



ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT 2023

UNITED STATES-INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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NEW DELHI | CHENNAI | HYDERABAD | KOLKATA | MUMBAI

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ABOUT USIEF

The Indo-U.S. Agreement on educational exchange, signed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and U.S. Ambassador Loy Henderson on February 2, 1950, in New Delhi, established the United States Educational Foundation in India to administer the Fulbright Program in India. On July 4, 2008, the Government of India (GOI) and the U.S. Government (USG) signed a new agreement to strengthen educational exchanges between the two countries. The Foundation was renamed as United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) awarding Fulbright-Nehru Scholarships and Grants. The USG and GOI are now equal partners for implementing the Fulbright Program in India. A 10- member Board of Directors, five Americans living in India nominated by the U.S. Diplomatic Mission and five Indians nominated by the Government of India, governs USIEF.

Since its inception in 1950, USIEF has awarded over 21,000 fellowships funded by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Education, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST), and other entities.

USIEF's activities may be broadly categorized as follows:

- ❖ Administering Fulbright-Nehru, Fulbright-Kalam and other fellowships for Indian and American students, faculty, researchers, and professionals.
- ❖ Managing EducationUSA Advising Services for Indian students interested in pursuing higher education in the U.S.
- ❖ Supporting Fulbright Alumni related activities to further the educational and cultural linkages between the U.S. and India
- ❖ Serving as a resource for fostering linkages between institutions of higher education in the U.S. and India.

INTRODUCTION

USIEF continued to make significant strides in 2022-2023 with active engagement from the academic community, government agencies and partner organizations, both in the U.S. and in India. During the period of October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, USIEF organized over 100 events, which included several programs showcasing the outstanding work and accomplishments of Indian and American Fulbrighters. The work of many of our Fulbrighters was published in national press as well as vernacular publications, generating greater awareness across India.

This year, USIEF successfully transitioned back to conducting in-person, in-country orientation programs for U.S. Fulbrighters. USIEF also hosted two Fulbright conferences for the U.S. Fulbrighters to bring together all the various cohorts that were in India due to the staggered arrivals after the global pandemic. As of October 31, 2023, seventy-five (75) U.S. Fulbrighters were in India.

USIEF continued to utilize a hybrid approach to recruit Indian applicants for the 2024-2025 academic year fellowships. USIEF conducted a total of 81 online and in-person programs, which included information sessions, mentoring programs and capacity building workshops. As part of the ongoing "Creating New Connections" series, USIEF organized Fulbright outreach in the second-tier cities of Jodhpur, Raipur, Vizag and Mangaluru to promote geographical and institutional diversity and increase awareness about the Fulbright competition cycle. USIEF received 2061 applications, which is an increase of 6% more applications for the Fulbright-Nehru, Fulbright-Kalam and other Fulbright programs over last year. We also hosted an in-person pre-departure orientation for the Indian Fulbrighters selected for 2023-2024 cycle. As of October 31, 2023, one hundred and sixty three (163) Indian Fulbrighters are in the U.S.

This year, USIEF welcomed new members to the USIEF Board from both the U.S. and India. The USIEF Board also made some important recommendations for the Fulbright program which will reflect in the incoming cycle of both Indian and U.S. Fulbrighters. The recommendations included the discontinuation of the English Teaching Assistant under the U.S. program and the expansion of the Fulbright-Kalam fellowships.

USIEF also successfully secured a grant to deliver EducationUSA advising services in India. The EducationUSA India team continued to deliver fairs, outreach events with Indian schools and universities, basic orientation sessions, 'ask-an adviser' sessions and thematic sessions on specialized topics related to U.S. higher education. USIEF organized over 815 events, including virtual fairs, hybrid, in-person, and virtual outreach events, reaching over 90,000 participants.

USIEF HIGHLIGHTS

USIEF organized the Annual South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference in Kochi in February 2023. 90 American Fulbright scholars from India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka attended.



The U.S. Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar brought together 14 participants for a two-week program in India in February March 2023. The grantees visited Indian institutions of higher education in Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi.



USIEF hosted a pre-departure orientation for the 2023-2024 Indian Fulbright Nehru and Fulbright-Kalam students and scholars in May 2023 in Kolkata. Over 100 Fulbright-Nehru and Fulbright-Kalam fellows attended the orientation.

In July 2023, USIEF conducted pre-departure orientation sessions for three programs- Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA), Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (FTEA) and Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching (FDAI). 22 grantees attended these sessions.



In-person EducationUSA 'Study in the U.S.' university fairs resumed in August 2023. 60 U.S. universities participated across five cities and engaged with over 7500 participants.



10 Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar participants from India visited the U.S. in September–October 2023. The seminar was facilitated by the University of Notre Dame.

SCHOLAR STORIES

Jill Belsky, 2022-2023, U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (Teaching and Research), University of Montana, Missoula, MT

(Host Institution: Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

The primary goal of my Fulbright project was to enhance conservation social science expertise in India through a field research project and teaching. Conservation social science entails understanding and addressing the cultural, economic, and political dimensions of managing natural resources in a sustainable and equitable manner. My field project was centered in the mountainous Gangotri landscape in Uttarakhand where conservation is challenged by limited livelihoods and economic resources, rapid and unmanaged socio-ecological change and development, and some human-wildlife conflicts. To familiarize myself with the Gangotri landscape I trekked to two alpine valleys (Har Ki Dun and Tapovan in Gangotri National Park). To understand the many different perspectives surrounding conservation, I spent time with professional Indian forestry and natural resource managers in Dehradun and in the field. To learn the concerns of local farmers and community leaders, I spent time in eight Gangotri villages involved in the UNDP - funded Secure Himalaya project (Mukhwa, Dharali, Harsil, Bagori (where I resided), Jhala, Purali, and Sukki). To contribute to enhancing academic knowledge and conservation social science pedagogy, I met with students, researchers and gave presentations and lectures to the Biodiversity Board and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) classes. I also designed and conducted a two-day workshop on "Participatory Methods for Social-Ecological Systems Research and Action" held at WII at the end of my Fulbright so I could incorporate insights and examples from my field experiences.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

The greatest impact was the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of Indian social and ecological professionals, and people from all walks of life (albeit mostly in Uttarakhand). These included scientists I met at WII and their colleagues, and during a three-day planning meeting for an ecological study of the Hanifl Center forest (affiliated with the Woodstock School). Through my former PhD student and colleague, Dr. Rajiv Bhartari, I met many prominent academics, lawyers, and professional managers, as well as their friends and neighbors. As a temporary member of their community, I enjoyed participating in Holi and other cultural celebrations and everyday activities. This was particularly beneficial for me as all my previous Fulbright grants were in remote, rural villages. Interacting with people along a continuum of economic classes, professional and religious groups enabled me to gain a wider understanding of natural resource issues, and Indian society and concerns more broadly. On an academic level, it enabled me to “bookend” if you will a 40-year career in mountain agriculture and conservation, and to see how current political-economic-cultural forces in one region in India are playing out amidst current challenges, notably climate change and post-globalization dynamics. These examples undoubtedly influenced my thinking and will reflect in the examples I will provide in presentations and other professional activities in the future.

“

Many of the people I met during my Fulbright will remain life-long friends and colleagues.

”

Ishan Bhatia, 2020-2021, U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Program, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York

(Host Institution: Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

With my Fulbright-Nehru Grant, I helped develop novel CAR-T cell therapy for Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL). I worked on this project with Dr. Gaurav Narula, a Pediatric Oncologist at Tata Memorial Hospital who is leading India's first clinical trial for CAR-T. My research focused on comparing various methods for T cell isolation, activation, and expansion – steps in the clinical production of CAR-T cells. There is little literature available on comparative efficacies of T cell selection and expansion strategies, so I worked to delineate the advantages and disadvantages of different methods. My objective was to identify which method is the most feasible in terms of cost and production efficiency for CAR-T cell manufacturing. I was able to accomplish my complete research objectives, originally designed for a nine-month period, in the five months I spent in India. The amount of data I was able to produce during my Fulbright fellowship will provide Dr. Narula's team with compelling insight into the comparative efficacies of various methods for T cell selection and expansion. I also received hands-on training on the clinical manufacturing of CAR-T cells in a cGMP facility, which included both manual and closed manufacturing, clean room workflows for multiple cell therapy protocols, and quality control parameters for cell therapy products. These skills and knowledge I learned is invaluable, as it is difficult to get this kind of hands-on experience in the United States. I am very grateful to Dr. Narula and his team for this amazing opportunity. I presented my Fulbright results twice in India, once to the Pediatric Oncology Department at TMH and once to the CAR-T and Cell Therapy Centre (CTCTC) team at ACTREC. Additionally, in September 2022, I presented my Fulbright results at the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Conference in Bethesda, MD.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

My Fulbright experience was honestly the five most meaningful months of my life. Everything about my Fulbright was perfect, and there is no place I would have rather been than in India. While I was very busy with my research for most of my Fulbright fellowship, I did have some time to get involved in my local community. The highlight was when the team and I put on an educational play about the benefits of dendritic cell vaccines against cancer. The team performed this play to the delight of children at a local hospital, and we performed the play again at ACTREC's Annual Day of Immunology. We were awarded the first prize in the best play category, which was a tremendous honor. It was exciting to get together with my co-workers in a non-research setting, where we had fun while still collaborating on an educational subject. In moments like these, I connected with co-workers to promote mutual understanding by learning about their lives in Mumbai while also sharing my experiences from the U.S. My grant was very fulfilling personally in this way, as I created strong friendships with both my research and my clinical colleagues. Additionally, I was able to spend time with my family, who taught me about my culture, religion, and history. Professionally, the connections I made with faculty at Tata Memorial Hospital will last me a lifetime. It is so exciting for me to see the work Dr. Narula and his team does, as they are truly revolutionizing the field of oncology for India. My experiences in oncology shadowing physicians, learning about patient cases, and conducting research have all solidified my conviction that I wish to become an oncologist. As I returned home to the U.S. and began medical school, I knew that the connections I made during my Fulbright will stay with me throughout my training and beyond. I am excited for a future career of continued collaboration.



