Application Instructions

US-UK Fulbright Global Challenges Teaching Award 2026

Deadline: March 2ⁿᵈ, 2026, at 5pm GMT/ Noon ET/ 9am PT

Key Information:

- Applications must be submitted through the online system only.
- Hard copy applications will not be accepted.
- Applications that do not comply with the deadline and instructions will be deemed ineligible.

Start your application here: Fulbright Global Challenges Teaching Awards

Before you begin your application:

1. **Review Award Information**
   - Visit our Global Challenges Teaching Awards webpage to familiarise yourself with the program and confirm the specific award you are applying for.
   - Review examples of successful COIL VE projects to support your application and learn more about the COIL pedagogies and modality. Examples of this include:
     - Resources on the COIL Connect network
     - AAC&U Webinars on supporting development and implementation of COIL
     - Case studies on the impact of COIL partnerships from the FIU COIL Virtual Exchange Leadership Institute

2. **Read Instructions Carefully**
   - Review the instructions to ensure you understand all steps required to complete your application.
   - Identify the referees you need to request letters of support from and the documents you will need to upload.

3. **Contact Us with Questions**
   - If you have any **questions** about the application process, eligibility criteria or the Global Challenges Teaching Awards programme, please contact us at programmes@fulbright.org.uk

Application Process Timeline

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

- **Tuesday, 16 December 2025, 9am GMT:** Applications open
- **Monday, 2 March 2026, 5pm GMT:** Deadline for applications
- **March to April 2026:** Initial screening and review of applications by US-UK Fulbright Commission and reading panels. You should not expect to hear from the Commission during this time, and staff will be unable to comment on the process or an individual application's status
- **May to June 2026:** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a Zoom interview. You will be given at least one week to prepare for the interview. Interviews will consist of a group interview and an individual interview.
  - Candidates who have not been selected for interview will be notified via email by end of May 2026. Please check your spam folder for the message
- **June to July 2026:** Partnering process for shortlisted candidates
- **End of June 2026:** All candidates will be notified of the interview outcome
- **August to October 2026:** Orientation and professional development
- **October 2026 to August 2027:** Independent visits to partners and continued support from US-UK Fulbright Commission and Coil Connect.
- **Fall/Autumn 2027:** Course delivery with COIL/VE partner

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be employed by a university or higher education institution (HEI) in either the US, UK, or their respective overseas territories.
- Regularly teach undergraduates as part of their role at the university.
- Propose a class which they have taught before and which is primarily taken by undergraduates.
  - Proposed classes should be scheduled for teaching in the **fall/autumn term** of academic year 2027-28 (i.e., beginning September 2027).
- Provide evidence of the appropriate institutional support from their home institution.
- If applying from the UK, be eligible to apply for an ESTA visa waiver, or have an existing entry clearance, or intend to apply for entry clearance if selected.
- If applying from the US, be eligible to enter the UK under the Electronic Travel Authorization, or have an existing entry clearance, or intend to apply for entry clearance if selected.

Applications are welcomed from applicants with prior experience in virtual exchange and COIL, as well as those seeking to establish or expand their international collaboration efforts.

Previous Fulbright Scholar award recipients are eligible to apply provided their Fulbright Scholar award is completed prior to the cohort orientation (i.e., before August 2026).

Our Commitments

- The US-UK Fulbright Commission offers exceptional opportunities for those passionate about international education. We are committed to a world without barriers to learning, understanding, and collaboration and strive to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity in all of our programmes. We actively encourage applications from eligible candidates of all backgrounds.
- The Fulbright Commission is committed to selecting a diverse cohort representing various regions, institutions, and disciplines.
- Preference may be given to applicants without significant recent international experience or those who have not received a Fulbright Scholar award in the past two years.
- Applicants should demonstrate the culture of their own countries and thereby contribute to the understanding between the people of the United States and the United Kingdom.

- Applicants should demonstrate the cross-cultural sensitivity and flexibility needed to provide a good environment for virtual exchange to and from both sides of the Atlantic.

Applicants who meet the general eligibility requirements should familiarise themselves with the information relevant to the specific award to which the wish to apply. Information relating to each Global Challenges Teaching Award can be found on the Fulbright Website.

