

Statistical and Narrative Report

Program: Portuguese Research Students

Grant: Fulbright Research Grant with the support of FCT – all fields of study.

AY: 2019/2020

FY: 2019

Officer in charge: Sofia Wahnnon

Date of report: May 7, 2019

Contents

1. Brief description of the Program

The objective of this award is to support research projects to be developed in Universities or Research Centers in the United States of America, on all scientific domains. Eligible applicants must be Ph.D. students holding an FCT grant, have good knowledge of the English language, and an affiliation letter (agreement with their research project from one accredited American University or Research Center), as well as a letter of agreement from their scientific supervisor in Portugal.

2. Brief analysis of how the promotion, competition and selection process took place (planning, outreach, media, calendars, pool of evaluators, etc).

The competition took place during the month of January 2019.

During the competition period, we received e-mail requests for information about this grant from over 55 students.

The information about the award was shared in the Fulbright social media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram. Established network of connections with the universities' offices of international relations were also relevant to spread the information and help recruit for Fulbright.

We received 23 applications, grouped in 11 fields of study:

- Anthropology
- Archival Studies
- Biological Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Business and Administration
- Chemistry
- Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Energy
- Law
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medical Sciences and Pharmaceuticals
- Neuroscience and Psychology

Since these candidates had already been scientifically evaluated by FCT, they were all called to interview. The following comprised the Fulbright Board Selection Sub-Committee who interviewed the candidates:

Ana Mateus, representing “Direção Geral do Ensino Superior” (DGES)

Krystle Norman, *Deputy Public Affairs Officer*, American Embassy in Portugal

Mariana Abrantes de Sousa, Board Member

Tiago Saborida, representing “Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia” (FCT)

Todd Miyahira, *Counselor for Public Affairs*, American Embassy in Portugal

After the interviews, all candidates were nominated for selection.

3. Statistics

Fulbright Research Grants with the support of FCT	
	2019
Applicants	23
Grantees	23
Success Rate	100%

- Home institution

2019		
Applicants/Grantees	Number	%
Home Institution		
U Coimbra	2	9%
ISCTE	1	4%
IBET	1	4%
U Aveiro	1	4%
U Lisboa	3	13%
U Minho	4	17%
U Nova Lisbon	4	17%
U Porto	5	22%
Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar	1	4%
IST	1	4%
Total	23	100%

- Major academic discipline

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Anthropology	1	4%
Archival Studies	1	4%
Biological Science	4	17%
Biomedical Engineering	4	17%
Business and Administration	1	4%
Chemistry	2	9%
Environmental Science	2	9%
Law	1	4%
Mechanical Engineering	1	4%
Medical Science	1	4%
Pharmaceutical Science	2	8%
Neuroscience	3	13%
Total	23	100%

- Geographical area of residence

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Geographic area of residence	Number	%
Lisboa	5	22%
Porto	8	35%
Braga	4	17%
Coimbra	3	13%
Aveiro	3	13%
Total	23	100%

- Gender

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Gender	Number	%
Female	12	52%
Male	11	48%
Total	23	100%

- Age

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Age	Number	%
20-24	1	4%
25-29	17	74%
30-34	4	17%
35-39	1	4%
Total	23	100%

- Host institution

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Host Institution	Number	%
Harvard University	2	9%
MIT	4	17%
Mayo Clinic Grad. School of Biomedical Sciences	1	4%
Columbia University	1	4%
University of Arkansas	1	4%
City University of New York	1	4%
University of Texas	1	4%
University of Kentucky	1	4%
University of California	3	13%
University of Washington	1	4%
University of Minnesota	1	4%
Louisiana State University	2	9%
Northern Arizona University	1	4%
Beckman Research Institute	1	4%
Scripps Research Institute	1	4%
Rutgers State University	1	4%
Total	23	100%

- Duration of the stay

2019		
Applicants/Grantees		
Duration of stay	Number	%
4 months	8	35%
5 months	3	13%
6 months	5	22%
7 months	1	4%
8 months	3	13%
9 months	3	13%
Total	23	100%

4. Interpretation of the findings

It was the third year we had this competition. As it happens in all competitions, the number of contacts for information largely exceeded the number of submitted applications. Still, this number has progressively increased over the course of three years: **12** (2017); **17** (2018); **23** (2019).

In what concerns geographical diversity, a vast majority of the applications received came from the largest coastal cities of Porto (35%) and Lisbon (22%). The remaining applications were predominately from the North of the country, namely Braga and Aveiro (30%). From the city of Coimbra (Center) we received 3 applications (13%). Finally, no application came from the southern region of Portugal.

Like before (AY 18/19) the procedure pertaining the interviews and the final selection process was done by a Sub-Committee of Board members, including two American Embassy officers. This way of proceeding seems to have a positive impact in the selection process itself: is now faster and, as already noticed last year, benefits the scientific evaluators (*alumni*) as they don't have to be present during the interviews. Both these panels (the scientific evaluation and the interviews' selection) have now a lower load of work and therefore more time to devote to each application.