

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BEST GRANT ESTABLISHED BY BEST STEERING COMMITTEE AND INVITALIA

BEST (Business Exchange and Student Training) Program is sponsored by Invitalia, a national agency promoting business opportunities and striving for the success of each investment project, and by the BEST Steering Committee, entity composed by individuals who share the ideals of the cultural exchanges with the United States, aim at promoting the growth of Italian entrepreneurship as well as technological innovation and transfer, and provide the guidelines to the BEST Program.

BEST Program is managed by the Fulbright Commission who administers the competition as well as and the selection process, oversees program organization through constant contact with Santa Clara University and monitors grantees throughout their grant period until their return to Italy.

TERMS OF BEST GRANT:

- Tuition and program fees
- Housing for six months
- Start-up allowance
- Monthly stipend

BEST participants will be responsible for making housing payments to Santa Clara University's Office of the Bursar while in residence on campus. Payment must be paid in full for each three (3) month period. A receipt showing full payment of housing for three (3) months must be submitted to the SCU Executive Development Center (EDC) before distribution of remaining monthly stipends.

BEST participants will have to inform Santa Clara University at beginning of November if they intend to stay on-campus during the internship portion of the program or if they decide to reside off-campus. In the second option, they will have to use personal funds in addition to the second housing installment in case the cost of off-campus housing is more expensive.

TERMS OF BEST GRANT: TRAVEL AND VISA ALLOWANCE

Lump sum of Euro 1.500 as a contribution to the purchase of international round-trip ticket between Italy and the United States and coverage of J-1 visa costs (MRV \$160 and SEVIS fee \$180).

The allowance will be disbursed by the Fulbright Commission directly to BEST Participants in two installments:

1. Euro 750 before departure for the United States
2. Euro 750 upon return to Italy after submitting their Final Report

CONDITIONS OF BEST GRANT:

1. The BEST grant is approved in the academic year program specified in the Grant Authorization and must be used during this academic year. It cannot be postponed to a subsequent year.
2. Financial benefits under this grant are those limited to those described on the Grant Authorization. No additional funds will be provided for living expenses or other expenses (i.e. purchase and shipment of teaching, research and study materials, etc.).
3. It is understood that the recipient has, or will have, adequate funds to take care of additional expenses in the United States for himself/herself.
4. No change in field of study, institution affiliation, or general program shall be made. Any unauthorized change violates the conditions of this award and may constitute cause for cancellation of the grant. If a change in personal status occurs (e.g. marriage, alteration of visa status, etc.) the grantee must inform the Commission and Santa Clara University.
5. The acceptance of employment for pay, other than the internship that will be arranged for the second part of the program in the United States, unless approved in writing by the Commission and Santa Clara University, violates the conditions of this award and may constitute cause for cancellation of the grant.
6. A grantee is expected to remain in the United States for the full tenure of his/her award. Any grantee leaving the country or resigning from the grant at a date earlier than that specified in the Grant Authorization without formally requesting and substantiating the request to the Commission and Santa Clara University and receiving their consent, will be required to repay grant benefits affected by early departure.
7. At the end of the authorized period of study and training in the United States, the grantee is expected to return to Italy to live and continue work in his chosen field.
8. Final Report: payment of the second and final installment of the travel and visa allowance will be withheld until the satisfactorily completed final reports are received at the Commission.

Rights and Responsibilities

BEST grant recipients sharing their experiences publicly through print and social media should acknowledge that the views and information presented are their own and do not represent Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee nor the Commission or Santa Clara University.

Any grantee who posts inappropriate or offensive material on the Internet in relation to the BEST Program may be subject to revocation or termination of their grant (see below **Revocation, Termination and Suspension of Grants**)

Grantees are private citizens, retaining the rights of personal and intellectual and artistic freedom as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and generally accepted by the laws of the United States, all recipients of BEST awards shall have full academic and artistic freedom, including freedom to write, publish and create.

Pursuant to the act, as amended, no award granted by the BEST Program may be revoked or diminished on account of the political views expressed by the recipient or on account of any scholarly or artistic activity that would be subject to the protection of academic and artistic freedom normally observed in universities in the United States.

BEST Grantees are responsible for observing satisfactory academic and professional standards and for maintaining a standard of conduct and integrity in keeping with the spirit and intent of the BEST Program and will contribute positively to the promotion of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

Grant recipients are expected to obey the laws of the United States.

Passport and Visas

The grantee is personally responsible for obtaining a passport and any visas required by the countries through which the grantee will pass en route to the United States, as well as a visa for the United States. The BEST grant provides for visa fees but does not provide for expenses related to any passport. Such expenses must be borne by the grantee without recourse to claim for reimbursement.

The grantee is responsible for making all travel arrangements in conjunction with the grant. All air travel paid for with United States Government funds should conform to the Fly America Compliant with the EU Open Skies Amendment, which requires that all such travel be on American Flag Carriers where such service is available or on EU Flagged Carriers.

Exchange Visitor Visa

Foreign student grantees who require a visa for the United States must enter the United States on a J-visa under Exchange Visitor Specialist Program. All grantees are expected to return to their home countries for at least two years at the conclusion of their grant, in compliance with J-visa requirements.

Health Insurance

All J-1 holders and their dependents are required by the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations to have health insurance while in the United States. BEST Program participants are required to have medical insurance coverage with the following minimum benefits [22 CFR 62.14]: a) Medical benefits of at least \$50,000 per accident or illness; b) Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500; c) Medical evacuation of the exchange visitor to his or her home country in the amount of \$10,000; d) A deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

BEST participants must acquire health and accident insurance before departure.

