General Guidelines: Thoroughly review the country-specific information and desired candidate profile found at us.fulbrightonline.org. Don’t assume you know what the country is looking for. Highlight in your application the ways you fit the desired profile.

Be concise. Length isn’t as important as grabbing your reader’s attention. Choose what is most important and write passionately about that. Provide concrete examples.

Use every part of the application to provide information. Don’t repeat the same information in your personal statement and your statement of grant purpose.

Statement of Grant Purpose Study (1 Year Master’s Degree): This is where you talk about your proposed degree program, why you need to be in that specific country and at that specific institution, and how your proposed degree enhances your future plans (max 2 pages).

1. Do you fit the desired profile for that school and program? If not, look at for a different program and/or country that more closely matches your strengths.
2. Is your statement clear to a well-educated reader who is not an expert in the field?
3. Have you specifically explained why the institution and program are an ideal fit for you?
4. Have you shown that you have the background to be successful in this program by explaining how your academic experiences match the program’s strengths?
5. Have you researched the department’s web site to discuss how your intended work aligns with current faculty research there? If possible, identify 2-3 faculty members and relate their work to your future research and study goals.
6. Are you convincing that you need to complete this degree in the specific country or does the country seem a somewhat arbitrary choice? Is such a degree program not available in the U.S.? If it is, do you state why this is a better choice for you?
7. How will this proposed program enhance your future career and ideally lead to future valuable contributions?
8. If language facility is required, do you discuss your language background?
9. Is this a compelling narrative? You can break free from a strict chronological narrative to make your statement more interesting.

Personal Statement (1 page max)
The personal statement is meant to be an intellectual biography so it shouldn’t be TOO personal and stray away from the proposed experience.
1. Is your statement interesting? Do you use stories to describe important moments in your life and/or how you reached this point?
2. Do you describe intellectual and/or creative highlights and relate those moments to the study project?
3. Do you talk about ways you will engage with the community, including the academic community of your institution? Do the proposed ways of engagement fit with your interests and are they relevant to the proposed country? For example, if you want to work with a football league, have you played or coached football? Are football leagues common where you want to go?
4. Do you give examples of flexibility, initiative, and/or interest in other cultures? For example, if you’ve studied abroad do you give examples of meeting people, of seeking out additional cultural activities?
5. It is common for applicants to say they want to experience the culture of a country. How do you go beyond that and make a case for the specific country where you want to go? In what ways will you thrive in that environment?