

Fulbright Poland and India

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I have been honored to receive two Fulbright Scholar Awards for teaching. The experiences were so very different, and yet both were enriching, challenging, and transformational for me.

In the spring of 2011, I was placed at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Living in this Eastern European nation for six months was a journey of self-discovery for me in so many ways, and I also was glad that my husband could accompany me for the experience. As the granddaughter of Polish immigrants on both sides of my family, I was eager to meet my relatives, to explore my heritage, and especially to learn about the rich history of resistance and resilience in Poland more generally and Warsaw specifically. I also was excited to teach two communication studies courses to an amazingly international group of students who, like me, were only in Warsaw in a transient way. They were part of the Erasmus program which allowed them to accumulate credits at colleges and universities across Europe, and I also had students from Korea, Japan, and even Jamaica! My memories are so vivid, from our apartment above the Old Town Square, which placed us right in the center of the action in Warsaw, to trips to visit great capital cities including Berlin, Vienna, and Prague, to celebrating a traditional Polish Easter with my cousins and aunts and uncles.

For my second Fulbright application, I decided to apply to a country where I had never been that would challenge me in new ways. After choosing India, I targeted my application toward women's empowerment. Happily in the spring of 2019 I was placed at Indraprastha College for Women in Delhi, a historic institution nearly 100 years old. I could not have imagined what this six months would give to me. Now widowed, I traveled there alone and lived in the College residence hall with the extraordinary young women students. I taught three different classes, one for each cohort year in the Multi-Media and Mass Communication program, and was warmly welcomed into the college community, from celebrations to special programs and activities. I spent many days exploring what came to be my beloved Delhi's historic sites and markets. But my India experience was so much more, as I also was invited to deliver guest lectures at universities in Chennai and Vellore, at the American Consulate in Kolkata, and at a gender violence prevention workshop in Guwahati in far northeast India--on that trip I stayed three extra days to visit Kaziranga National Park and even went on an elephant safari in search of white rhinos! Additional solo trips in India took me to Kochi, Jaipur, and of course, Agra, where I saw the sun rise over the Taj Mahal. At the very end of my stay I had the amazing opportunity to spend a week providing communication training for Dalit activists in Kathmandu, Nepal. The rich palette of all of my experiences provided a vital and unforgettable journey.

India Photos:

- My first-year cohort class
- At the Taj Mahal
- With faculty at Indraprastha College for Women
- With students in at Vellore Institute for Technology







Poland photos

- Royal Castle in Warsaw
- With my Polish cousins in Old Town Warsaw
- My "Communication and Consumer Culture" class at Warsaw School for SS





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