Grand Valley State University strongly supports the U.S. government’s Fulbright programs in international education that provide merit-based competitive grants to open opportunities abroad in teaching and research. Tenured and tenure track faculty members are especially encouraged to apply to the program.

A Fulbright grant provides a per diem stipend which can be used for travel and housing in the host country, but generally does not fully cover a person’s expenses. To assist Fulbright grant recipients, Grand Valley State University will pay the difference between the grant amount and the tenured and tenure track faculty member’s base salary, minus adjunct replacement costs. Although faculty members will be on leave from the University, they will continue to receive full benefits and earn credit toward tenure or promotion for the time period covered by the grant. (See Administrative Manual, chapter 4, section 2.30.5.C.)

Nevertheless, faculty members are encouraged to combine a Fulbright grant with a sabbatical leave whenever possible, understanding that different criteria exist for each award. If a Fulbright grant is not sought in conjunction with a sabbatical, the faculty member must ensure that the grant award will not be made for the year prior to a sabbatical, nor the year immediately following a sabbatical. Other than those restrictions, the acceptance of a Fulbright grant will not affect the faculty member’s eligibility timetable for future sabbaticals. (See Administrative Manual, chapter 4, section 2.30.4.A.)

Grand Valley State University recognizes other competitive scholarly awards that are, like the Fulbright, widely recognized and highly respected and will try to make similar kinds of accommodations for them. A partial listing of such fellowships follows:

- Andrew W. Mellon
- John Simon Guggenheim
- Rhodes Scholarship
- Frederick Burkhardt
- Woodrow Wilson International Center
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Science Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- American Association of University Women International