

Seth Elder '08

It's good to have "oblique experience" -- that is, to have done research related to what you propose to do in the country to which you are applying. You don't need to have direct experience with the particular country. (And if you've lived in a country for more than a few months, apply to a different country.)

*How would you say your Fulbright has affected your life and future?*

Well, it was the best year of my life up to this point -- but otherwise it's hard to generalize. Maybe in 15 years I'll see more fully how it fits into my life. The grant was for nine months, but I saved money and stayed on for a full year and learned the language. I'm applying for masters programs in urban planning and historic preservation for next year, and hope to return to Macedonia to visit and do more research there.

*Language?*

Some countries require that you know the language before you apply. Others, like Macedonia, do not. Even so, you have to explain in the application how you will learn enough of the language to get by. I found two intensive summer language programs in Macedonian in the US, and attended one run by the State Department in Tucson, Arizona for two months during the summer before the grant began. When I arrived in Macedonia, I took lessons in the language.

*What costs are covered by Fulbright?*



*Thanks to Seth and others who asked questions and offered insights on applying for national scholarships at this good lunchtime meeting.*