be teaching what you propose. In your courses, will you compare experiences and culture? If so, ask students to think about big ideas and broad concepts and to bring examples to class; find similarities and differences. Will you discuss contemporary issues? If so, the way that our different societies define and address the issues may be very different, and this can be explored with students.

• Clearly state your relevant expertise and experience.

• Contacts in the host country are important. Secure a letter of invitation even if it is not explicitly required because it will help you look well prepared. Moreover, the process will enable you to work with someone at the host institution to develop a statement of how your visit will complement that institution’s needs.

• Faculty at the host institution will be most enthusiastic about gaining a colleague, not merely someone who can teach a course. You have already convinced your UW colleagues to welcome you to this institution. Employ the same tactics to convince the Fulbright committee that you will be a valuable member of the community that you will be visiting.

• Be direct and thorough.

• Call the Program Office for all countries you are considering visiting to ask specific questions and to float your ideas. For example, it is valuable to know what the priorities of the host country’s Fulbright office have been in the past few years, and this is one way to do it.