

2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program for U.S. Teachers (Fulbright DA)

United Kingdom Country Profile

Partner organization: [US-UK Fulbright Commission](#)

Eligible program dates: September - December or January - July

Language requirement: No requirement

Host institution: Distinguished Teachers in the UK are hosted by specific partner universities. To see a list of the UK universities that participate in the program, [visit the US-UK Fulbright Commission website](#). Applicants are asked to research the different partner institutions and indicate any preferences in the “Inquiry Project Proposal” section of their application. Indicating a preference is optional and will not impact the selection process. Please note that the US-UK Fulbright Commission is unable to place teachers at non-partner institutions.

Dependent Information: An allowance of \$2,000 per eligible dependent will be provided as part of the Fulbright DA grant. Distinguished Teachers travel on Tier 5 (Government Authorized Exchange) visas sponsored by the US-UK Fulbright Commission. Dependents will travel as Tier 5 dependents. Dependent children can be enrolled in UK schools.



Country Overview

The UK has participated in the Fulbright program since 1948 and there are strong relationships between the UK and the US. Daily life in the UK can vary between large metropolitan cities like London, Belfast, Edinburgh or Birmingham and smaller towns and rural areas. Larger cities tend to be multicultural, reflecting diverse histories of immigration to the UK (particularly in the 20th century). The UK is culturally vibrant and grantees in the UK often take advantage of opportunities to experience its arts, music and history, as well as its natural beauty and thousands of miles of coastline.

Educational System Overview

Education in the United Kingdom is centralized with each of the countries of the United Kingdom having separate systems under different governments. The UK Government is responsible for England, and the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively. Within these separate systems, pupils study for different qualifications at different stages of their education and young people typically make choices about the subjects they will study much earlier than students would in the US. Education is compulsory until age 18, and both academic and vocational subjects may be studied as part of a young person’s secondary education.



Possible topics of interest to U.S. educators:

The following topics may be of interest to US educators, although applicants should not feel limited to these areas of inquiry.

- Inclusive education and provision for students with diverse learning needs, including SEN (Special Educational Needs)
- Family and community involvement in schools
- Multicultural education and the experiences of young migrants and refugees in the UK education system
- Multilingual education, EAL (English as an Additional Language) support and provision and education in other UK languages (e.g. Scots)
- Student wellbeing, mental health support in schools, personal and social education, sex education and sexual identity
- “Narrowing the attainment gap” and efforts to redress socio-economic disparities in student outcomes
- Workplace experiences in schools and teacher training, development and retention

The following topics in UK education can reflect distinct UK educational policies and provide opportunities for specialist case studies, studying “best practices”, or investigating current challenges:

- Cooperation and collaboration between schools, including local and national networks of schools (including through Multi-Academy Trusts, Local Education Authorities and the interaction of state and private schools)
- The role of schools in teacher education, e.g. School Direct program and training partnerships
- Subject choice and the impacts of different UK academic and vocational qualification systems
- The impacts of the Pupil Premium funding model in England
- Changes to young people’s mental health provision, for example the establishment of Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs)
- Curriculum design including the National Curriculum for England, Curriculum Wales, Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence and the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- Formative assessment implementation and practice (e.g. Assessment for Learning)
- School leadership and development of system leaders (e.g. through Local and National Leaders of Education) and qualifications for school leaders (e.g. National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership)





For more information on educational systems in the UK, see:

- [UK Department of Education](#)
- [General Teaching Council for Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Welsh Government](#)
- [Northern Ireland Department of Education](#)

For general information and insights into teaching and learning in UK schools, consider exploring:

- [TES](#)
- [BBC Education news](#)
- [National Foundation for Education Research](#)
- [NEU](#) and [NASUWT](#) teachers' unions

