



20 25 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



FULBRIGHT
Portugal

COMMISSION
FOR
EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE
BETWEEN
THE UNITED
STATES
OF AMERICA
AND PORTUGAL.

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Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Marie Blanchard

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, we reflect on the ideals that have defined our nation since 1776: freedom, curiosity, innovation, and an enduring belief in the power of opportunity. For eight decades, the Fulbright Program has embodied these very qualities, fostering mutual understanding, academic excellence, and cross-cultural collaboration around the world.

Looking back on the past year, I am so impressed at the way Fulbright scholars and alumni have exemplified the spirit that makes America unique — a commitment to open exchange of ideas and the knowledge that education and partnership can build a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Fulbright Portugal has served as a bridge—connecting scholars, students, and communities across the Atlantic. This year's Annual Program Report showcases the remarkable achievements of our 2024/2025 cohort and the promise of our 2025/2026 grantees, whose diverse projects span from artificial intelligence to the arts, law, and public health.

What makes Fulbright the premiere exchange program is not simply the caliber of its participants, though they are exceptional. It is the Program's steadfast commitment to fostering connections that transcend borders and disciplines. Our Fulbrighters do more than research or pursue degrees—they serve as cultural ambassadors, building lasting relationships that strengthen the fabric of Portuguese-American cooperation. They return home transformed, carrying with them new perspectives, partnerships, and a deeper appreciation for the power of international collaboration.

I'm struck at how the testimonials throughout this report vividly illustrate how Fulbright experiences shape careers, broaden horizons, and create ripple effects that extend far beyond individual grantees. From laboratories at MIT and Harvard to classrooms in Aveiro and Madeira, our Fulbrighters are advancing knowledge, addressing global challenges, and embodying the values of curiosity, resilience, and cross-cultural understanding.

As we reflect upon the celebration of 65 years of impact here in Portugal, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Portuguese and the U.S. Governments for their structural contributions, to our partners—including FCT, FLAD, Camões, the Regional Government of the Azores, and our many host institutions whose support makes the work possible. I also thank our dedicated staff, Board members, and the entire Fulbright community for sustaining this vital mission.

One connection at a time, we are building a more peaceful, prosperous, and interconnected world.

Sincerely,

Marie Blanchard

Message from the Executive Director

It is my pleasure to address our Fulbright Community and present this report, which highlights our programs and activities throughout 2025—a year marked not only by achievement and celebration of the Commissions' 65th anniversary milestone, but also by resilience and adaptability in the face of significant challenges.

The enduring strength of the Fulbright Program lies in its commitment to academic excellence, the determination of its grantees, and the collective impact of its partner institutions. In 2025, amid a rapidly evolving global and academic landscape, our Portuguese and U.S. Fulbrighters continued to demonstrate remarkable perseverance. Their projects, research, and accomplishments reflect both intellectual rigor and an ability to respond creatively to complex circumstances. Fulbright grants supported outstanding students, scholars and researchers across a broad range of disciplines, sustaining and strengthening collaborations between leading institutions of higher education and research centers in Portugal and the United States, even as conditions demanded flexibility and innovation.

At its core, Fulbright remains a merit-based program that expands opportunities for talented students and scholars from all backgrounds. In a dynamic and demanding year, Fulbrighters rose to the occasion—advancing their fields, contributing meaningfully to their host institutions and communities, and addressing pressing global priorities through research, dialogue, and collaboration. Their work continues to reinforce the scientific, cultural, and educational ties that connect Portugal and the United States.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners for their steadfast support of our joint grant programs and for their continued confidence in the Fulbright Commission's mission. Their commitment was especially vital in navigating the circumstantial challenges of 2025 and ensuring the continuity, quality, and impact of our programs.

A special acknowledgment is due to the Fulbright Commission team, whose dedication, adaptability, and tireless effort were instrumental in transforming obstacles into successes and sustaining our shared vision.

