



Office of Institutional  
Advancement

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The School of the Art Institute of Chicago Named the Top Producer of US Fulbright Students**

*- With two students receiving Student Fulbright awards in 2016–17, 34 students have represented the School as U.S. Student Fulbright Fellows since 2002 -*

CHICAGO—The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs recently recognized the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) as tied for having the most U.S. Fulbright students of any other specialized institution in the nation. Two SAIC students received Fulbright awards for 2016–17, and since 2002, 34 students have represented SAIC as U.S. student Fulbright fellows. SAIC joins the University of Chicago and Northwestern University as the only Illinois colleges to be included on the list.

As a 2016–17 student Fulbright recipient, Nicholas Jackson (BFA 2011) researched perspectives and experiences surrounding the EuroMaidan protests in Ukraine, which began in 2013. Jackson is interviewing Ukrainians of differing perspectives and backgrounds to better understand the wave of demonstrations and civil unrest that demanded closer European integration and the end to government corruption. These accounts will be edited and illustrated in a documentary comic, as well as exhibited and presented in an online archive.

As a 2016–17 U.S. student Fulbright fellow, Sarah Kristen Williams (MFA 2014) is studying music composition in Berlin, Germany. Combining her experience in visual art and love of music, she is developing a system for composing a score to accompany “Stille Opera,” her series of narrative sculptures organized as opera.

“The strength of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is in our diversity, and we have a rich history of exploring global perspectives through art, design and scholarship,” said Elissa Tenny, SAIC’s president. “We are incredibly proud of our student Fulbright fellows as they seek to forge a greater understanding of different cultures, histories, values and perspectives through the program.”

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program. Top producing institutions are highlighted annually in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#).

**About the Fulbright Program**

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 370,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. More than 1,900 U.S. students, artists and young professionals in more than 100 different fields of study are offered Fulbright Program grants to study, teach English and conduct research annually. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program operates in more than 140 countries throughout the world.

The Fulbright Program also awards grants to U.S. scholars, teachers and faculty to conduct research and teach overseas. In addition, approximately 4,000 new foreign Fulbright students and scholars come to the U.S. annually to study for graduate degrees, conduct research and teach foreign languages.

**About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago**

For more than 150 years, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) has been a leader in educating the world's most influential artists, designers and scholars. Located in downtown Chicago with a fine arts graduate program consistently ranking among the top programs in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, SAIC provides an interdisciplinary approach to art and design as well as world-class resources, including the Art Institute of Chicago museum, on-campus galleries and state-of-the-art facilities. SAIC's undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate students have the freedom to take risks and create the bold ideas that transform Chicago and the world—as seen through notable alumni and faculty such as Michelle Grabner, David Sedaris, Elizabeth Murray, Richard Hunt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Cynthia Rowley, Nick Cave, Jeff Koons, and LeRoy Neiman.

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