My Fulbright helped shape my life vision and life goals, and I am confident that India will always be a part of my future.



Elizabeth Thomas, 2021-2022, U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (Research), Chicago Folklore Ensemble, Chicago, IL

(Host Institution: Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

In May 2022, I embarked on my Fulbright journey to Kolkata, West Bengal, to begin a unique project titled "Banyan Roots," a podcast series about the Baul and Fakir, musical mystics of Bengal. My host institution was Rabindra Bharati University, and I had the privilege of working under the guidance of the esteemed Rabindra sangeet singer and professor Agnibha Bandyopadhyay. Over the span of nine months, I visited numerous villages across West Bengal. I had the privilege of meeting and engaging with Bauls and Fakirs who generously shared their songs and profound insights into the philosophy of the lyrics. I was invited to play my violin alongside them, which facilitated deeper connections and allowed me to capture the essence of these jam sessions with my recording equipment. Following these sessions, I engaged singers and teachers to gain a deeper understanding of the songs' meanings. I recorded all these interviews, which I later translated at my studio in Kolkata. In addition to fieldwork, I dedicated time in Kolkata to do in-depth research on various aspects of the Baul tradition, encompassing lifestyle, practices, history, and musicology. I was invited to participate in an audio-video documentary celebrating the legendary Ajahar Fakir, a composer, poet, saint from Gourbhanga in the Nodiya district. We recorded over 20 videos featuring his original compositions. My extensive fieldwork allowed me to collect a wealth of material, enabling me to select the most compelling and relevant content for my podcast series. Each episode features 3-5 songs, accompanied by insightful discussions with the singers or their gurus, all meticulously translated. The research and scripting for each episode is nearly complete, and I have entered the recording phase of the project. My time in India has enriched my repertoire with an array of Baul and Fakir songs, which I have been sharing with my Bengali band, Ochin Pakhi, based in Chicago. Remarkably, my bandmates, many of whom have no familial connection to India, are now singing these songs in Bengali. Our band, Ochin Pakhi, has made a significant impact on the Chicago music scene, drawing the attention of award-winning director Elja Roy, who is producing a documentary about our group titled "Ochin Pakhi." This documentary will be featured at the South-Asian Film Festival in Chicago.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

The Fulbright experience has profoundly influenced various aspects of my life. Firstly, it has opened many doors in my field, allowing me to forge valuable connections with leading scholars and performers in the Baul and Fakir tradition. My time spent in West Bengal greatly increased my proficiency in the Bengali language. As my husband is Bengali, being able to speak his mother tongue has enabled more meaningful relationships with his family and friends. Additionally, I have ventured into translating works by Rabindranath Tagore and other poets into English, with some of my translations already published online. I have also published a booklet of song lyrics for a Rabindra sangeet album recorded with my group, Chicago Folklore Ensemble, titled "Praner Alap." I look forward to contributing further to the translation of Bengali works. While living in Kolkata, as a side project, I continued my Hindustani violin lessons under the tutelage of violin maestro Indradeep Ghosh. These in-person lessons significantly enhanced my abilities in Hindustani classical music, and I am now receiving invitations to perform as a soloist. Beyond my professional growth, the Fulbright experience has deepened my cultural awareness both abroad and at home. Immersed in Bengali culture, I have developed new values, placing a stronger emphasis on human connections over material projects. I have cultivated a deeper respect for my elders and teachers, and I've discovered a source of wisdom within myself that I can tap into when I take the time to truly slow down and listen. Overall, my experience in India was exceptionally positive, and I look forward to nurturing a lifelong relationship with the country and its people.



**My experience in India was enriching,
humbling, expansive and transformative.**



Aparajita Sengupta, 2021-2022, Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Scholar, Independent Researcher, Birbhum, West Bengal

(Host Institution: University of Kentucky, Lexington)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

My project was titled Growing Food, Growing Voices: Connecting Women Farmers in India and the United States. I was hosted by the University of Kentucky and was able to meet with, interview and personally connect with women farmers from diverse backgrounds in Kentucky. Through the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund, I was able to share my knowledge, both as an academic and as a farmer, in universities outside of my host institution. By attending a Local Food Conference, teaching a cooking class, delivering lectures at the University of Kentucky, I had the unique opportunity to interact with students. Furthermore, to get some hands-on experience, my family and I volunteered at a community garden project run by Seedleaf - Lexington over the summer. Through this fellowship, I was also able to experience different kinds of agricultural set-ups and engage with sustainable agricultural education centers, university-owned farms, and urban gardens. I was able to augment my overall understanding of sustainable agriculture and climate change challenges to agriculture by the research opportunities offered to me. Access to a wide variety of academic resources through the university and public libraries, comprehensive review exercises along with engaging book talks, organized by my host Dr. Keiko Tanaka, helped me draft and structure my book and publish an article with the Berry Center Journal.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

It has shown me that despite very different socioeconomic conditions, the challenges to and solutions for women farmers in India and the U.S. are quite similar. My connection with the academic community in the U.S. impacted and influenced my areas of research. Through talks and readings, I received feedback on my work, and many new ideas that will help me structure my research. My daughter is a U.S. citizen by birth but has grown up in India because we chose to return to India when she was 18 months old so that she could experience the country through educational, social and cultural assimilation which would have a significant impact on her life.



My Fulbright experience has, most of all, given me renewed confidence and hope in the work that I have been doing for the last decade.



Akkisetty Bhaskar, 2016–2017, Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellows, IIT Hyderabad

(Host Institution: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

I was a Fulbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellow from 2016 to 2018, during which time I worked on advanced Lithium-Oxygen (Li-O₂) battery. I had the privilege of working with renowned professors in the field of Li-ion battery and applied electrochemistry like Prof. Paul Braun and Prof. Andrew A Gewirth from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). We were able to address some of the key challenges plaguing the Li-O₂ battery to develop higher energy and longer life batteries. In this regard, I worked on the several electrolytes and additives, and observed that some of the electrolytes were found to be excellent in developing higher energy and long-life Li-O₂ battery. Based on this, we have designed and developed a new 3D material which improved the safety and life of the battery and decreased the charging time. The outcome of the research was published in the reputed ACS Applied Energy Materials journal. We also presented in international conferences and symposiums. I have also been working for a start-up (Godi Energy) since 2020. We are the first company in India to indigenously design and develop the Li-ion cell technology. To further India's efforts to promote e-mobility, I believe I can now contribute to the development of giga-scale manufacturing of the Li-ion cells in India with in-house developed Li-ion cell technology. Additionally, I am also interested in sustainable energy storage solutions and have been working on the advanced and next generation energy storage technology like Na-ion and recycling of the Li-batteries, based on my Fulbright experience.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

The Fulbright fellowship has had a great impact on both my professional and personal life. It helped me to strengthen my knowledge of applied electrochemistry and widen my research activities in the areas of the energy storage sector through strong collaborations with professors from the U.S. host institution. On the personal front, the fellowship gave me an opportunity to meet host families from the U.S. and fellow Fulbrighters from across the globe. This has helped broaden my perspective and understanding of different cultures and histories. I was encouraged to share my learnings from India through symposiums and workshops conducted by Fulbright and my host institution. I also benefitted from the interdisciplinary approach to my research subject and got the opportunity to work with chemistry and material sciences departments. This was my first visit to the U.S., and I am grateful for the support of the Fulbright team.

