

Statistical and Narrative Report

Program: Portuguese Ph.D. 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 PhD 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* 15 students.

For the **PhD competition**, we had initially **11** applications on the going. From these, only **6** were fully submitted within the time limit. The other **5** remained incomplete despite our email notices: 2 were not submitted at all, and 3 were submitted but incompletely. From the 6 fully submitted applications, **4** withdrew by the time of the selection interviews (in the end of April) since the candidates did not get admission to an American university.

Nevertheless, the 6 qualifiable applications were all scientifically reviewed in the following fields of study:

- **Economics/Finance**
- **Engineering**
- **Mathematics**
- **Political Sciences**
- **Public Health**

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

- **Economics:** Cláudia Rei (Prof. University of Warwick, UK, Fulbrighter); Helena Isidro (Prof. ISCTE-IUL, Fulbrighter); Mohamed Azzim (Prof. ISCTE-IUL and Vlerick Business School, Belgium, Fulbrighter).
- **Finance:** João Veríssimo Lisboa (Prof. University of Coimbra, Fulbrighter); Maria Helena Guimarães (Prof., University of Minho, Fulbrighter); Mohamed Azzim (Prof. ISCTE-IUL and Vlerick Business School, Belgium, Fulbrighter).
- **Engineering:** António Pascoal (Prof. Técnica University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Henrique Miranda (Electrical Engineer Google Inc, Fulbrighter).
- **Mathematics:** Fernando Ferreira (Prof. University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Paulo Vasconcelos (Prof. University of Porto, Fulbrighter); Carlos Rocha (Prof. IST, Fulbrighter).
- **Political Science:** Ricardo Castro (Adviser on Strategic Foresight to the European Political Strategy Center, Fulbrighter); Ana Isabel Xavier (Prof. Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Ana Raquel Vaz Pinto (Prof. Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter).
- **Public Health:** Constantino Sakellarides (Prof. Nova University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Jorge Ferreira (Office International des Epizooties, Fulbrighter).

The 2 left eligible candidates were interviewed, and one interview was conducted by Skype as the student was in Spain.

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, both candidates were nominated for selection. One of them, though, had not been admitted to an American University as supposed. Finally, the left selected candidate withdrew.

To sum up, no grants were attributed for this award.

3. Statistics

| Fulbright PhD Grant | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 2019 | |
| Applicants | 6 |
| Nominated | 2 |
| Success rate | 32% |

- By home institution (*Licenciatura* degree)

| 2019 | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Home Institution | Number | % |
| IST | 1 | 17% |
| University of Lisbon | 2 | 32% |
| University of Porto | 1 | 17% |
| University of Barcelona, Spain | 1 | 17% |
| University College Utrecht, Netherlands | 1 | 17% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Home Institution | Number | % |
| University of Barcelona, Spain | 1 | 50% |
| University College Utrecht, Netherlands | 1 | 50% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

- Major academic discipline

| 2019 | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Major Academic Discipline | Number | % |
| Economics | 2 | 32% |
| Engineering | 1 | 17% |
| Mathematics | 1 | 17% |
| Political Sciences | 1 | 17% |
| Public Health | 1 | 17% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Major Academic Discipline | Number | % |
| Economics | 1 | 50% |
| Political Sciences | 1 | 50% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

- Geographical area of residence

| 2019 | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Geographical Area of Residence | Number | % |
| Castelo Branco | 1 | 17% |
| Lisbon | 1 | 17% |
| Porto | 2 | 32% |
| Netherlands | 1 | 17% |
| Spain | 1 | 17% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Geographical Area of Residence | Number | % |
| Netherlands | 1 | 50% |
| Spain | 1 | 50% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

- Gender

| 2019 | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Gender | Number | % |
| Female | 0 | 0% |
| Male | 6 | 100% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Gender | Number | % |
| Female | 0 | 0% |
| Male | 6 | 100% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

- Age

| 2019 | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Age | Number | % |
| 20-24 | 4 | 67% |
| 25-29 | 1 | 17% |
| 30-34 | 1 | 17% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------|
| Age | Number | % |
| 20-24 | 1 | 50% |
| 25-29 | 1 | 50% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

- Current position

| 2019 | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Applicants | | |
| Career Position | Number | % |
| Student | 4 | 67% |
| Engineer | 1 | 17% |
| Teacher | 1 | 17% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Career Position | Number | % |
| Student | 2 | 100% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

- Host institution

| Applicants | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Host Institution | Number | % |
| Harvard University | 1 | 16% |
| Stanford University | 1 | 16% |
| Yale University | 1 | 16% |
| University of Chicago | 1 | 16% |
| University of Michigan | 1 | 16% |
| University of Minnesota | 1 | 16% |
| Total | 6 | 100% |

| Nominated | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Host Institution | Number | % |
| University of Michigan | 1 | 50% |
| University of Minnesota | 1 | 50% |
| Total | 2 | 100% |

4. Interpretation of the findings

The present competition, headed to Portuguese PhD 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 lower than the number of contacts we received during the application process. We responded to e-mail inquiries from about **20** students against the **9** submitted applications, 3 of which incompletely.

Concerning the geographical area of residence, it was noticed some diversity: only 1 application came from Lisbon, 3 came from the North of the country (Porto and Castelo Branco), one from Spain (Barcelona), and finally one from The Netherlands. The latter candidates, despite the fact of studying and living abroad, had Portuguese nationality, one of them with Chinese ancestry.

As previously mentioned, the procedure pertaining the interviews and selection process was done by a Sub-Committee of Board members. This new way of proceeding seems to have a positive impact in the selection process itself: is now faster and 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.

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.