FULBRIGHT APPLICATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOTHELL

TIPS FOR WRITING THE FULBRIGHT PERSONAL STATEMENT

“The Personal Statement should be a narrative giving a picture of you as an individual. Remember, applicants are not interviewed on the national level. The Personal Statement is your opportunity to ‘talk’ about yourself and to tell the committee more about how you came to this point in your life and where you see yourself in the future. There is no single ‘right way’ to approach the Statement; rather each candidate will consider what they think is important for people reviewing your application to know about them” (http://us.fulbrightonline.org/preparing_personalstatement.html).

Formerly known as the “Narrative CV”, the Fulbright Personal Statement is still very much a personal/intellectual autobiography.

- It should show how your project proposal is the next logical and necessary step in your life, and how you are qualified to carry it out.
- It is your opportunity to discuss personal motivations, experiences and activities, and future goals that are relevant to your project proposal.
- Show how your academic lives have led you to the point of applying for a Fulbright and how you and your career possibilities will be enhanced or changed as a result of the Fulbright.

Through concrete examples from past experiences, you need to emphasize your preparation for the project being proposed, as well as your personality. View this piece as your chance to let the selectors know you as individually as possible, but keep it relevant. The goal is to write an essay no other person could have written.

Questions to apply to your Personal Statement (PS) draft:

- Overall, is your PS interesting and easy to read? Does it show, rather than tell, who you are?
- Does your PS demonstrate your motivation and ability to work independently, and to do the project proposed?
- Does it show who you are, and make the reader want to know you better?
- Do you demonstrate your experience and interest in intercultural learning and sharing?
- Do you repeat information included in other parts of your application? Omit them unless they are necessary for further explanation or emphasis.

Format:
- One typed, single-spaced page with 1” margins, Times Roman 12 pt. font
- At the top of the Word Document, in the upper left-hand corner
  - On line 1, type PERSONAL STATEMENT so that it appears in the PDF version of your hard copy application. Do not place this information in a header
  - On the next line, type your name, country of application, and field of study (or English Teaching Assistantship)