YOUR STUDENTS AS FUTURE FULBRIGHTERS

Building Bridges: Collaborating for a Better Student Experience

Fall 2019 Conference

Andrew Seidler, Director
Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships
LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Become familiar with the Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships (ONSF) and how we work with students
- Learn about nationally competitive awards available to your students — from funded study abroad programs to STEM research awards and year-long post-grad fellowships, such as the Fulbright
- Gain insight regarding how students can develop a competitive profile for these awards
- Learn how to identify potential candidates, support them, and refer them to ONSF
ONSF OVERVIEW

- Promote nationally competitive awards at UT
- Work individually with a diverse cohort of students (and recent graduates) to identify relevant awards
- Connect students with on- and off-campus opportunities to help plan and maximize their time at UT (and, thus, their candidacy)
- Mentor students in targeting awards and in the rigorous application writing/development process
- Facilitate campus interviews and nominations
- Provide mock interviews for award finalists
- Celebrate engagement in nationally competitive awards process
FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Selection of nationally competitive awards, from 1st-/2nd-year awards, to funded study abroad programs and STEM research awards, to year-long post-grad fellowships, such as the Fulbright
YOUR STUDENTS AS FUTURE FULBRIGHTERS? THE FULBRIGHT AT UT

- As recently as 2012 and 2013, UT had zero Student Fulbrights. UT at the time had single-digit applicants.
- Nationally, ~18% of applicants each year receive the award.
- UT recently was named a Fulbright Student "Top Producer," tied with Harvard for number of Fulbrights awarded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semi-Finalists</th>
<th>Finalists</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>20/44</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>27/52</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>41/67</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
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WHAT COMPETITIVE CANDIDATES DO

OVER TIME THEY DEVELOP A FOCUSED BODY OF WORK (A "THING")...

- Plan out their time here (subject to continuous revision)

- Stretch themselves academically (more than GPA and test scores)
  ----> Explore their curiosities and concerns about the world

- Focused, purposeful, and sustained experiential learning
  ----> UGR; Intern'l; Service/Lead -- into community; Jobs/Internships

- Establish close relationships with faculty

- Meet with ONSF -- the earlier in their academic career, the better:
  https://onsf.utk.edu/first-steps/

...AND THEN THEY SET ASIDE THE PERFECTLY NORMAL SELF-DOUBT AND APPLY (AND APPLY AND APPLY)
WHAT COMPETITIVE CANDIDATES DO

STUDENT CASE STUDIES

Boren
Fulbright
Rhodes
Schwarzman
Truman
"First, I’d like to say that I would certainly not be able to be a competitive applicant for a Fulbright without ONSF. Not because I lacked the appropriate achievements, but because I lacked the realization of my various achievements. I am not necessarily a very confident person when it comes to my academic achievements, mainly because I am hard on myself. But with the assistance of [ONSF], I learned how to frame myself in the most impressive manner (I can’t thank you enough). Simply stated, I certainly gained confidence through this process."

"I have become a different person since beginning the process of applying for the Fulbright. I was pushed to research what I wanted to learn, which turned into a passion which turned into a thesis which turned into a life goal. I have gained so much confidence in my ability to perform good qualitative and quantitative research, to articulate my research approach concisely, and to speak with upper-level faculty members who I may have never met before."

“One of the most nerve wracking things I’ve ever done, but in thinking about grad school applications and job interviews, I feel more prepared. The questions that were brought up throughout the process of writing my personal statement and refining it are questions I still reflect on to further define and verbalize my goals and passions to others. Asking for help is always hard, but working with ONSF was extremely gratifying."

“It was a really incredible experience for me, and it really gave me some much needed confidence in my writing abilities and my ability to articulate why I do what I do.”
WHAT MIGHT YOU DO TO SUPPORT (POTENTIAL) CANDIDATES?
WHAT NOW?

For more information on nationally competitive awards and to make a referral to ONSF:

https://onsf.utk.edu/refer-a-student-to-onsf/

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