

STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

, Czech Republic, English Teaching Assistantship

My experiences in Prague in a study abroad program taught me how important an understanding of culture is in effective linguistic communication. Although I was studying Czech, it was the art, literature and music of the city that gave me the edge that supplemented my ability to communicate in Czech. I now wish to return to the Czech Republic using my multimedial background in radio, literature and film as a participant in the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship program to encourage Czech students to better appreciate the eccentricities of their culture by teaching them about my own. My goal is to utilize my experiences in collaborative projects and as an editor to engage students in crafting a literary magazine and create and maintain an interactive blog. This will aid the students in learning English through a creative and cutting edge medium, preparing them to be international information-age scholars, writers and citizens while reciprocally augmenting my skills in Czech. I plan to attend graduate school in comparative literature and to focus on the work of Czech artist and authors, David Cerny, Milan Kundera, Bohumil Hrabal, Ivan Klima and Franz Kafka.

Being a comparative literature student at San Diego State University, I have learned the value of literature in being part of the cultural imaginary that shapes national identity. I hope to be able to use my own background in American literature, poetry and music to contribute to Czech students greater understanding of the heart of what it means to be an American despite our disparate histories. Writing and editing for *The Daily Aztec* newspaper for two years has given me a good start in mastering the technicalities of the English language while incorporating creativity to communicate information through paper to a large audience. Having been a radio disc jockey for KCR contributes further in developing my auditory communication skills and has taught me the concepts behind entertaining listeners. It is my intent to tutor underprivileged students at local high schools spring semester. Here I will be able to practice different teaching methods to prepare me to engage students one-on-one and in group settings. These activities, along with my extensive European backpacking experiences, give me strong confidence I can successfully teach in multicultural and multimedia settings.

Through the Fulbright Teaching Assistantship, I hope to learn about Czech teaching strategies to incorporate them toward my future goal of being a professor. Enthusiastic about Czech literature, music (folk and avant-garde) and art, I hope I will be able to advance my Czech language comprehension to translate and allow English speakers to better access the work of unknown Czech artists. With my eventual acquisition of the language, my goal is to read (and translate) my favorite authors' work in their original text.

As my outside project, I plan to support students on translating Czech folk music and poetry to create a literary magazine. We will work together to utilize what we have learned during the year to make this magazine accessible to both English and Czech speakers. I will encourage the students to take this project in a direction that will promote and deepen cross cultural exchange. I plan to teach them how to put compile the material and prepare it for publishing, and to construct an e-magazine version on a website. Through this side project, I will illustrate the rich Czech contemporary music and poetry scenes and will return to the U.S. with a repertoire of Czech culture to share.