As we look ahead to the years beyond 2025, we do so with renewed confidence and purpose. We remain committed to expanding opportunities, fostering academic excellence, and strengthening communities through the transformative power of education and international exchange.

Sincerely,

Otília Macedo Reis

The Fulbright Program

Fulbright creates connections in a complex and changing world, offering programs for passionate and accomplished students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds. These Fulbrighters enrich their education, advance their careers—and make meaningful contributions abroad and at home. Upon returning to their home countries, institutions, or classrooms, they share their stories and often continue the work they started abroad—and join thousands of alumni serving as leaders across the globe.

For over 79 years, we have believed that by living and learning together with people of different cultures we can shape a more positive vision of our communities and our world. Our mission is vital: to forge lasting connections, counter misunderstandings, and help people and nations work together toward common goals.

America's flagship international exchange program, Fulbright is managed globally in collaboration with 49 binational Fulbright Commissions and 110+ U.S. embassies. Through our unique international educational and cultural exchange programs, Fulbright's diverse and dynamic network of scholars, alumni, and globe partners fosters mutual understanding between the United States and partner nations, shares knowledge across communities, and improves lives around the world.

One connection at a time, Fulbright brings people closer together and moves nations closer to a more peaceful world.

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The Fulbright Commission in Program

Statement of Purpose and Mission

The Fulbright Program is planned and administered in Portugal by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America and Portugal. The Commission – also known as the Fulbright Commission, was established in 1960 and has been continued and strengthened in 2015 by agreements signed between the Government of the U.S. and the Government of Portugal, with the purpose of promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries through educational and cultural contacts.

The Fulbright Commission has developed an important role in the promotion of mutual understanding between the USA and Portugal, through its triple mission in the areas of education and science:

- i) offering opportunities for the exchange of scholars, researchers and students;
- ii) delivering quality orientation and information services focused on the educational systems of both countries; and
- iii) organizing knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Goals and Priorities

In the course of FY2025 the activity of the Fulbright Commission was focused on the “core” grant programs in which the Fulbright Program lays its foundations (degree awarding, research and lecturing programs, of mid-long term duration, purely academic or with a very strong academic component, in all fields of study), while focusing on using its resources and the ones of our partner institutions as efficiently and impactfully as possible. As part of this process, partnerships with several organizations and cost-share agreements with higher education institutions willing to host Fulbright grantees were incentivized and developed.

Efforts were also conducted to increase the number of applications received and to select grantees of all backgrounds, while advancing the efficiency and transparency of the competition and selection procedures.

Cohort advising programs for Portuguese students have contributed to increase their potential to apply to U.S. universities for admission, whereas the visibility of Portugal as a destination for U.S. students and researchers was boosted through outreach and promotion projects.

Implementation of the Fulbright Program

US Grant Program

The U.S. Fulbright Grant Program consists of a portfolio of 12 grants: 8 for scholars (teaching and/or post-doctoral research) and 4 for students (study or pre-doctoral research and English teaching assistantship). Competitions take place annually, from March through September, for scholars, and from April to October, for students, for next year's academic year.

Fulbright Grants for U.S. Scholars (teaching and/or post-doctoral research):

All Disciplines

Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology Award (All Disciplines)

Fulbright Award Atlantic for Future / IPMA – Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere

Fulbright Award in Law and Sustainability / NOVA School of Law

Fulbright Award in Management / ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit (BRU-IUL)

Fulbright Award in Marketing, Communication & Media Studies / IPL-Politécnico de Lisboa

Fulbright Award in Ocean, Climate and Space / AIR Centre

Fulbright Award in Computer Science / Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre

Fulbright Grants for U.S. Students (study or pre-doctoral research and English teaching assistantship):

Fulbright / FLAD Open Study/Research Award

Fulbright / Camões, I.P. Open Study/Research Award

Fulbright / Azores Regional Government Open Study/Research Award

Fulbright English Teaching Assistants Award

The Commission also administers the **Fulbright Specialist Program**, designed for faculty and professionals. Portuguese host institutions present project proposals to host Specialists on a rolling basis throughout the Fiscal Year. There are 5 slots available each academic year.

