

## **Fulbright Route in Kazakhstan**

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**Summary:** The Fulbright Program was established in 1946. Alumni Fulbright Association of Kazakhstan (FASK) was set up in 2001 owing to twelve alumni Fulbright founders which had given their agreement to sign the FASK Charter and contributed much to the progress of the institution. At present FASK unites more than 70 Fulbrighters from different cities and localities of Kazakhstan. Alumni Fulbright activities play substantial part in preventing civil wars, poverty, disability and lack of education. No doubts, it will contribute to maintaining circular education, children and girl education, high healthcare and sanitary standards, political culture, sports and fine arts, freedom of open discussions towards international decision-making climate in the future.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 through legislation introduced by Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas (see at: <https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/fulbright/index.html>). The proposal called for the use of proceeds from the sale of surplus war property from World War II to fund the "promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science." On August 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed the legislation into law (PL 79-584), creating the Fulbright Program. The first Fulbright Program grantees travelled overseas in 1948. The Fulbright Program is maintained by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation by the U.S. Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments, host institutions, corporations, and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. More than 370,000 Fulbright fellows have taken part in the Program since its onset. Today, the Fulbright Program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually. Only 8 of them have been the share of the Republic of Kazakhstan since the initiation of this science, education and cultural exchange program in this country in 1993. Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide, but in different times

that number could reach 180 and more. Alumniees of this program include 33 current or former heads of state or government, 54 Nobel Laureates, 82 Pulitzer Prize winners, 29 MacArthur Foundation Fellows, 16 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients, a range of Alexander von Humboldt fellows and thousands of leaders across the private, public and nonprofit institutions. Throughout 2016, the U.S. Department of State and parties of the program in the United States as from all over the world have highlighted the achievements, innovations, and impact of the educational exchange program. On April 21, 2016 a commemorative tree planting event took place on the U.S. Capitol Grounds. Then on July 6, 2016 the U.S. Senate has passed a resolution dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

If we take pattern of Kazakhstan, as one of the former members of stirring committee I can share that every year a growing number, about 30 applicants are admitted to the final stages of annual Fulbright selection procedure aimed at choosing only 6-8 winners to be then sent out to the universities and other institutions across the USA. They represent usually different professions and national groups, and namely, the Kazakhs, Russians, Ukrainians, Koreans, Uigurs, Dungans and others. Nearly 10% of all the applicants get maximal scoring for their individual or sometimes corporative research projects based on academic excellence, proficiency of English, explicit techniques to be applied in case of success, feasibility of proposed research schedule, and candidate's ability to bridging cultural communications. Another 25% get sub-optimal grading, and this group is thoroughly considered from point of being represented by the spectrum of professions and national minorities. Alumni Fulbright Association of Kazakhstan (FASK) was set up in 2001 owing to twelve alumni Fulbright founders which had given their agreement to sign the FASK Charter and contributed much to the progress of the institution. At present FASK unites more than 70 Fulbrighters from different cities and localities of Kazakhstan. The majority of ex-Fulbright fellows in Kazakhstan are working for institutes of Academy of Science and departments of different higher educational establishments. Part of that number has organized own NGOs or special charity programs. Two readers of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Dr. Aizhan Zhussupova and me are the graduates of Fulbright Program. Alumni Fulbright activities play substantial role in preventing civil wars, poverty, famine, disability and lack of education. No doubts, it will contribute to maintaining circular education, children and girls education, high healthcare and sanitary standards, political culture, sports and fine arts, freedom of open discussions towards effective international decision-making climate in the future.