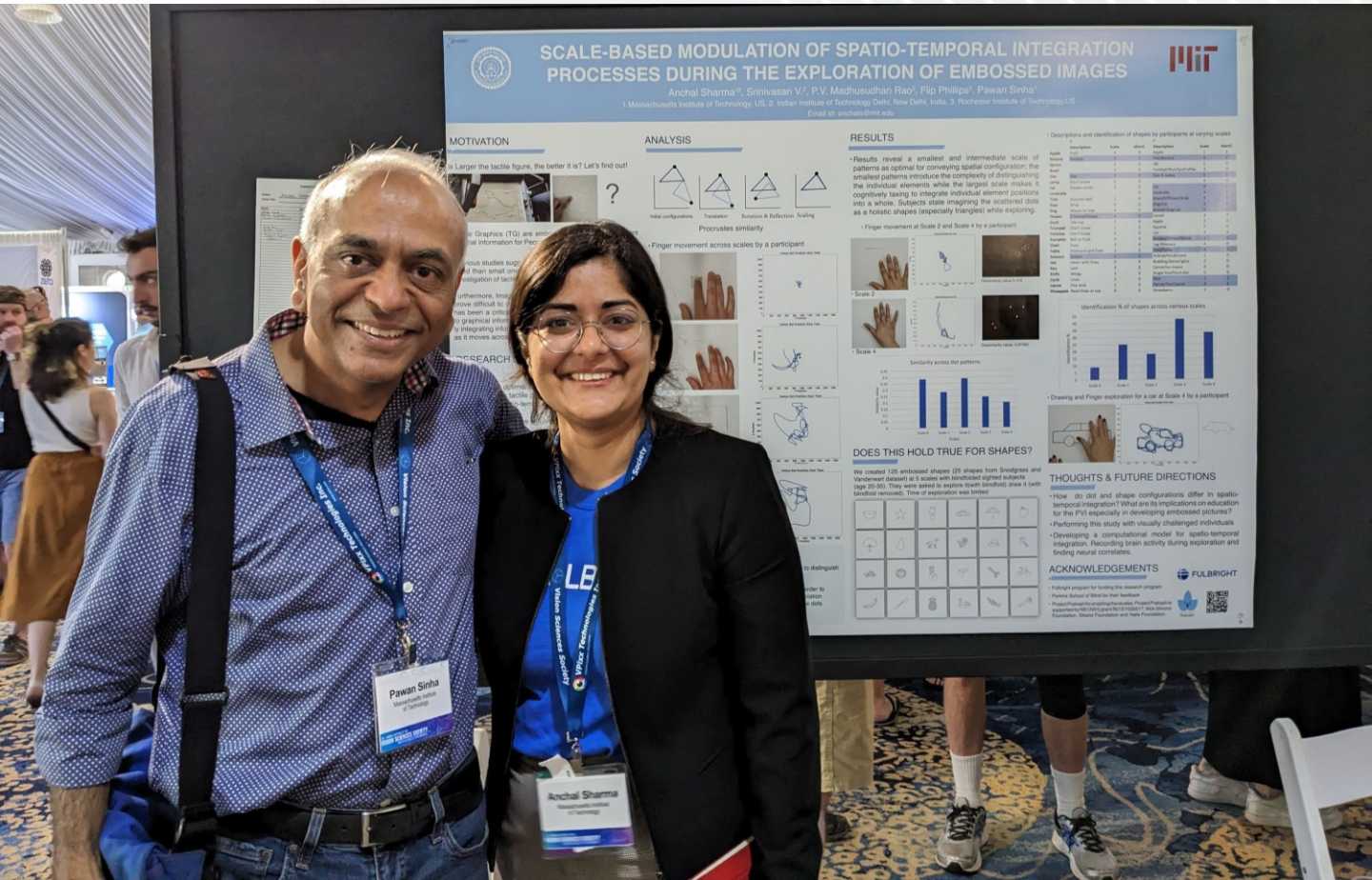


Fulbright helped me advance and widen my research activities in the areas of the energy storage sector and strengthen collaboration with my U.S. host institution.



Anchal Sharma, 2022-2023, Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellow, IIT Delhi

(Host Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge)



What did your Fulbright program involve?

I was placed as a Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral fellow at MIT for 9 months to conduct a part of my doctoral research on how shapes and objects are perceived and interpreted by people born without vision. I was placed with the Sinha lab that works with people before and after sight onset, providing a sufficient dataset for me to learn from. I used experimental and computational approaches to investigate the underlying mechanisms for when a blind user explores a tactile diagram. My Fulbright experience allowed me to fully engage with my research and share relevant findings with the broader community. We developed about 200 embossed tactile materials for testing, were able to troubleshoot stimuli preparation using a 3D printing facility at MIT and prepared the experimental set-up to conduct user trials. The research also led to some unexpected findings. For instance, we learned how the brain groups shapes and tactile patterns. I believe our research findings can help contribute to a computational model for information encoding when humans explore tactile graphics. I presented my work at the Vision Science Society Conference 2023, at a departmental conference, and at a Fulbright seminar at Washington DC. I was also shortlisted to demonstrate my research on 'Shape Perception by the Visually Challenged' at the National Science Foundation (NSF) on June 21, 2023, where I shared the stage with First Lady of the United States Jill Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.



How has the Fulbright experience impacted your life?

My Fulbright experience turned out to be so much more than I could ever ask for. This was the first time I had been out of India, and I met such wonderful researchers, colleagues, and made lifelong friends. Being in an alien environment even though surrounded by very welcoming colleagues, made me challenge my own limits, and understand myself. Most of all, this experience has reinforced in me the belief that it is always worth pursuing something of value and challenging yourself to avenues that allow for your personal and professional growth. I also love the fact that I now have people from around the world to engage with for intellectual conversations and to share life experiences. It feels like an extended family. As I was based at Cambridge, an academic paradise, I could see a lot of parallels with my own institutional environment in India where I am surrounded by students, ideas, and a very youthful energy, with everyone striving toward excellence. I engaged in a lot of peer discussions with people of different backgrounds at the Sinha lab. I also enjoyed auditing two classes in the department which were relevant to the research that I am doing. In addition to my academic experience, I was able to enjoy the American culture through celebration of American holidays like Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July. I could really build a sense of camaraderie with my colleagues and fellow students through multiple formal and informal events, and this helped my Fulbright experience to be more holistic and enriching.



Due to the Fulbright experience, my knowledge about the world has increased deeply and I look forward to further exchanges.



FELLOWSHIPS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

USIEF FUNDED GRANTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship* These nine-month fellowships provide opportunities to recent graduates (a minimum of a bachelor's degree is required) and to graduate students (master's and Ph.D. degree-seeking candidates) to conduct research in India.

Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship* These four to nine months fellowships provide opportunities for faculty and professionals for either research or teaching, or a combination of research and teaching activities. Depending on the host institution it is also possible that the grantee will work with faculty to develop curriculum and participate in conferences, seminars, and workshops. Applicants may determine the percentage of the grant dedicated to each activity and should define this in the project proposal. Opportunities for guest lectures at other universities in India may also be available.

Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Scholar Fellowship* These four-month fellowships provide opportunities to full professors to teach students at their host institution and to travel to prominent higher education institutions around India to give guest lectures and take part in conferences, seminars, and workshops. Distinguished scholars also work with faculty members at the host institution on program development and curriculum design.

***Eligible fields of study:** While applications in all fields will be considered, strong preference will be given to the following academic disciplines: Agricultural Sciences; Anthropology; Bioengineering; Chemistry; Computer Science (including, but not limited to, cyber security, digital economy, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics); Earth Sciences; Economics; Education Policy and Planning; Energy Studies; History; Language/Literature/Linguistics; Materials Science (with emphasis on environmental applications); Mathematical Sciences; Neurosciences; Performing Arts; Physics; Political Science (including, but not limited to, International Security and Strategic Studies); Psychology; Public Health (including, but not limited to, pandemic preparedness and comprehensive surveillance (genomic surveillance, sewage surveillance, serosurveillance); Public Policy; Sociology; Urban and Regional Planning (with emphasis on smart cities and waste management); Visual Arts; and Women's and Gender Studies.

Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship: These four to nine months fellowships provide opportunities to build long-term capacity to address climate change related issues by engaging scientific and technical research scholars. The fellowship is open to faculty and professionals for either research or teaching, or a combination of research and teaching activities. Depending on the host institution it is also possible that the grantee will work with faculty to develop curriculum and participate in conferences, seminars, and workshops. Applicants may determine the percentage of the grant dedicated to each activity and should define this in the project proposal. Opportunities for guest lectures at other universities in India may also be available.

Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrator Seminar: These fellowships are designed for international education administrators or senior-level university administrators in strategic positions of decision-making with substantial responsibility for enhancing the international dimension of their institutions. Over the course of the two-week program, participants will gain first-hand knowledge of a cross-section of Indian institutions and meet with high-ranking university administrators and public sector officials who play key roles in the planning and administration of higher education in India. Participants will become familiar with academic program designs, organizational structures, quality assurance procedures and credit and degree expectations in Indian higher education.

Fulbright-Nehru Specialist Program: These fellowships are designed for U.S. academics and established professionals to engage in two- to six-week, project-based exchanges at host institutions in India. Specialists, who represent a wide range of professional and academic disciplines, are competitively selected to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster based on their knowledge, skill sets, and ability to make a significant contribution to projects overseas. Those individuals that have been approved to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster are then eligible to be matched with approved projects designed by Indian institutions.

Note on Affiliations: *U.S. Fulbrighters to India are required to be affiliated with institutions of higher education approved and listed on the website of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, including those accredited by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), University Grants Commission (UGC), Medical Council of India (MCI) and other apex level bodies of the Ministry.*

NON-USIEF FUNDED GRANTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program (DDRA): USIEF assists doctoral students traveling to India under the DDRA program. These PhD candidates are engaged in full-time dissertation research in modern foreign languages and area studies. The U.S. Department of Education disburses funds directly to scholars through their universities. USIEF provides programmatic, administrative, and logistical support.

Fulbright Global Scholar Award: The Fulbright Global Scholar Award allows U.S. academics and professionals to engage in multicountry, trans-regional projects. As a truly worldwide award, U.S. scholars will be able to propose research or combined teaching/research activity in two to three countries with flexible schedule options; trips can be conducted within one academic year or spread over two consecutive years.

Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program: This program brings highly accomplished teachers from the U.S. to India on an independent study program of 3-6 months. Distinguished Teachers can enroll in graduate level courses, conduct research, lead classes and seminars for international teachers and students, and work toward the completion of their self-designed capstone project. Additionally, they may team teach or guest lecture at local secondary schools or at the university level. USIEF provides programmatic, administrative, and logistical support.

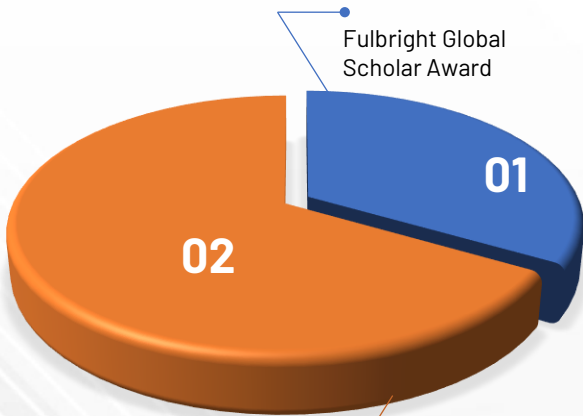
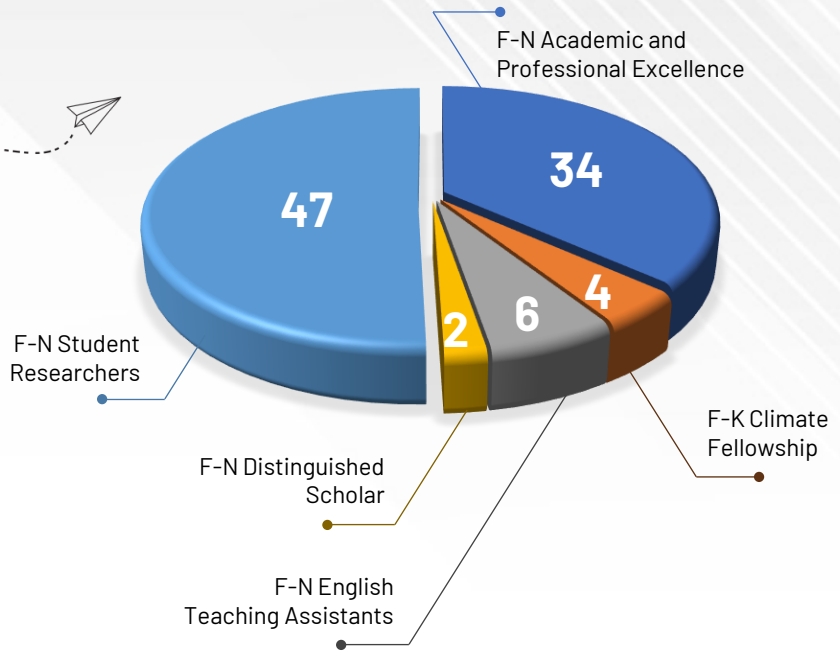
The Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Program is designed to contribute to the development and improvement of modern foreign language and area studies in the U.S. by providing opportunities for scholars to conduct research abroad. The program funds fellowships through institutions of higher education (IHEs) to faculty members who propose to conduct research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies to improve their skill in languages and their knowledge of the culture of the people of these countries.

Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright Fellowships for U.S. Citizens

Fellowship Programs	2022-2023	2023-2024
Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships		
F-N Student Researchers	43	47
F-N English Teaching Assistants	-	6
F-N Academic and Professional Excellence	34	34
F-N International Education Administrators	-	10
F-N Distinguished Scholar	2	2
Fulbright-Nehru Specialists	-	10
Fulbright- Kalam Climate Fellowship	3	4
Fulbright Fellowships		
Distinguished Awards in Teaching-Research Program	2	2
Fulbright Specialists	-	20
Regional Researchers	1	-
Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program	3	8
Faculty Research Abroad Fellows	3	-
Fulbright Global Scholar Award	-	1
TOTAL	91	144

USIEF Awarded Fellowships for 144 U.S. Citizens (including 113 Fulbright-Nehru and Fulbright-Kalam Fellowships) in FY 2023

