



# 2008

## Fulbright New Zealand

### Annual Report





## Fulbright New Zealand Annual Report for the period 1 October 2007 - 30 September 2008

The Fulbright Programme was an initiative of US Senator J. William Fulbright to promote international understanding through educational and cultural exchanges between the US and other countries. He believed the programme could play an important role in building a lasting world peace in the aftermath of World War II.

The New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation (trading as Fulbright New Zealand) was established in 1948 through a bi-national treaty between the governments of the US and New Zealand.

[www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz)

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# The Fulbright Programme



J. William Fulbright as University of Arkansas President, ca. 1941  
Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville

“We must try and expand the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception, and there is no way of doing that except through education.”

Senator J. William Fulbright

## Founder of the Programme

Senator J. William Fulbright was born in Sumner, Missouri in 1905. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Arkansas in 1925 and then went to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, where he received his Master of Arts.

After returning to the US, Fulbright studied law at George Washington University before working in the Justice Department and at the George Washington University Law School. In 1936 he returned to Arkansas to lecture in law. From 1939 to 1941 he was President of the University of Arkansas (the youngest university president in the country at that time).

Fulbright was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1942 and entered Congress in January 1943, where he became a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He quickly came to national attention when the House adopted the Fulbright Resolution which supported US participation in what became the United Nations.

Fulbright served as a Senator for 29 years until 1974, becoming one of the most influential and best-known members of the Senate. His legislation to establish the Fulbright Programme of international exchange, initially funded by war reparations and foreign loan repayments, was passed in 1946.

In 1949 he became a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and was its longest serving chairman, from 1959 to 1974. After leaving the Senate he was a legal counsel in Washington and continued to actively support the international exchange programme that bears his name.

Senator Fulbright received numerous awards from governments, universities and educational organisations around the world, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Clinton in 1993.

He died on 9 February 1995 at his home in Washington, DC.

## History of the Programme

The Fulbright Programme has been described as one of the largest and most significant movements of scholars across the face of the earth.

In Senator Fulbright's words, the programme aims “to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.” This goal has always been as important to the programme as individual scholarship.

The New Zealand-United States Educational Foundation (trading as Fulbright New Zealand since 1999) was set up in 1948 to administer the Fulbright Programme in New Zealand. New Zealand was the fifth country to join the programme, and is now one of over 150 participating countries. Fulbright New Zealand receives funding from both the US and New Zealand governments.

Since 1948 more than 1,300 New Zealanders and 1,100 Americans have received Fulbright awards under the New Zealand programme. Worldwide, the Fulbright Programme has assisted more than 300,000 people from over 190 countries to study, research and teach abroad.

The programme has produced numerous remarkable alumni internationally, many of whom have gone on to make significant contributions to scholarly knowledge and public life.

Fulbright New Zealand celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2008 with a number of events for alumni, friends and the public in New Zealand and the US.





































## Fulbright New Zealand

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