

Statistical and Narrative Report

Program: Portuguese Master's Self-Placed Students

AY: 2019/2020

FY: 2019

Officer in charge: Sofia Wahnnon

Date of report: July 10, 2019

Contents

1. Brief description of the Program

The objective of this award is to support students accepted in American Universities to pursue a Master's program, on all scientific domains. Eligible applicants must have a *licenciatura* degree, good knowledge of the English language, and an admission letter from one accredited American University.

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 February 2019.

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. During the competition period, we received e-mail requests for information from *circa* 20 students.

For the **Master's competition**, initially **18** applications on the going. From these, only **6** were fully submitted within the time limit. The other 12 remained incomplete despite our email notices.

From the 6 submitted applications, **2** withdrew even before the evaluation process started.

Finally, **4** applications were scientifically reviewed.

The 4 qualifiable applications were in the following fields of study:

- **Architecture/Museum Studies**
- **Business and Administration**
- **Environmental Sciences**
- **Multimedia Communication**

These applications were reviewed by Fulbright *alumni* in the correspondent fields of study:

- **Architecture/Museum Studies:** Lourenço Egreja (Curator *Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa*, Fulbrighter); José do Vale (FCT - Ph.D grantee, Fulbrighter); Joana Cunha Leal (Prof. Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter).
- **Business and Administration:** Maria Helena Guimarães (Prof. Minho University, Fulbrighter); Mohamed Azzim (Prof. ISCTE-IUL and Vlerick Business School, Fulbrighter); Helena Isidro (Prof. ISCTE-IUL, Fulbrighter).
- **Environmental Sciences:** Francisco Ferreira (Prof. Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Ana Cristina Fonseca (PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder, Fulbrighter); Carla Pimentel (Researcher Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Sónia Rodrigues (Researcher University of Aveiro, Fulbrighter).
- **Multimedia Communication:** Iola Campos (Researcher in Journalism, Fulbrighter); Maria Luís Rovisco (Lecturer in Media and Film Studies, York St. John University, Fulbrighter).

The four eligible candidates were interviewed, and one interview was conducted by Skype as the student was in Asia at the time.

The following comprised the Fulbright Board Selection Sub-Committee who interviewed the candidates:

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

Mariana Abrantes de Sousa, Board Member;

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

After the interviews, **1** candidate was nominated for selection and **2** candidates were nominated for the Fulbright Travel Grant. Only one candidate was able to accept the Fulbright Travel Grant that was nominated for. Which means that, by the end of the process there were **2** Master’s grantees.

3. Statistics

Fulbright MS Grant	
2019	
Applicants	4
Grantees	2
Success rate	50%

- Home institution (*Licenciatura* degree)

2019		
Applicants		
Home Institution	Number	%
Católica University of Lisbon	1	25%
IST	1	25%
University of Edinburgh, Scotland	1	25%
University of Lisbon	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Home Institution	Number	%
Católica University of Lisbon	1	50%
University of Edinburgh, Scotland	1	50%
Total	2	100%

- Major academic discipline

2019		
Applicants		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Architecture	1	25%
Business and Administration	1	25%
Environmental Sciences	1	25%
Multimedia Communication	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Business and Administration	1	50%
Environmental Sciences	1	50%
Total	2	100%

- Geographical area of residence

2019		
Applicants		
Geographical Area of Residence	Number	%
Algarve	1	25%
Lisbon	3	75%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Geographical Area of Residence	Number	%
Algarve	1	50%
Lisbon	1	50%
Total	2	100%

- Gender

2019		
Applicants		
Gender	Number	%
Female	2	50%
Male	2	50%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Gender	Number	%
Female	2	100%
Male	0	0%
Total	2	100%

- Age

2019		
Applicants		
Age	Number	%
20-24	2	50%
25-29	1	25%
30-34	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Age	Number	%
20-24	1	50%
25-29	1	50%
30-34	0	0%
Total	2	100%

- Current position

2019		
Applicants		
Career Position	Number	%
Student	1	25%
Business Manager	1	25%
Project Coordinator	1	25%
Other	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Career Position	Number	%
Business Manager	1	50%
Project Coordinator	1	50%
Total	2	100%

- Host institution

2019		
Applicants		
Host Institution	Number	%
Duke University	1	25%
MIT	1	25%
NYU	1	25%
University of Southern California	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Host Institution	Number	%
Duke University	1	50%
MIT	1	50%
Total	2	100%

- Duration of the stay

2019		
Applicants		
Duration of stay	Number	%
2 years	4	100%
Total	4	100%

Grantees		
Duration of stay	Number	%
2 years	2	100%
Total	2	100%

4. Interpretation of the findings

The present competition, headed to Portuguese Master's Self-Placed Students, opened this year for the first time. Therefore, it is not yet possible a comparison with previous years. Nevertheless, it is correct to say that the number of submitted applications is much lower than the number of contacts we received during the application process. In fact, we responded to e-mail inquiries from about **20** students against the **6** submitted applications.

As in other competitions in general, the bulk of applications came from Lisbon (3 of 4). Despite this number, our e-mail responses emphasized the fact that being away from the capital city is not a handicap, as all the application process is done online.

We believe that the screening process of the applications was very pertinent for this first-year competition, which consisted in checking whether the applicant was eligible for the grant (e.g. waiting for an admission letter) and whether the application was complete. And although the number of incomplete applications is significant, reminders were sent to the students through the online application system about the deadline and the need to present complete applications.

As in other competitions, the scientific evaluation was done by Fulbright alumni in the same field of study of the candidates. And as in other selection processes, we noticed that evaluators respond well to the fact that they are no longer asked to participate in the interviews' panels.