Fulbright Application Overview

The application process consists of 3 stages:

- Primary Application Form
- Reference Request
- Supplemental Form

A complete application includes

- Biographical, educational, and employment details
- Information on your proposed class
- Information on your familiarity with VE/COIL
- Information if you are applying with a preferred partner
- Short-answer questions.
- Teaching-focused Curriculum Vitae.
- Class Syllabus
- Letters of support from your **International Office (or equivalent)** and your **Department Head**
- One reference
- Completed supplemental form

How to Complete an Online Application

STEP 1 Prepare Before Starting Your Application

- Carefully read this document in its entirety to understand the application and eligibility requirements.

- Familiarise yourself with the details and expectations of the Global Challenges Teaching Award.

- Review the Fulbright Commission's Privacy Policy

STEP 2: Register for an Online Application Account

- Access the online application form here: https://fulbright.tfaforms.net/80
- You will be asked to provide your name and primary email address. You will then be taken to the main application. Please ensure you click **save my progress and resume later** every time you leave this form. Each time, you will be asked to save an email address and password, and an email will be sent to you with a link to return to your saved application. **Please do not leave this application form without following this process**.
  - Emails from the application portal may take a few minutes to arrive. Be sure to check your junk mail or spam folder if you do not see them promptly
- Review and agree to the US-UK Fulbright Commission privacy policy, which is linked on the registration page.

STEP 3: Complete the Application form

- After providing your name and email address, you will be taken to the main application. You can save drafts of the application and return to edit them before submission. You can use the page buttons at the top and bottom of the application to navigate between sections. At the end of the application, there will be a 'Submit' button that you can use to submit your application once it is completed. Once your application has been submitted, you will not be able to return to the application to edit it.

- You will be asked the complete the following information:

  ➢ **Global Challenges Award Selection**:
    - Select the specific Global Challenges Teaching Award you are applying for from the drop-down menu.

  ➢ **Personal Details, Contact Information, and Eligibility Questions**:
    - Confirm that you are employed and teaching at a higher education institution in the United States or the United Kingdom.
    - Confirm that you are eligible for either an ESTA visa waiver (for UK applicants), or a UK ETA (for US applicants), or that you hold, or intend to apply for, entry clearance for the US or UK.

  ➢ **Institutional and Module Information, COIL/VE Experience, and Partnership Questions**:
    - Provide details about your proposed module and its alignment with the award's objectives.
    - Provide information about your previous experience with COIL/VE.
    - If you are applying with a preferred partner, provide information on your proposed partner and any existing collaborations.

  ➢ **Short Answer Questions:**
    - Provide responses to short answer questions covering your motivation for applying, your proposed class, your experience with teaching and collaboration, and the wider impact of this programme.

  ➢ **Required Documents**
    - Upload a copy of a **teaching-focused** CV or resume.
    - Upload a copy of your **class syllabus.**
      - Please note that we will only be reviewing the content, learning outcomes, and examination and assessments portions of the

syllabus. We recommend that you redact any sections with **personal information** and remove any non-relevant sections.

- Upload two **Letters of Support** demonstrating strong institutional support for running a virtual exchange module and for developing global partnerships. These letters should be from:
  - Your Department Head:
    - This letter should confirm the department's support for the application and its willingness to host the virtual exchange course as part of its fall/autumn 2027 undergraduate offerings.
  - Your International Office:
    - This letter should highlight the institution's commitment to internationalisation and illustrate how a virtual exchange course aligns with the institution's mission and current activities in this area.

➢ **Reference**
- You are required to provide one (1) reference. This should speak to your academic qualifications, teaching proficiency, experience with collaboration, and overall suitability for the Global Challenges Teaching Award.
- To use the reference system, enter your referee's name and email into the specified areas and click 'next' to prompt a reference request email.
  - Ensure you have submitted the correct email as referees will not be able to submit with the unique link in the email.
  - Remind your referees to check their junk or email folder if they have not received their reference request.
  - If your referees have not received their requests, please contact us at programmes@fulbright.org.uk and we will re-send their email.
  - You will be able to check the status of your referee request on the request form, and you will receive confirmation once your referee has completed their reference.

➢ **Supplemental Form**
- You are required to complete a supplemental form as part of your application.

- This form does not require you to upload any documents; simply answer the provided questions.
- Please review the Fulbright Commission's Privacy Policy for information on how your data is used and processed by the Commission.