Additionally, the Commission participates in the **Fulbright Inter-country Travel Grant Program**, administered by European Commissions and offers the opportunity for Scholars based in one European country in Europe to travel to another country to collaborate in short-term projects.

Awardees of multi-country programs, such as the **Fulbright Global Scholar Program** (for scholars), the Fulbright-Schuman Program (administered by the Fulbright Commission in Belgium and Luxembourg, for both scholars and students) and the **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Program** (administered by the U.S. Department of

Education, for students), are also welcomed and supported by the Fulbright Commission before (with pre-departure orientation and resources), during (with in-country orientation and support) and after (with alumni engagement activities) their stay in Portugal.

The Commission reviews and edits the content of **award descriptions** and announces all opportunities to Portugal on the catalog of Awards for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The Commission also carries out virtual **information sessions** for potential candidates and webinars about all offers. The Commission sends targeted email campaigns with information about all awards to Portugal to Fulbright alumni and Portuguese HEI and research centers interested in inviting U.S. faculty and researchers and publishes the U.S. Scholar awards on international research networks such as EuroAxxess North America.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) conducts the recruitment process by sharing information about awards to Portugal to Fulbright campus advisors at universities in the U.S. and by holding office hours with prospective candidates.

Portuguese partner institutions, especially in which concerns the U.S. Scholar Program, are also valued allies in promoting and disseminating information, and encouraging their contacts to apply for these awards.

All U.S. Fulbright scholar and student programs' applications are reviewed by National Screening Committees (NSC), divided by award category and area of study, and composed by Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program alumni and U.S. faculty, who review the paper applications and recommend several application finalists for selection. NSC-recommended applications were assessed by the Board of Directors, that selected the candidates based on their personal motivations, cultural adaptability, interest in pursuing a project in Portugal and choice of host institution. Partner institutions also have the prerogative to recommend the candidates of their preference for selection by the Board of Directors.

All applications for AY2025/2026 were, therefore, selected and ranked by the Commission's Board of Directors, taking into consideration NSC's and partner institution's recommendations for selection.

In 2025, for the 2025/2026 cycle, the Commission organized Selection Committees, composed of Portuguese and U.S. alumni, and Board Members for each grant category (U.S. Scholars, U.S. Research Students and English Teaching Assistants) all NSC-recommended candidates for the US Scholar and US Student Programs were interviewed online.

Selection Committees evaluated the potential to reflect the American society and, by living up to the principles of the Fulbright Program, how well could candidates serve as cultural ambassadors of the U.S. and of the Fulbright Program, while in Portugal. The Committees also considered the candidate's choice of research subject and affiliation in Portugal and considered merit, including in its definition also such aspects as overcoming adversity, access to resources and opportunities, and the candidate's personal journey up until the moment of their Fulbright grant application.

2024/2025 list of grantees

U.S. Scholars

Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology Award (All Disciplines)

Adriana San Miguel

Field of Study: Biology

Home Institution: North Carolina State University at Raleigh

Project Title: Stress granules: beneficial or harmful cellular agents in neurodegenerative disease?

