

## Statistical and Narrative Report

**Program:** Portuguese Research Students

**Grant:** Fulbright Research Grant– 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 American Universities or Research Centers in the United States of America, on all scientific domains. Eligible applicants must have a *licenciatura* degree, good knowledge of the English language, and an affiliation letter (agreement with their research project from one accredited American University or Research Center).

#### 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.

13 applications were submitted: 1 was not eligible (the candidate did not own Portuguese nationality); 2 were incomplete (without the affiliation letter nor the three letters of recommendation); after the scientific evaluation, 4 were under the cut-line and therefore not selected to interview; 6 candidates were finally interviewed by the Fulbright Selection Committee. From these 6, 4 were nominated by the Committee.

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* 30 students.

The 10 qualifiable applications were in the following fields of study:

- Architecture
- Biological Sciences
- Engineering (Aerospace and Chemical)
- Neuroscience

- Nutrition and Public Health
- Philosophy of Music
- Psychology
- Physics

The applications were scientifically reviewed by Fulbright *alumni* in the candidates' fields of study:

- **Architecture:** Sérgio Figueiredo (Prof. University of Eindhoven, Fulbrighter); Jorge Novais Bastos (Prof. University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Michael Fifield (Prof. University of Oregon School of Architecture and AI, Fulbrighter).
- **Biological Sciences:** Cecília Arraiano (Prof. ITQB - New University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Diana Saleiro (Fulbrighter); Susana Mingote (Prof. Columbia University, Fulbrighter).
- **Engineering (Aerospace):** Nuno Filipe (Engineering Georgia Institute of Technology, Fulbrighter); Paulo Tavares de Castro (Prof. University of Porto, Fulbrighter)
- **Engineering (Chemical):** Madalena Costa (Harvard University, Fulbrighter); Ana Rita Duarte (Prof. University of Minho, Fulbrighter); Andreia Valente (Prof. University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Susana Mingote (Prof. Columbia University, Fulbrighter).
- **Neuroscience:** Paulo Fontoura (Roche Pharmaceuticals, Fulbrighter); Ana Cristina Coelho (University of Porto, Fulbrighter); Susana Mingote (Prof. Columbia University, Fulbrighter).
- **Nutrition and Public Health:** Maria Isabel Loureiro (Prof. Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, Fulbrighter); Alexandre Abrantes (The World Bank, Fulbrighter).
- **Philosophy of Music:** Miguel Tamen (Prof. University of Lisbon, Fulbrighter); Paulo Perfeito (Composer, Fulbrighter); Helena Vasques de Carvalho (Prof. Conservatório Nacional, Fulbrighter).
- **Psychology:** Sandra Brito Pereira (Head of Global Learning, Fulbrighter); Paulo Lopes (Psychologist Trapézio-Projectos Culturais, Fulbrighter).
- **Physics:** Yasser Omar (Prof. IST, Fulbrighter); Margarida Cunha (Prof. University of Porto, Fulbrighter); David Wittman (Prof. University of California, Davis, College of Letter, Fulbrighter).

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, 3 candidates were nominated for selection and 1 candidate was nominated for a Fulbright Travel Grant.

### 3. Statistics

<b>Fulbright Research Grant</b>	
<b>2019</b>	
<b>Applicants</b>	10
<b>Grantees</b>	4
<b>Success rate</b>	40%

- Home institution

<b>2019</b>		
<b>Applicants</b>		
<b>Home Institution</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
U Coimbra	3	20%
U Minho	2	30%
U Nova de Lisboa	1	10%
U Porto	2	20%
U Santiago de Compostela (Spain)	1	10%
IST	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>2019</b>		
<b>Grantees</b>		
<b>Home Institution</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
U Porto	1	25%
U Coimbra	2	25%
U Santiago de Compostela (Spain)	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>
		<b>100%</b>

- Major academic discipline

2019		
Applicants		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Architecture	1	10%
Neuroscience	1	10%
Psychology	1	10%
Nutrition/Public Health	2	20%
Biological Sciences	1	10%
Physics	1	10%
Engineering Sciences	2	20%
Philosophy of Music	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019		
Grantees		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Psychology	1	25%
Nutrition/Public Health	1	25%
Philosophy of Music	1	25%
Physics	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Geographical area of residence

2019		
Applicants		
Geographic area of residence	Number	%
Lisbon	1	10%
Porto	2	20%
Barcelos	1	10%
Coimbra	1	10%
Gondomar	1	10%
Leiria	2	20%
Azores	1	10%
Santiago de Compostela (Spain)	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019		
Grantees		
Geographic area of residence	Number	%
Coimbra	1	25%
Porto	1	25%
Leiria	1	25%
Santiago de Compostela (Spain)	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Gender

2019		
Applicants		
Gender	Number	%
Female	5	50%
Male	5	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grantees		
Gender	Number	%
Female	3	75%
Male	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Age

2019		
Applicants		
Age	Number	%
20-24	5	50%
25-29	3	30%
30-34	1	10%
35-39	0	0%
40-44	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grantees		
Age	Number	%
20-24	2	50%
25-29	1	25%
30-34	1	25%
35-39		
40-44		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Current position

2019		
Applicants		
Career Position	Number	%
Ph.D. Student	3	30%
Master's Student	3	30%
Researcher	2	20%
Teacher Secondary School	1	10%
Other	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Applicants		
Career Position	Number	%
Ph.D. Student	2	50%
Researcher	1	25%
Teacher Secondary School	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Host institution

2019		
<b>Applicants</b>		
<b>Host Institution</b>	Number	%
University of California	2	20%
Chicago Center for Family and Health	1	10%
Columbia University, NY	1	10%
Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore	1	10%
Cornell University	1	10%
Brookhaven National Laboratory, NY	1	10%
Calicivirus Laboratory, Atlanta	1	10%
University of Maryland	1	10%
University of Michigan	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Grantees</b>		
<b>Host Institution</b>	Number	%
Chicago Center for Family and Health	1	25%
Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore	1	25%
University of Maryland	1	25%
Brookhaven National Laboratory, NY	1	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Duration of the stay

2019		
<b>Applicants</b>		
<b>Duration of stay</b>	Number	%
4 months	2	20%
5 months	2	20%
6 months	1	10%
8 months	2	20%
9 months	3	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Grantees</b>		
<b>Duration of stay</b>	Number	%
4 months	2	50%
9 months	2	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4. Interpretation of the findings

A general interest in this grant, together with the Fulbright Grant for Research with the support of FCT, has progressively increased over the last three years: in 2017, 59 students got in touch for information; in 2018, there were 64 requests for information; finally this year, 2019, we had a little over 30 students inquiring about the Fulbright Research Grant and almost twice that number for the Fulbright Research Grant with the support of FCT. For the Fulbright Research Grant, the number of eligible applications received slightly decreased (from 13 to 10); for the Fulbright Grant with the support of FCT, that number has increased (from 17 last year to 23 this year).

Concerning geographical diversity, differently from the previous year, it was noticed a wider diversity: only 1 application came from Lisbon (against the 6 from last year) and 2 from Porto (against the 4 from 2018). The remaining 6 applications received were from various parts of the country, mostly from the Center and the North, including 1 from the Azores archipelago, and another 1 from northern Spain, Santiago de Compostela, the capital city of the autonomous region of Galicia.

Like previously (AY 18/19) 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, 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.