Fulbright Essay Checklist

Before sending your materials to Fellowships, please review the general tips below and check your draft against this list:

1. Go through every paragraph, note the main point(s) of those paragraphs and look carefully at what’s there, not there, repeated, and how things are ordered. Check this against the notes below for each essay.

2. Be concise in your phrasing and only include information that is relevant for this grant. Avoid vague statements. Avoid discipline-specific jargon (you’re writing for an educated audience, but not necessarily in your field.

3. For the Statement of Grant Purpose (SGP):
   - What exactly do you propose to do? This should be clearly stated in the first or, at the latest, the second paragraph. What is important, significant, or innovative about the project? What are the specific research goals and methodologies? You need to get very specific.
   - With whom do you propose to work and how will this person(s) and affiliation be of help to you?
   - When will you carry out the project? Include a rough timeline of your research activities.
   - Where do you propose to conduct your work, and why was this location chosen?
   - What are your qualifications for carrying out this project? Draw from your professional and student academic experiences.
   - How will your project help further your academic or professional development?

4. For the personal statement: this is more open. Some tips and things to ponder:
   - Use this essay to talk about the development of your mind, your interests, your ambitions, and your priorities. And don’t get overly focused on your frame; instead focus on the content you need to convey.
   - Think about people, books, experiences, and ideas that have shaped your interests, especially as they are related to your proposal.
   - Think about your own experiences working in related fields and cross-cultural experiences in particular—exploring your motivation to work in these areas could be fruitful.
   - How will you engage with the host country? Give specific ideas for civic engagement—these should be consistent with your short answer on this topic in the application. These should be outside of or in addition to your research project.

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