Host Institution: Universidade do Algarve

Ben Ford

Field of Study: Archaeology

Home Institution: University of Pennsylvania

Project Title: The Human-Landscape 'Conversation' in the Lagoa da Pederneira Region

Host Institution: Universidade do Porto

Brent Chamberlain

Field of Study: Architecture

Home Institution: Utah State University

Project Title: Multimethod Assessment Techniques for Spatial Planning and Design

Host Institution: Universidade de Lisboa / ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Fran Siegel

Field of Study: Arts

Home Institution: California State University-Long Beach

Project Title: A Fachada Transparente (Transparent Façade)

Host Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

João Resende-Santos

Field of Study: International Relations

Home Institution: Bentley University

Project Title: U.S. Policy and Decolonization in Portuguese Africa, 1950-1975

Host Institution: Universidade Lusófona, Lisboa

Fulbright Award in Management / ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit (BRU-IUL)

Renee Flasher

Field of Study: Accounting

Home Institution: Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Harrisburg

Project Title: Global Enforcement Pressures - Similarity and Differences with U.S. Financial Disclosure Enforcement

Host Institution: ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Fulbright Award in Marketing, Communication & Media Studies / Polytechnic of Lisbon

David Taylor

Field of Study: Journalism

Home Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Project Title: Journalism study of cork oak forests and sustainability in climate change

Host Institution: Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa

Fulbright Award Atlantic for Future/ IPMA - Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere

Bruce Howe

Field of Study: Oceanography

Home Institution: University of Hawaii at Manoa

Project Title: Ocean and Earth Observing using SMART Submarine Cable Systems

Host Institution: IPMA / Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera

Ming Li

Field of Study: Oceanography

Home Institution: University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Project Title: Advancing Models for Predicting Toxic Harmful Algal Blooms Under Climate Change

Host Institution: IPMA / Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera

Fulbright Award in Law and Sustainability / NOVA School of Law

Robin Fretwell Wilson

Field of Study: Law

Home Institution: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Project Title: Can AI Unleash Human Rights for All and Achieve a Sustainable Détente in the Culture Wars?

Host Institution: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, NOVA School of Law

Fulbright Specialists Program

Consuelo Waight

Field of Study: Social Work

Home Institution: University of Houston

Project Title: Critical Analysis of Human Resource Professionals

Host Institution: ISG | Business & Economics School

Dennis Beck

Field of Study: Education

Home Institution: University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

Project Title: Instructional Design for Immersive Environments

Host Institution: INESC TEC - Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência

Elizabeth J. Abele

Field of Study: American (U.S.) Studies

Home Institution: SUNY Nassau Community College

Project Title: American Studies: From the Home to the Imagined and Back

Host Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Robert G. Bringle

Field of Study: Education

Home Institution: Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Project Title: Institutionalizing Service Learning in Higher Education

Host Institution: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

U.S. Students

Fulbright / FLAD Open Study/Research Award

Ellena Privitera

Field of Study: Public Health

Home Institution: Ohio State University

Project Title: Addressing Non-Communicable Disease Disparities by Centering Migrant Communities

Host Institution: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Stephen Crocker

Field of Study: Social Work

Home Institution: Brown University

Project Title: Living Hope: sharing Stories of Portugal's Drug Policy & Harm Reductions Efforts

Host Institution: ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Fulbright / Camões, I.P. Open Study/Research Award

Tristan Montgomery

Field of Study: Translation

Home Institution: Emory University

Project Title: Specialized Translation Degree in Portugal

Host Institution: Universidade de Aveiro

Fulbright Open Study/Research Award, with the support of the Azores Regional Government

Sam Bither

Field of Study: International Relations

Home Institution: Oxford University

Project Title: The impact of climate change and overfishing on ocean-reliant communities in the Azores

Host Institution: Universidade dos Açores

English Teaching Assistants

Aidan Godu

Home Institution: University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

Host Institution: Universidade de Aveiro

Katrina Gallegos

Home Institution: University of New Mexico

Host Institution: Universidade da Madeira, Funchal

Yennifer Coca Izquierdo

Home Institution: Berea College

Host Institution: Egas Moniz School of Health and Science

Isabela Kingston

Home Institution: Princeton University

Host Institution: Instituto Politécnico de Leiria

Laura Caram

Home Institution: University of Miami

Host Institution: Instituto Politécnico de Santarém

2024/2025 grantees' testimonies

During their Fulbright in Portugal, U.S. grantees are welcome to share their experiences as part of the educational and cultural engagement in their host communities that is a cornerstone of the Fulbright Program.

