

Statistical and Narrative Report

Program: Portuguese Ph.D. Self-Placed Students – all fields of study

AY: 2020/2021

FY: 2020

Officer in charge: Sofia Wahnnon

Date of report: May 27, 2020

Contents

1. Brief description of the Program

The objective of this award is to support students accepted in American Universities to pursue a Ph.D. 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 2020.

The information about the award was highlighted in our website and newsletter and 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. Therefore, several outreach sessions were carried out from North to South of Portugal in different universities (IST; U. of Algarve; UBI; UTAD; U. of Aveiro; U. of Azores; U. of Porto; Politécnico de Leiria).

During the competition period, we received e-mail requests for information from *circa* 25 students.

21 applications were initiated, but only **6** were submitted. From these, **3** candidates made it to the interview phase, the ones that got admission to an American university. All 3 were nominated for selection.

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

- Biology
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Geosciences
- History

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

Biology:

- Cecília Arraiano: Professor at ITQB, Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Paula Videira: Professor at Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Susana Mingote: Professor at Columbia University, U.S.A.

Chemical Engineering:

- Andreia Valente: Professor at the University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Domingos Barbosa: Professor at the University of Porto, Portugal

Computer Science:

- José Pereira Monteiro: Researcher at The *Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Investigação e Desenvolvimento (INESC-ID)*, Portugal
- Paulo Vasconcelos: Professor at the University of Porto, Portugal
- Pedro Bizarro: Chief Science Officer at *Feedzai*, Portugal

Economics:

- Cláudia Rei: Professor at the University of Warwick, UK
- Mohamed Azzim: Professor at ISCTE-IUL, Business School, Portugal
- Tiago Santos Pereira: Professor at the University of Coimbra, Portugal

Geosciences:

- Cristina Pereira: Professor at the University of Évora, Portugal
- Fátima Abrantes: Researcher at LNEG - *Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia*, Portugal
- Helena Granja: Professor at the University of Minho, Portugal

History:

- Cátia Antunes: Freelance Researcher
- Jorge Martins Ribeiro: Professor at the University of Porto, Portugal
- Sílvia Correia: Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

The following comprised the Fulbright Board Selection Committee who interviewed the three 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;

Due to the current pandemic situation, candidates were interviewed via Zoom.

After the interviews, the three candidates were nominated for selection.

3. Statistics

Fulbright PhD Grant	
2020	
Applicants	6
Grantees	3
Success rate	50%

- By home institution (*Licenciatura* degree)

2020		
Applicants		
Home Institution	Number	%
U. of Coimbra	1	17%
U of Lisbon (IST)	2	33%
U. Nova of Lisbon	1	17%
U. of Porto	2	33%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Home Institution	Number	%
U. of Coimbra	1	33,3%
U. of Lisbon (IST)	1	33,3%
U. of Porto	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

- By home institution (Master's degree)

2020		
Applicants		
Home Institution	Number	%
U. of Lisbon (IST)	2	40%
U. Nova of Lisbon	1	20%
U. of Liverpool, UK	1	20%
U. of Oxford, UK	1	20%
Total	*5	100%

Grantees		
Home Institution	Number	%
U. of Lisbon (IST)	1	50%
U. of Oxford, UK	1	50%
Total	*2	100%

*one of the applicants/grantees did not have a master's degree

- Major academic discipline

2020		
Applicants		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Biology	1	16,6%
Chemical Engineering	1	16,6%
Computer Science	1	16,6%
Economics	1	16,6%
Geosciences	1	16,6%
History	1	16,6%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Major Academic Discipline	Number	%
Biology	1	33,3%
Computer Science	1	33,3%
Geosciences	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

- Geographical area of residence

2020		
Applicants		
Geographical Area of Residence	Number	%
Lisbon	3	50%
Porto	1	17%
United Kingdom	2	33%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Geographical Area of Residence	Number	%
Lisbon	1	33,3%
Porto	1	33,3%
United Kingdom	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

- Gender

2020		
Applicants		
Gender	Number	%
Female	4	67%
Male	2	33%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Gender	Number	%
Female	2	66,6%
Male	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

- Age

2020		
Applicants		
Age	Number	%
20-24	4	66,7%
25-29	1	16,6%
30-34	1	16,6%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Age	Number	%
20-24	2	66,6%
25-29	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

- Current position

2020		
Applicants		
Career Position	Number	%
Researcher	2	33%
Student	3	50%
Teaching Assistant	1	17%
Total	6	100%

Grantees		
Career Position	Number	%
Researcher	1	33,3%
Student	2	66,6%
Total	3	100%

- Host institution

2020		
Applicants		
Host Institution	Number	%
Cornell U.	2	33,3%
Johns Hopkins U.	1	16,6%
NYU	1	16,6%
Pennsylvania State U.	1	16,6%
Stanford U.	1	16,6%
Total	6	100%

Nominated		
Host Institution	Number	%
Cornell U.	2	66,6%
Stanford U.	1	33,3%
Total	3	100%

4. Interpretation of the findings

The present competition, headed to Portuguese Ph.D. Self-Placed Students, had its second edition this year. In comparison with last year (2019) for which no grants were attributed for this award, this year (2020) there were three successful candidates to whom grants were awarded. Nevertheless, it is correct to say that the number of submitted applications is still lower than the number of contacts we received during the application process: we responded to e-mail inquiries from about **25** students against the **6** submitted applications.

Concerning the geographical area of residence, this year we received two applications from Portuguese candidates living and working in the United Kingdom. The tendency, though, is the same as in other competitions: 50% of the applications came from Lisbon. Despite this percentage, our e-mail responses keep emphasizing the fact that being away from the capital city /Portugal is not a handicap, as all the application process is done online.

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. The interviews and selection process were done by a Sub-Committee of Board members.

We believe that the screening process of the applications continues to be important for this 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 unsubmitted applications is significant (15), reminders were sent to the students through the online application system about the deadline and the need to present complete applications.

Finally, it should be noted that the webinar on the YouTube channel on how to fill in the application form reached 175 views over the course of the months of January and February.