**2023-2024
FULBRIGHT-NEHRU
AND
FULBRIGHT-KALAM
FELLOWSHIPS**

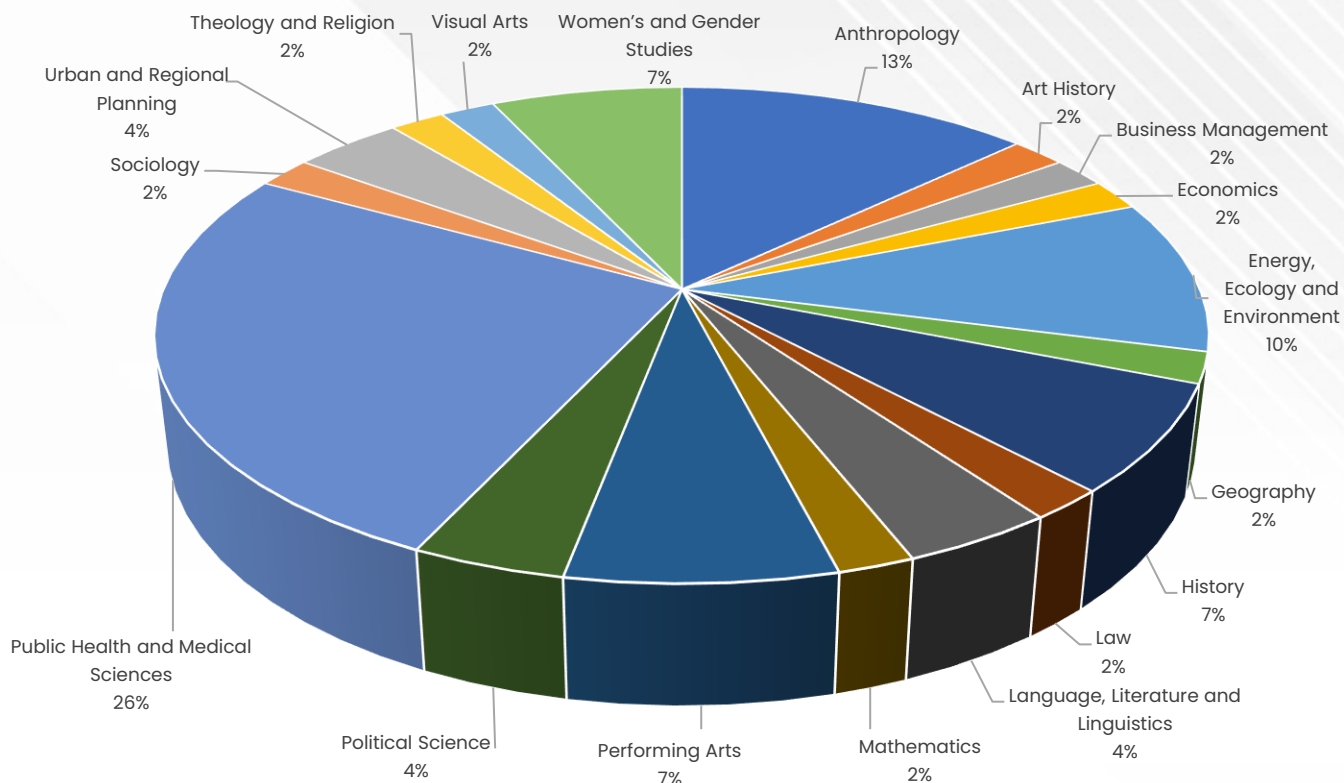


**2023-2024
OTHER FULBRIGHT
FELLOWSHIPS**

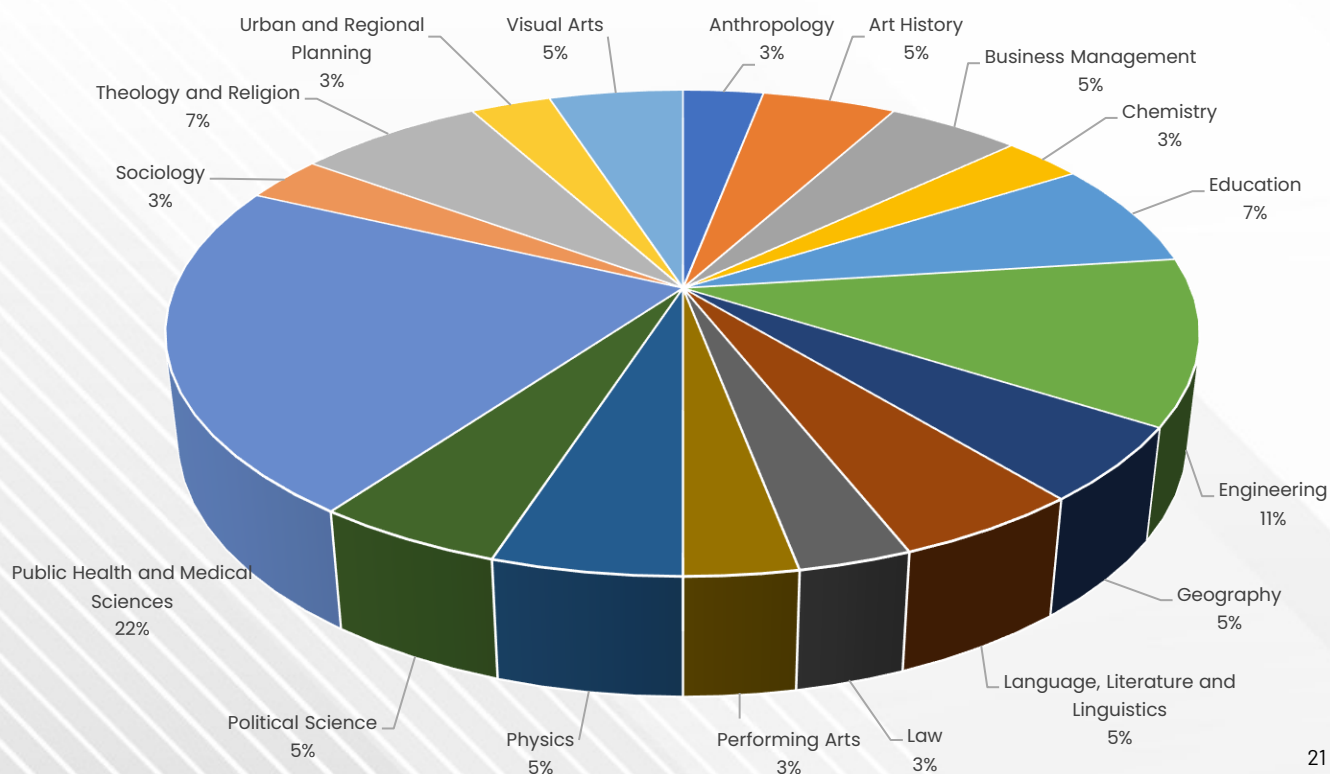
Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Program

FELLOWSHIPS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

2023-2024 Student Disciplines (GRANTS 47) (Fulbright-Nehru Student Researchers Fellowships)



2023-2024 Scholar Disciplines (GRANTS - 40) (Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships and Fulbright Kalam Climate Fellowships)



FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS

USIEF FUNDED GRANTS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS

Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowships: These fellowships are for outstanding Indians who demonstrate leadership qualities, have completed the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree, and have at least three years' full time (paid) professional work experience, to pursue a master's degree program at select U.S. colleges and universities in the areas of Arts and Culture Management including Heritage Conservation and Museum Studies; Economics; Environmental Science/Studies; Higher Education Administration; International Affairs; Journalism and Mass Communication; International Legal Studies; Public Administration; Public Health; Urban and Regional Planning; and Women's Studies/Gender Studies.

Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships*: These pre-doctoral level research fellowships, for six to nine months, are designed for Indian scholars who are registered for a Ph.D. at an Indian institution.

Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowships*: These fellowships, for eight to 24 months, are designed for Indian faculty and researchers, who have a Ph.D. or D.M. degree within the past four years.

Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships*: These fellowships, for four to nine months, aim to provide Indian faculty, researchers, and professionals the opportunity to teach, conduct research, or carry out a combination of teaching and research at a U.S. institution.

***Eligible fields of study:** Agricultural Sciences; Anthropology; Bioengineering; Chemistry; Computer Science (including, but not limited to, cyber security, digital economy, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data analytics); Earth Sciences; Economics; Education Policy and Planning; Energy Studies; History; Language/Literature/Linguistics; Materials Science (with emphasis on environmental applications); Mathematical Sciences; Neurosciences; Performing Arts; Physics; Political Science (including, but not limited to, International Security and Strategic Studies); Psychology; Public Health (including, but not limited to, pandemic preparedness and comprehensive surveillance (genomic surveillance, sewage surveillance, sero-surveillance)); Public Policy; Sociology; Urban and Regional Planning (with emphasis on smart cities and waste management); Visual Arts; and Women's and Gender Studies.

Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program at Emory University: The Visiting Chair Program is designed for Indian scholars who are employed in India for the purpose of lecturing and conducting research at Emory University's main campus in Atlanta.

Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program at University of Massachusetts: The Visiting Chair Program is designed for Indian scholars who are employed in India for the purpose of lecturing and conducting research at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships: These fellowships are offered to build long-term capacity to address climate change related issues in India and the U.S. These grants are offered at three levels: (1) Doctoral Research; (3) Postdoctoral Research; and (2) Academic and Professional Excellence.

Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar: The Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar aims to provide Indian college and university administrators the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the U.S. higher education system. Participants will gain a firsthand experience of a cross section of U.S. institutions and meet with key university administrators and officials responsible for international programs and activities at their institutions. The two-week visit will enable participants to learn about various facets of U.S. higher education, including the types of institutions, accreditation, curriculum development, fund-raising, student services and international education on U.S. campuses, as well as share knowledge on Indian higher education. Topics addressed during visits and meetings at select campuses and organizations will also include research collaborations, faculty and student exchanges, and study abroad.

NON-USIEF FUNDED GRANTS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program: This program, funded directly by the U.S. Department of State, is designed to meet the requirements of policy makers, planners, administrators and managers in the government, public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, who have a public service commitment and have demonstrated leadership potential, and are committed to their own country's development. USIEF recruits and nominates Indian applicants for final selection in Washington, D.C.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA): The FLTA Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, is a nine-month, non-degree program for young and early career English teachers at the college level, or other educators in related fields. Fulbright FLTA participants have the opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States, while strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at U.S. colleges and universities. Selected Fulbright FLTA participants from India serve as teaching assistants in Hindi or Urdu classrooms at select U.S. campuses.

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) Program: The Fulbright SIR program brings scholars and professionals from overseas to lecture at U.S. colleges and universities that do not often host visiting scholars, such as small liberal arts colleges, minority-serving institutions, and community colleges.

Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (FTEA): FTEA is a six-week non-degree, non-credit academic program at a U.S. University which provides selected teachers with a unique opportunity to develop greater expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The program provides academic seminars on new teaching methodologies and strategies, student-centered learning, content-based instruction, lesson planning, and instructional technology training for teachers. For India, the program is open for full-time schoolteachers (6th to 12th grades) teaching English, English as a Foreign Language (EFL), Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, or Special Education at schools in India.

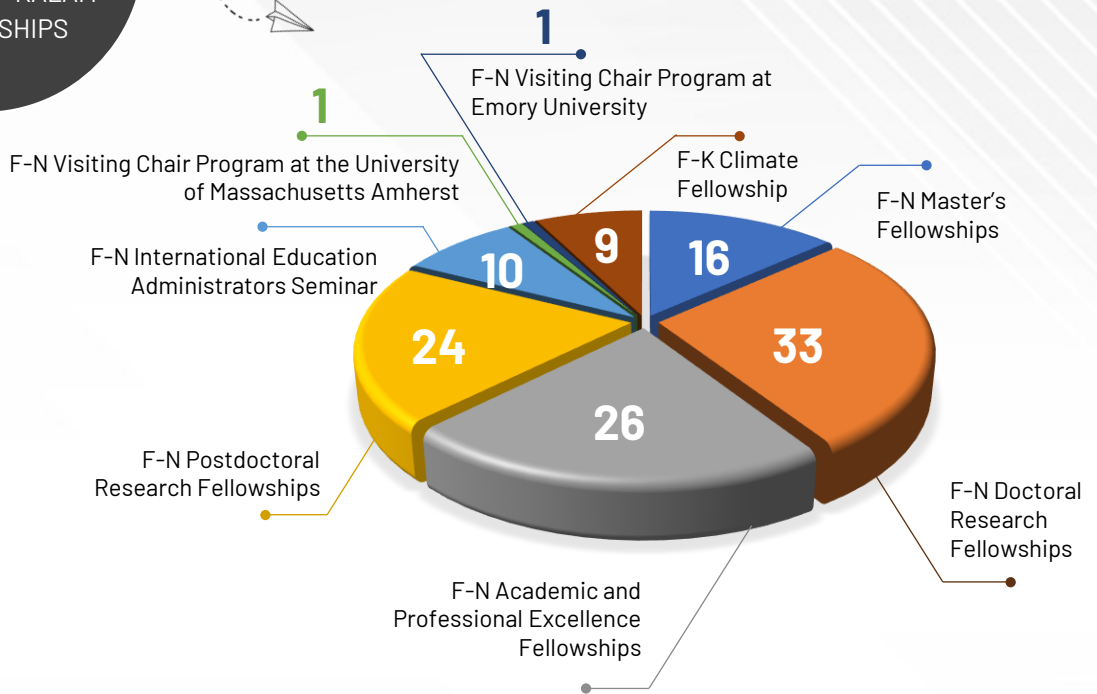
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for International Teachers: FTAI, a semester long program, is designed for full-time Indian teachers teaching any subject at any level (primary, middle, or secondary) at a school in India. This program is also open to primary and secondary level library media specialists, guidance counselors, curriculum specialists, special education coordinators, teacher trainers, and administrators who spend at least fifty percent of their time teaching or working directly with students. The program provides with a unique opportunity to pursue individual or group projects, take courses for professional development at a host university, and observe and share their expertise with teachers and students at the host university or local primary and secondary schools. Cultural enrichment, mentoring, and support is provided throughout the program.

Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright Fellowships for Indian Citizens

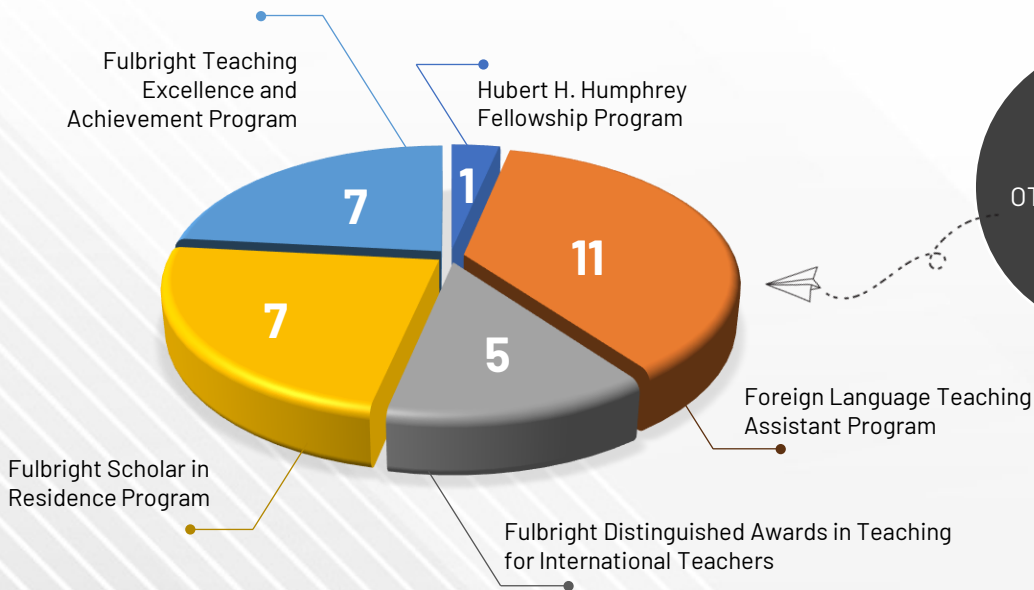
Fellowship Programs	2022-2023	2023-2024
Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships		
Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowships	21	16
Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research	34	33
Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research	22	24
Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence	29	26
Fulbright-Nehru International education Administrators Seminar (IEAS)	0	10
Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program (Emory)	1	1
Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program (UMass)	1	1
Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Doctoral Research	4	3
Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research	4	3
Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Academic and Professional Excellence	4	3
Fulbright Fellowships		
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program	3	1
Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program	13	11
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching for International Teachers	6	5
Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program	5	7
Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program	6	7
TOTAL	153	151

USIEF awarded fellowships for 151 Indian Citizens (including 120 Fulbright-Nehru and Fulbright-Kalam Fellowships) in FY 2023

2023-2024
FULBRIGHT-NEHRU
AND
FULBRIGHT-KALAM
FELLOWSHIPS



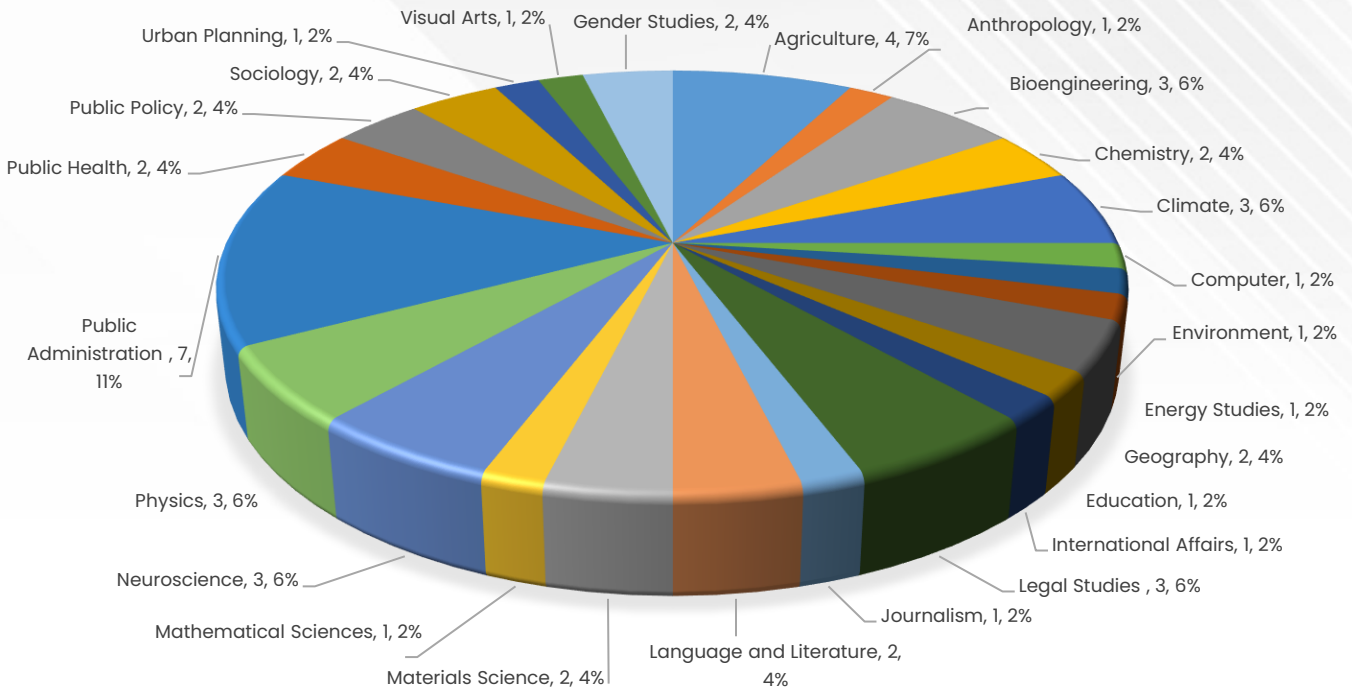
2023-2024
OTHER FULBRIGHT
FELLOWSHIPS



FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS

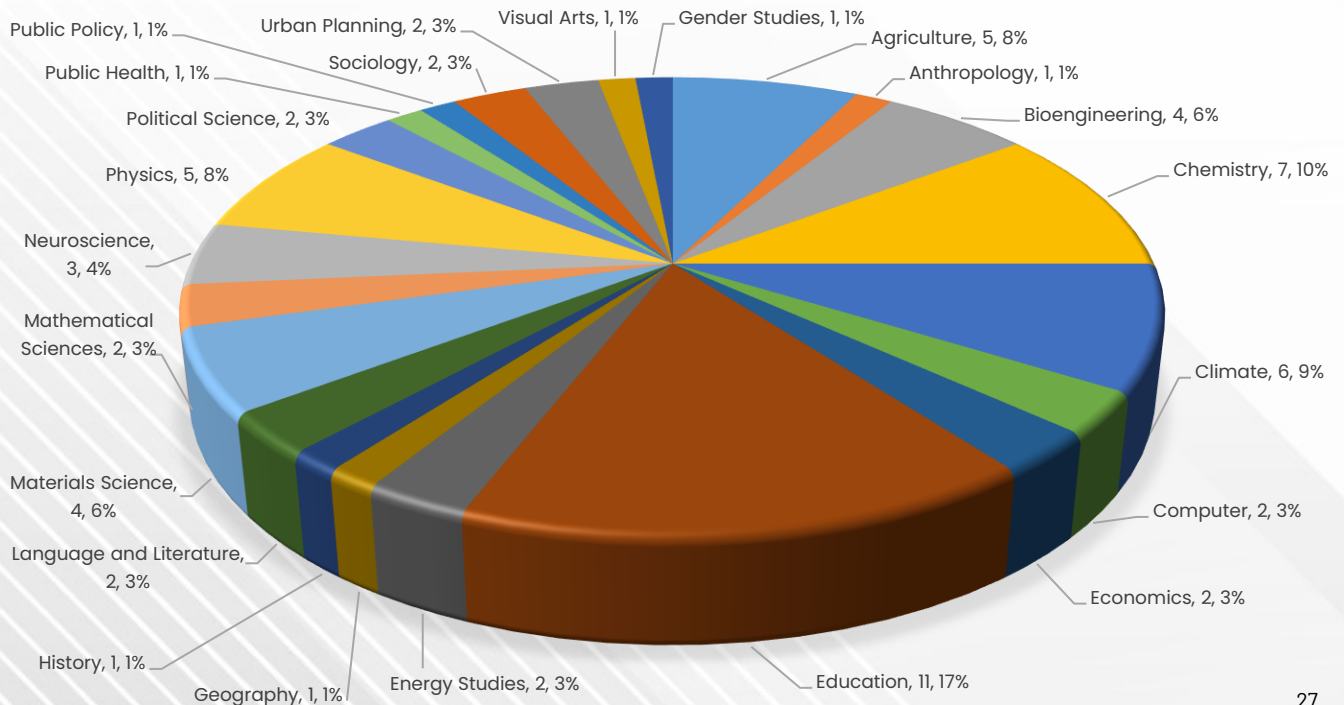
2023-2024 Student Disciplines (Grants: 52)

(Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowships, Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships, and Fulbright-Kalam Doctoral Research Fellowships)

