

## Fulbright-Cottrell Award description (continued)

Considering the research-centered and publication-oriented nature of the international scientific community, research has likewise traditionally played an important role at German universities. High performance in teaching has often taken a lesser priority.

The U.S.-based [Cottrell Scholar Award](#) confronted this challenge by recognizing outstanding early-career university "teacher-scholars" in the fields of chemistry, physics and astronomy. This prestigious award is conferred annually by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) in Tucson, Arizona – with a focus on the U.S. and Canadian scientific communities.

Fulbright Germany has since 2016 added a wider intercultural scope to the RCSA's successful approach for both Northern American and German scholars with its Fulbright-Cottrell Award. Fulbright-Cottrell Scholars thus gain access to [like-minded and established networks on both sides of the Atlantic](#), helping them to develop current and future projects, and pave careers as international scientists.

The US-based annual [Cottrell Scholar Conference](#) in Tucson, Arizona, to which Fulbright-Cottrell Scholars are also invited, exemplifies the degree to which this inclusive community of scientists is flourishing across continents. This component of the award allows Fulbright-Cottrell Scholars to engage with transatlantic scientific communities, establish lasting personal connections, and receive acknowledgment for the quality and innovation of their research programs and academic leadership skills.

Since 2017, the Fulbright-Cottrell Award has been complemented by an initiative from scholars on each side of the Atlantic: a **workshop in Germany** organized by engaged award scholars and alumni:ae, offering professional development in the German academic landscape and further enhancing the growing network and transatlantic reach of our "teacher-scholars." The workshop offers training for junior faculty/group leaders on how to best implement evidence-based pedagogies, integrate research and teaching, use new strategies for communicating science to the public (past workshops have even included public science slams as part of the program), and develop skills in time management, leadership, mentoring students, and networking. The [next workshop](#), focusing on science communication and skills for better engaging with audiences both in and beyond academia, will take place at Saarland University in Saarbrücken in September 2024.

This [2019 cover story publication in \*Angewandte Chemie\*](#) on a Fulbright-Cottrell scholar's research – which marked the first scientific collaboration between one of our Germany-based Fulbright-Cottrell scholars and one of the U.S.-based Cottrell Scholars - shows how these "science diplomats" are building intercultural teaching and research bridges to their home institutions and beyond.

### Project Criteria

Submitted projects should include a research proposal and a corresponding teaching program, with the aim of simultaneously implementing both components over the course of

three years at a German university. The proposed research should describe a fundamental problem and enhance the current knowledge and understanding in the applicant's field.

The teaching program should aim not only to improve instruction within the applicant's respective department/program, but also to enhance students' academic success.

The submitted projects will be judged by their quality and innovation, feasibility, and long-term perspective. In addition to scientific excellence, proposals should also reflect the applicant's knowledge of pedagogic concepts, and make use of imaginative, forward-looking teaching and thoughtful learning methodologies. Applicants are encouraged to implement their projects with students in the earlier stages of their academic development.

Candidates should demonstrate independence in research (publications, etc.) and teaching, have strong international experience in scientific research (collaboration in an international environment and work as members of diverse teams), and exhibit interest in both gaining from and contributing to award-related transatlantic exchange.