Ineligibility Factors

Persons associated with the U.S. Department of State and Commissions

The following persons are ineligible for grants:

- a. Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment.
- b. Members and staff of a Commission, for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment.
- c. Immediate families (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of U.S. Department of State employees, and members or staff of a Commission, for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime

A candidate who, at the time of application, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee has been convicted of commission of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations), must inform the Fulbright Commission and Santa Clara University in writing of such fact. Similarly, a candidate who at the time of application, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee has been arrested for or charged with a crime (excluding minor traffic violations), and the criminal matter has not been resolved, must inform the Fulbright Commission and Santa Clara University in writing of such fact.

If the candidate has been convicted of a crime, the Commission will not select such a candidate for a grant (or, if the candidate has already been selected, the Commission will annul the selection) unless Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission are satisfied that the conviction does not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. Such a determination will be based upon the nature of the crime, the time and place of conviction, and the subsequent conduct of the candidate.

If the candidate is arrested for or charged with a crime, the application (and, if already made, the selection) may be suspended by Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission until the criminal matter is resolved, or until such time that the BEST Program is satisfied that the arrest or the charges do not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees.

Similarly, a candidate who, at any time after becoming a grantee is arrested for, or charged with a crime, must inform the Fulbright Commission and Santa Clara University in writing of such fact. The grant may be suspended by Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission until the criminal matter is resolved, or until such time that Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission are satisfied that the arrest or the charges do not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. If a grantee is convicted, Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission may revoke the grant.

If an application, selection, or a grant is suspended on the basis of the criteria stated above, and the matter causing the suspension has not been resolved prior to the date set for the commencement of the grant activities, Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission may reject the application, rescind the selection, or revoke the grant, as applicable. Any funds disbursed to the grantee must be immediately returned to the source.

After a revocation, the grantee is considered as not having received the grant and will not be an alumnus or alumna of the BEST Program.

As used in this section “Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime”, “crime” means a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment of one year or more.

Revocation, Termination and Suspension of Grants

A “grantee” is defined as a selected candidate who has signed the grant document (including all terms and conditions thereof) without qualification and has returned a signed copy of same to the Fulbright Commission and Santa Clara University.

A candidate who has been selected, but who has not so signed and returned the grant document, is defined as a “selected candidate”.

In the event a selected candidate fails to sign and return a copy of the grant document within a reasonable time after it is received by the selected candidate, the selection may be withdrawn by the Commission.

A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended. After a revocation, the grantee is considered as not having received the grant and will not be an alumnus or alumna of the BEST Program; after a termination, unless otherwise stated, the grant will be considered to have ended when the BEST Program announces its decision to terminate; and after a suspension, the grant will be considered inoperative until a decision is made to reinstate, revoke or terminate the grant.

Authority to Recommend Revocation or Termination

- a. The Commission has authority to recommend that Invitalia and BEST Steering Committee revoke or terminate the grant held by a grantee who has departed the home country for the United States.
- b. The Commission has authority to recommend that Invitalia and BEST Steering Committee revoke or terminate a grant to a grantee who has not yet departed the home country for the United States.

Grounds for Revocation or Termination

Grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to:

(1) violation of any laws of the United States or the home country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the United States because it is contrary to the spirit of mutual understanding; (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards; (4) physical or mental incapacitation; (5) engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity; (6) failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions; (7) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in a grant application form or grant document; (8) conduct which may have the effect of bringing the BEST Program into disrepute.

Financial Issues Related to Revocation, Termination and Suspension

Unless otherwise specified by Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission, when a grant is suspended, revoked or terminated, disbursement of any allowances and benefits will cease, except for return travel; the grantee will also be required to immediately repay any advances in allowances or benefits disbursed for use in the period of time after the suspension, revocation or termination. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, no further claim for disbursements of allowances or benefits will be honored.

The Commission will inform the grantee whose grant has been suspended, terminated or revoked of the impact of the BEST Program's decision on past and future allowances and benefits; the Commission will take the necessary measures to implement Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission decision, and to collect any advances in allowances and benefits that must be repaid.

Suspension

- a. Invitalia and BEST Steering Committee, at the recommendation of the Commission may suspend a grant pending the procedure for revocation or termination of the grant, or if the grantee is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of commission of a crime, either before or after the grantee's departure for the United States
- b. The BEST Program, and the Commission may suspend a grant if:
 1. the grantee ceases to carry out the project during the grant period, and/or
 2. the grantee leaves the United States for more than two weeks without the prior authorization of the Commission and Santa Clara University.

Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime

The provisions under *Revocation, Termination and Suspension of Grants* are in addition to the provisions under *Ineligibility Factors -Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime* regarding the suspension, termination, or revocation of grants to persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime.

Liability

Neither Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission nor the United States or Italian Governments, assume any responsibility for any injury, accident, illness, loss of personal property or other contingency which may befall the grantee or his or her dependents during or connection with the grantee's stay in the United States under this grant.

No one or more of Invitalia, BEST Steering Committee and the Commission will be liable for any claim or claims resulting from a grantee's failure to enter upon or to complete the project outlined in the grant, even though the failure is beyond the grantee's control, including without limitation any failure resulting from a revocation, termination, or suspension effected pursuant the provisions under ***Revocation, Termination and Suspension of Grants*** and ***Ineligibility Factors -Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime.***