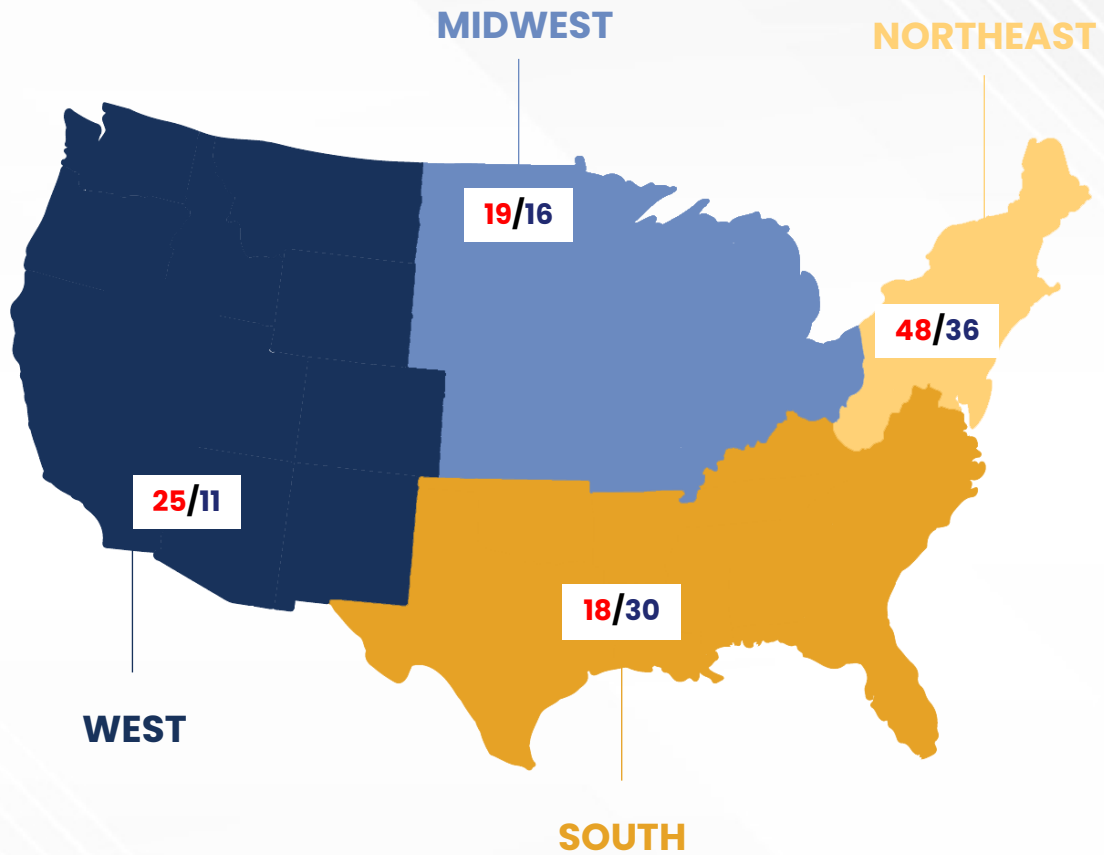


2023-2024 Scholar Disciplines (Grants: 68)

(Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program at Emory, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair Program at UMASS, Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research, and Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships for Academic and Professional Excellence)



DISTRIBUTION OF FULBRIGHT-NEHRU SCHOLARS IN THE UNITED STATES

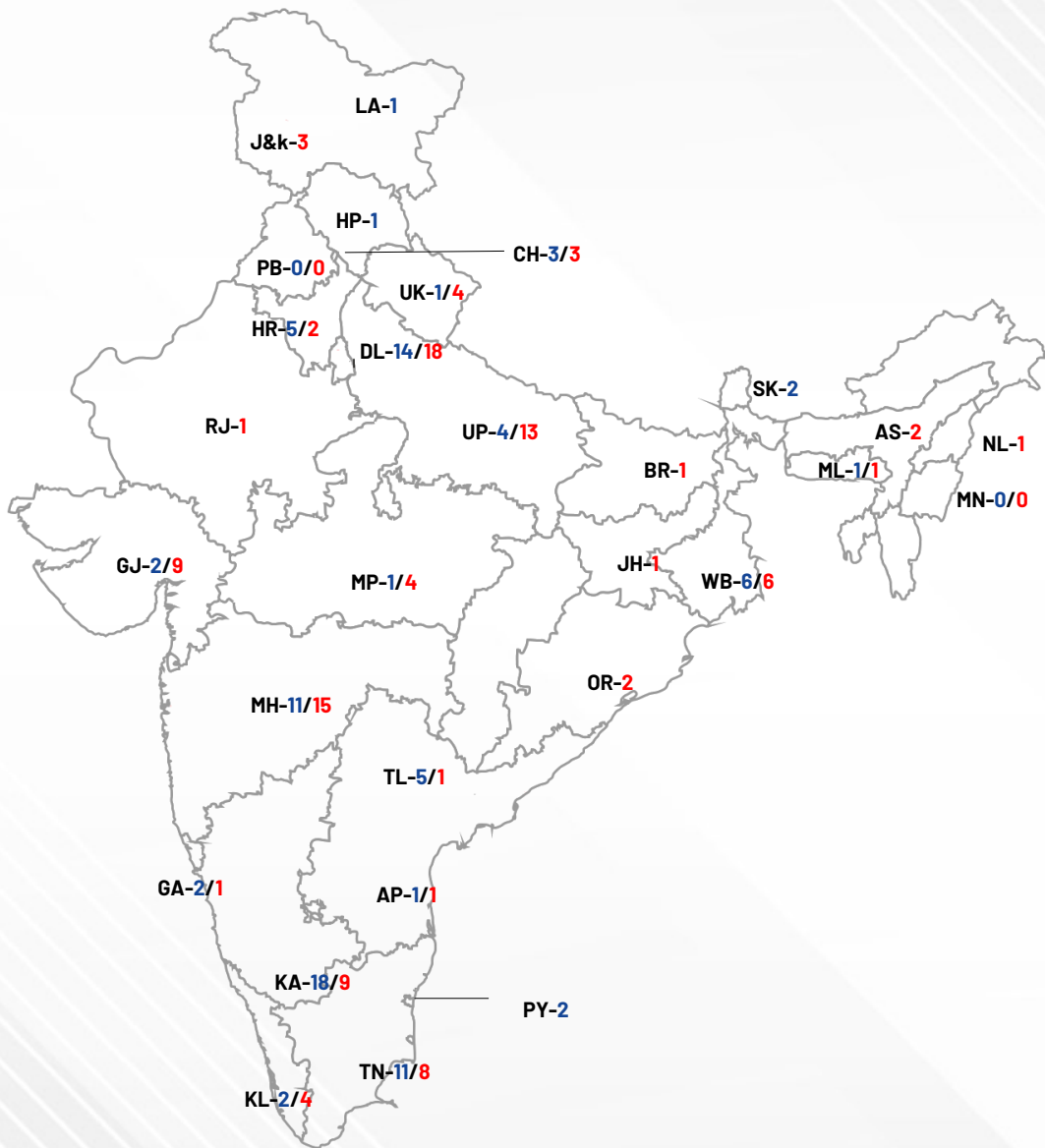


INDIANS GOING TO (110)

AMERICANS COMING FROM (93)

(F-N IEAS is not included as the grantees visit multiple institutions located at different cities)

DISTRIBUTION OF FULBRIGHT-NEHRU SCHOLARS IN INDIA



AMERICANS GOING TO (93)

INDIANS COMING FROM (110)

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Indian Fulbright alumni receive National Awards to Teachers (NAT)

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching alumni Amit Kumar and Jainus Jacob received the 2022 National Awards to Teachers (NAT) conferred by the President of India on Teachers' Day. Amit Kumar received the award for introducing "Blended Learning and Flipped Classroom Approach for Effective Integration of ICT" in the teaching-learning process using Free Open-Source Software (FOSS) to bridge the learning gaps between urban and rural students. He is a Post Graduate Teacher in computer science at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Shimla. Jainus Jacob received the award for use of innovative pedagogy for better classroom interaction and learning. She has been teaching at the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Thrissur for the past 26 years. She uses images and visual illustrations to recreate textbook lessons to help children with reading difficulties.

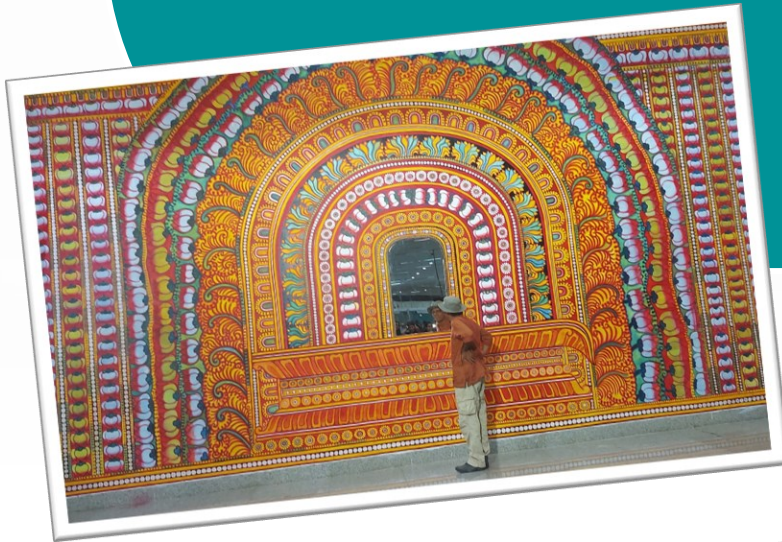


Hubert Humphrey alumnus launches the first anti human trafficking lab in Asia

Hubert Humphrey alumnus Dr. Veerendra Mishra launched the first anti-human trafficking lab in Asia called the RACE Lab (Research, Advocacy and Capacity Building Against Exploitation). Dr. Mishra is an Indian Police Service officer. RACE Lab was established in Samvedna, a non-profit organization in Bhopal. The lab supports research and analysis of intervention work done by civil society organizations (CSOs) on different dimensions of trafficking. The organization shares the findings from evidence-based research with government and non-government agencies that can help in capacity building of stakeholders involved in the social and criminal justice system.