These **"My Fulbright Experience"** testimonies are widely shared to the Commission's social media and weekly newsletter following and can come as a reflection of a grantee's overall experience, their involvement in enrichment activities, classes, and volunteering experiences that our grantees eagerly participate or their travel to present lectures or take part in conferences.

All first-hand accounts of the U.S. "cultural ambassadors" to our country – and the engaging pictures that accompany them - depict a vivid picture of what prospective candidates can discover in Portugal and how transformative Fulbright can be.

«While my research was the main focus of this Fulbright, I also experienced significant growth in my teaching knowledge and skills. I participated in an artificial intelligence seminar, reflecting the worldwide academic struggle with adapting to new technological influences. I also participated in a local government conference around decentralization that provided a great opportunity to reflect on how I teach my American local government accounting class. Finally, my sensitivity for any non-native English-speaking student in my classroom exponentially grew. After my Fulbright experience, my personal and professional growth has been immense. I look forward to seeing how this experience fundamentally transforms me, my career, and my family in the future.»

Renee Flasher, Fulbright U.S. Scholar in Management at ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit (BRU-IUL)



«My four months in Portugal were dizzying. The first 10 weeks in Lisbon I walked photographed, mapped, drew and indexed all of the Azulejo patterns on facades throughout the city. At the same time, I built networks in the art, academic and botanical communities. I continually visited each of the public botanical gardens and private gardens in early May during "Open Gardens." I met with botanists and was pleased by how open they were to share their expertise and support to my artistic research. I also consulted with the curators at the Museu Nacional do Azulejo and the Natural Science Museum to develop future projects.»

Fran Siegel, Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology US Scholar in the Arts

«My year as a Fulbright Scholar in Portugal has been a deeply enriching experience, both personally and professionally. Living first in Lisbon and then in a cottage in the Sintra district, I was welcomed into the lives of Portuguese families and artists. I expect to return again and again to these communities and relationships. My Sintra host, Viriato, and his family made me feel at home, and I look forward to returning as their guest in the years ahead. In Lisbon, I was touched by the generosity of local artists like Alice, who gifted me a painting, and Rogério, a sculptor who shared his creative process with my son and me. Even simple moments, like sharing coffee with a Portuguese man named Jorge and his puppy Bobby, and meeting Jorge's family, helped me connect with the real Portugal—its warmth, its challenges, and its deep sense of community»

Robin Fretwell Wilson, Fulbright U.S. Scholar in Law and Sustainability at NOVA School of Law



2025/2026 list of selected grantees

U.S. Scholars

Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology Award (All Disciplines)

Heidi Pearson

Field of Study: Biology

Home Institution: University of Alaska Southeast

Project Title: Creation of a Monitoring Strategy for Pedra do Valado to Facilitate Conservation Goals in Portugal

Host Institution: AIMM – Associação para a Investigação do Meio Marinho

Humberto Campins

Field of Study: Linguistics

Home Institution: University Central Florida

Project Title: Studying asteroids with the European Space Agency's Euclid Space Observatory

Host Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Sarah Braden

Field of Study: Education and Leadership

Home Institution: Utah State University

Project Title: Developing a Model for Asset-Based Engineering Education for Multilingual Learners

Host Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Tayyaba Hasan

Field of Study: Medical Sciences

Home Institution: Massachusetts General Hospital

Project Title: Fundamental Principles of Photochemistry Applied to Medical Problems

Host Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Fulbright All Disciplines Award

Danielle Kuntz

Field of Study: Musicology

Home Institution: Baldwin Wallace University

Project Title: Scholar-in-Residence in 18th-Century U.S.-Portugal Music Studies

Host Institution: Divino Sospiro – Centro de Estudos Musicais Setecentistas de Portugal

U.S. Specialists

Janet McCord

Field of Study: Education

Home Institution: Edgewood College

Project Title: Specialized Training in Grief Support and Counselling

Host Institution: Universidade de Aveiro

Khary Hornsby

Field of Study: Law

Home Institution: University of California-Irvine

Project Title: Cultural and Emotional Intelligence in Legal Education

Host Institution: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

Other Specialists to be selected.

