



CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS

EducationUSA OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM 2020/2021

Are you a bright and talented student with a dream of studying in the United States with financial support, but does the initial cost of applying to U.S. Universities prevent you from working towards this dream?

The **EducationUSA Opportunity Grant** helps talented students from around the world overcome great odds to pursue their dreams of obtaining U.S. education. This is your chance to be a part of this program!

This program provides grants for students who have excelled academically and are likely to be awarded substantial institutional financial aid, but who would have difficulty paying the up-front costs of applying to U.S. universities. Up-front costs include expenses such as: standardized testing fees, applications fees, airfare, etc.

Eligibility criteria:

- For Bachelor's degree applicants: 3 –'A' passes at the G. C. E. Advanced Level examination
- For Master's/PhD applicants: An undergraduate GPA of 3.5 **or** a bachelor's degree with first class honors.
- All applicants should have the potential to secure a scholarship at a U.S. university, but not have the financial means to cover upfront costs.

Applications should include:

- Proof of disadvantaged financial background: assessed via parents' level of education, employment details and salary slips/pension slips, utility bills (i.e. telephone bills, electricity bills, etc.), confirmation of family income, savings and expenses (i.e. credit card statements, bank statements, FD statements stating current balance, etc. for 6 months) family assets (i.e. property, vehicles, house, etc.), information about previous vacations abroad, etc.
- If applicant is employed, then salary slips and bank statements for 6 months.
- A letter from your school Principal (For students applying for Bachelor's degrees) or a letter from a faculty member (for students applying for Master's and PhD programs) confirming that you come from a financially disadvantaged background and can benefit from this grant.
- A current CV and copies of educational certificates and academic transcripts
- A 650 -1000 word essay on the title, "*Challenges and obstacles that I have faced while pursuing my dream of studying in the United States and how I see the Opportunity Grant as a resource to overcome them.*"

Shortlisted applicants will be called for a **written test** similar to the SAT exam (*for students applying for a Bachelor's degree*) and the GRE exam (*for students applying for Master's or PhD programs*). **The written test will be on Wednesday the 26th of February, 2020.** Based on the test scores, candidates will be called for an **Interview**.

Applicants not selected for an Opportunity Grant will be offered free educational advising which will include an overview of the U.S. education system, advice on selecting and applying to U.S. universities, securing scholarships, teaching/ research assistantships.

Note: Students are expected to start preparing for the relevant mock exam prior to submitting their application. The following websites provide test preparation material. For students applying for Bachelor's degrees: SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home> and for students applying for Master's/PhD programs: GRE: www.ets.org/gre

Please send in your application by registered post on or before Monday, 3rd February, 2020 to:

**EducationUSA Opportunity Grant Program
United States - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission
55, Abdul Caffoor Mawatha, Colombo 03.**

Tel: 011-2564153/ 011-2564176/ 011-2564029

www.fulbrightsrilanka.org

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US-SLFC was founded in 1952 by an agreement between the government of the United States of America and the government of Sri Lanka to administer educational and cultural exchange programs between the two countries; to promote mutual cultural understanding and strengthen bi-lateral relationships between the two countries. To-date over 2000 Sri Lankan and American students and scholars from all walks of life have participated in various academic programs monitored by the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board. The US-SLFC also offers an educational advising service, which provides individual/group counselling and reference material on educational opportunities, admission processes and standardized tests for those desirous of studying in America. The US-SLFC is also a hub for promoting study abroad and internship opportunities in Sri Lanka, for American nationals.