Once you have completed all the steps, including uploading all required materials and ensuring that you have requested your reference, you will be able to finalise and submit your application.

Guidance for Writing a Letter of Support

The review panel will look for specific information in each letter of support. While these letters of support are uploaded by the applicant as part of the application, they must be written by the Department Head or international office as appropriate, be written on headed paper, and contain the signature from the department head or member of the international office.

Applications that are missing one or both of these letters of support will be deemed ineligible.

Below are the key areas that each letter should address:

Letter of Support from Department Head

This letter should cover:

- The department's commitment to offering a virtual exchange course to undergraduate students in autumn/fall 2027.

- The applicant's suitability for the award, particularly their academic expertise and teaching proficiency.

- Details of how the department will support the applicant in delivering a virtual exchange course.

- How the award aligns with the department's broader goals and objectives, including the potential long-term impact of this award.

- A commitment from the institution to identify an Instructional Designer (or similar role) to participate in the professional development program associated with the award.

  - While the specific individual does not need to be identified at the time of application, the letter should outline the role they will play, including supporting the proposed faculty partnership, supporting integration of COIL into curriculum design and assessment, and contributing to the embedding of COIL pedagogies at the institutional level.
  - If instructional designers are not available at your institution, the program is open to additional participants from other roles or support teams, recognizing that curriculum administrators, international offices, technical teams, and innovation and technology units can also contribute to the institutionalization and sustainability of COIL.

- Any additional information relevant to the application.

Letter of Support from International Office

This letter should cover:

- The institution's commitment to offering a virtual exchange course to undergraduate students in autumn/fall 2027.

- The institution's mission and objectives around internationalisation, including examples of current activities to build global connections and any experience or planning in embedding VE/COIL into international activities.

- How the Global Challenges Teaching Award aligns with the institution's mission, objectives and ongoing internationalization efforts, and the potential long-term impact of this award.

- A commitment from the International Office to identify an International Education Administrator (or a similar role) to participate in the professional development program associated with the award.

  - While the specific individual does not need to be identified at the time of application, the letter should outline the role this administrator will play, including supporting the proposed faculty partnership and contributing to the development of a framework for scaling VE/COIL at the institutional level.

- An explanation as to how the international office would support the delivery of a virtual exchange course in autumn/fall 2027.

- Any other information relevant to the application.

Global Challenges Teaching Award Checklist

Below is a checklist to help you assess your application before submission. These are the key questions the review panel will consider when evaluating applications. We recommend that you consider this checklist as you prepare and submit your application.

- **Is your proposed class suitable for the Global Challenges Teaching Awards?**
  - Is your class primarily aimed at undergraduates?
  - Is it scheduled for teaching in the autumn/fall of 2027?
  - Does your class feature collaborative activities that can be adapted for COIL/VE delivery?

- **Is your proposed, pre-existing course applicable relevant to the selected Global Challenges Teaching award?**
  - Have you demonstrated how your class directly addresses the selected Global Challenge and that it aligns with the objectives of the award you are applying to.

- **Have you demonstrated your capacity and interest in collaboration, innovative pedagogies, and global learning opportunities?**
  - Have you shown examples of how you've fostered global learning in your teaching or research?
  - Have you provided examples of previous collaborative experiences and what you've learnt through this?
  - Have you demonstrated a passion for innovative pedagogies and how this award will support you in further development of this?
- **Have you demonstrated how this award will have a transformative impact on your own development, your students, and your institution?**
  - Have you shown how this award and your COIL/VE partnership will impact on your professional development and teaching practices?
  - Have you discussed how virtual exchange and global collaboration will impact your students, and their personal and academic development?
  - Have you discussed the potential long-term impact of this award and partnership on your institution?
  - Have you reviewed the mission and aims of the Global Challenges Teaching Awards and shown how your application and proposed course aligns with these?
- **Have you secured support from your department and your institution's international office?**
  - Ensure that you have uploaded letters of support demonstrating institutional backing for your application.
  - Ensure that those writing your letter of support have reviewed the guidance on how to write a letter of support and what to include.

Important Note: Being able to answer "yes" to all of the above questions does not guarantee an invitation to interview. While we anticipate a high volume of excellent applications, there are only six total awards available. As a result, we may not be able to interview every competitive applicant.

Thank you for your interest in our Global Challenges Teaching Awards and best of luck with your application!