

**Leveling the Fulbright Scholarship Playing Field:  
Inter-Institutional Equity and the U.S. Student Fulbright Program (Year 2)**

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This UNC DEI cohort project is designed to provide a formal pathway for first generation and other underrepresented groups of UNC undergraduate students to apply for prestigious fellowships in order to travel abroad. Our goal is to level the playing field and promote inter-institutional equity, giving all undergraduates access to global exchange opportunities. For Year 1 of the program we recruited 10 students to our cohort and worked 1:1 to craft application essays, request letters of reference, solicit partnerships abroad, liaise with the Office of Global Engagement and to share feedback with other applicants. The program also leaned on social capital including colleagues on the Colorado Fulbright Association board and faculty awardees from UNC and beyond to help motivate and inspire our cohort of applicants. Year 1 of the program led to two of our students being selected as semi-finalists for 2024-2025. This is inspiring news, but we hope to grow those numbers over the next five years by providing our students and faculty with sufficient resources to produce competitive Fulbright applications. The goal is not just to increase the number of awardees, but to foster a culture of awareness surrounding these life-changing exchange opportunities.