Fulbright-Nehru alumnus designs mural for G20 Summit 2023

Fulbright-Nehru alumnus and eminent artist Suresh K. Nair designed a 20x30 feet mural painting of a Shivalinga at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi to welcome international delegates at the G20. The mural painting owes its resemblance to the renowned South Indian Rameshwaram Temple's Shivalinga which has a strong and ancient linkage to the Holy Kashi. Dr. Nair is a Professor of Art at Banaras Hindu University.



U.S. Fulbrighters attend S20 India 2023 Conference in Bhopal

U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Scholars Mahesh Lakshman and Vivek Utgikar attended the S20 India 2023 Conference "Connecting Science to Society and Culture", organized as part of series of events under the G20 Summit 2023. Professors Lakshman and Utgikar had many productive exchanges of ideas with delegates from around the world. The conference ended on a high note with a passionate address from Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Honorable Chief Minister of the state of Madhya Pradesh, and the delegates reaching consensus on various topical areas including sustainable development, ethical application of AI, among others.



U.S. Fulbright-Nehru alumna receives the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship

Fulbright-Nehru Scholar Leela Prasad (2019 and 2021) received the Guggenheim Fellowship, a prestigious award in recognition of the scholar's creative ability and potential to make an impact in their respective field. Dr. Prasad, who teaches in American prisons, says that her experience as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar provided the basis for her Guggenheim project, which explores the post-prison lives of Indians who were inspired by Gandhi. Dr. Prasad is a professor of Religious Studies at Duke University and visiting professor of Religious Studies at Brown University.



Fulbright-Nehru alumna meets Indian PM Narendra Modi and First Lady Jill Biden

Fulbright-Nehru alumna Aanchal Sharma joined Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Jill Biden at the Skilling for Future event to talk about how her Fulbright award at MIT supported her work on developing assistive technologies for the visually impaired. The Skilling for Future event was organized on June 21 in Washington, D.C. to highlight U.S. and India's shared priorities around education and workforce development. Aanchal Sharma is a Ph.D. candidate at IIT Delhi, and she was affiliated with MIT for the 2022-2023 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship.



U.S. Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Scholar awarded American Association for Cancer Education Endowed Scholarship

Fulbright Distinguished Scholar (2022) Purnima Madhivanan, Associate Professor at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona was awarded the 2023 American Association for Cancer Education Endowed Scholarship in October 2023, in Toronto at the International Cancer Education Conference (ICEC) for the work that she conducted during her Fulbright Fellowship in Mysore, India. The goal of the project was to advocate for the medical and social needs of female cancer survivors.



U.S. Fulbright alumnus Jason Strother raises awareness through talks on how climate change impacts persons with disabilities in India

Fulbright South and Central Asia Regional Research Award recipient, Jason Strother, engaged with journalists, media houses, students, activists, USG exchange program alumni, and civil society organizations working on disability and climate issues. A journalist, educator, and National Geographic explorer, Jason collaborated with two of the top media institutes in Delhi NCR – Jamia Millia Islamia University's AJK Mass Media Research Centre and the India Today Media Institute. Jason noted that his participation in the U.S. speaker program provided an opportunity to raise awareness on how climate change impacts persons with disabilities in India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. He has also produced a documentary film called 'Disaster and Disability', which talks about the plight of people with disabilities during a climate crisis. The docufilm was shot in Odisha, India, with support from U.S. Department of State.



Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education

EDUCATIONUSA

According to the 2022 Open Doors Report, 199,182 Indian students were enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions in the academic year 2021-2022. India remains the second largest source of international students in the U.S. As the official source on U.S. higher education, EducationUSA at USIEF centers provide accurate, current, unbiased and comprehensive information to prospective students seeking higher education opportunities in the U.S. EducationUSA centers have also made round-the-clock advising accessible to students through the EducationUSA Mobile App with more than 121,500 downloads. EducationUSA India organized over 815 events, including virtual fairs, in-person and virtual outreach events with Indian schools and universities, basic orientation sessions, 'ask-an adviser' sessions and thematic sessions on specialized topics related to U.S. higher education. EducationUSA provides opportunities for U.S. higher education institutions (HIEs) to connect with key stakeholders in India, through meetings, sessions, and events. In the reporting period, EducationUSA at USIEF centers engaged with 208 U.S. HEIs.

In addition to these engagements, EducationUSA at USIEF centers revived the "in-person" multi-city mega fairs to bring together prospective students and U.S. HEIs and hosted the 11th edition of the EducationUSA India Tour. Besides the existing format of hosting fairs in major metropolitan cities across India, the itinerary was updated to include a fair in Pune (Tier II city near Mumbai). A total of 60 U.S. universities participated in these fairs. Over 10,000 students registered for the fairs and the events witnessed footfalls of over 7,500 participants including students, parents, school counsellors and administrators of Indian educational institutions.

"Applying to college would have been a shot in the dark if not for the very personalized guidance and the useful information provided to me by EducationUSA. From helping me shortlist colleges that would be a great fit for me in all aspects, to getting very pinpointed advice on the kind of storytelling my essays needed, EducationUSA guided me step by step while ensuring my voice shines through in my application. The one thing you can be assured about is that the information you get from EducationUSA is reliable, which goes a long way when dealing with a time as delicate as the end of 12th grade."

Rudraneel Sinha, BSc Computer Science, Purdue University



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49		Arvind Sivamani	Adviser, EducationUSA
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<p>Dr. Sumit Seth Joint Secretary (Policy Planning and Research) Foreign Policy Planning Division Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi Tel: +91-11-23086655 E-mail: jspp@mea.gov.in</p>	<p>Mr. David Moyer Counselor for Cultural Affairs American Center 24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi - 110001 Tel: +91-11-23472000 E-mail: MoyerDW@state.gov</p>
<p>Ms. Neeta Prasad Joint Secretary (ICC) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education 111-C, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 Tel: +91-11-23071486 Fax: +91-11-23071487 E-mail: neetaprasad@pib.gov.in</p>	<p>Dr. Sarah E. McMullen Director, India Office Office of Global Policy and Strategy U.S. Food and Drug Administration U.S. Embassy Shantipath, Chanakyapuri New Delhi - 110021 Tel: +91-11-24198000 E-mail: sarah.mcmullen@fda.hhs.gov</p>
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<p>Ms. Savithri Lakshmanan 1001, Amber Court II, Essel Towers MG Road, Gurgaon Haryana 122002 Tel: +9199713 88027 E-mail: l.savithri@gmail.com</p>	<p>TO BE CONFIRMED</p>

Executive Director: Mr. Adam J. Grotzky
Tel: +91-11-42090911 (D); E-mail: adam@usief.org.in

USIEF OFFICES

United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) has headquarters in New Delhi and four regional offices in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.



USIEF Headquarters – New Delhi

Fulbright House

12 Hailey Road

New Delhi 110 001

Phone: 011 4209 0909

E-mail: info@usief.org.in

(For Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh)



USIEF Regional Office – Chennai

American Consulate Building

220 Anna Salai

Chennai 600 006

Phone: 044 2857 4275

E-mail: usiefchennai@usief.org.in

(For Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry)



USIEF Regional Office – Hyderabad

U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad

Sy. No. 115/1, Nanakramguda Financial District

Hyderabad 500 032

E-mail: usiefhyderabad@usief.org.in

(For Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana)



USIEF Regional Office – Kolkata

American Center

38A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road

Kolkata 700 071

Phone: 033 3984 6310

Fax: 033 2288 1636

E-mail: usiefkolkata@usief.org.in

(For Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and West Bengal)



USIEF Regional Office -- Mumbai

Maker Bhavan-1 (2nd Floor)

New Marine Lines

Churchgate (E)

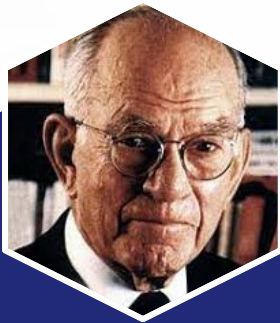
Mumbai 400020

Phone: 022 2262 4603

Fax: 022 2266 3956

E-mail: usiefmumbai@usief.org.in

(For Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu)



“

The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy -- the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see

”

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT



“

Let us be a little humble; let us think that the truth may not perhaps be entirely with us

”

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



United States - India Educational Foundation
Fulbright House, 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001

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