U.S. Students

Fulbright / FLAD Open Study/Research Award

Helene Duebel

Field of Study: Neuroscience and Computer Science

Home Institution: Boston University

Project Title: Using Facial Expressions to Gauge Serotonergic Modulation of Decision-Making Strategies

Host Institution: Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown

Fulbright / Camões, I.P. Open Study/Research Award

Pia Hernández

Field of Study: Conducting

Home Institution: Rollins College

Project Title: Voices Unheard: An Ode to Portuguese Choral Music

Host Institution: Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa

Fulbright Open Study/Research Award with the support of the Azores Regional Government

Alyssa Botelho

Field of Study: Creative Writing

Home Institution: University of Rhode Island

Project Title: The Last Frontier: War, Whales, and American-Azorean Family Bonds in WWI

Host Institution: Câmara Municipal de Ponta Delgada/ Museu Carlos Machado/ Museu Militar

Priya Talreja

Field of Study: Transportation

Home Institution: University of California-Davis

Project Title: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Equity in the Azores

Host Institution: Universidade dos Açores/ Direção Regional de Energia

Champ Turner

Field of Study: Installation Art

Home Institution: Brown University

Project Title: Out of the Ashes: The Symbiotic Archipelago

Host Institution: Museu Carlos Machado

Zahra Tyebjee

Field of Study: Textiles

Home Institution: Rhode Island School of Design

Project Title: Haptic Witnessing: The Sensory Experience of Basket Weaving

Host Institution: Anda&Fala – Associação Cultural / CADA – Centro de Artesanato e Design dos Açores

English Teaching Assistants

Amy Inestroza

Home Institution: College of the Holy Cross

Host Institution: Universidade da Madeira

Joceline Rodrigues

Home Institution: University of Rhode Island

Host Institution: ISG | Business and Economics School

Matthew Hernandez

Home Institution: Denison University

Host Institution: University of Aveiro

Jamie Nicolas

Home Institution: Yale University

Host Institution: Instituto Politécnico de Leiria

Julia Lininger-White

Home Institution: Middlebury College

Host Institution: Egas Moniz School of Health and Science

Portuguese Grant Program

The Portuguese Fulbright Grant Program consists of a portfolio of 13 grants: 9 for students and 4 for scholars. All competitions take place annually, during December and January, for the following academic year.

Fulbright Grants for Students (pre-doctoral):

Fulbright Grant for Research
Fulbright Grant for Research with the support of FCT
Fulbright Grant for Research with the support of the Regional Government of the Azores
Fulbright Grant for Research with the support of FLAD
Fulbright Grant for Research with the support of ARDITI
Fulbright Grant for Master's degree
Fulbright Grant for Ph.D. degree with the support of FCT
Fulbright / Fundação Carmona e Costa Master of Fine Arts-Drawing
Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)

Fulbright Grants for Scholars (post-doctoral):

Fulbright Grant for Scholars and Researchers with Ph.D.
Fulbright Grant for Scholars and Researchers with Ph.D. with the support of Camões I.P.
Fulbright Visiting Award at Florida Polytechnic Institute
Fulbright Grant for Scholars and Researchers with Ph.D. with the support of Fundação Gaudium Magnum

Except for two student grants, Portuguese candidates are self-placed. This means that they are scientifically evaluated by and accepted to an American university or research center before applying for the Fulbright Program in Portugal. For this reason, each Selection Committee assesses all eligible candidates regardless of their field of study. Above all, it is necessary to consider the capacity of the candidates to live up to the spirit of the Fulbright Program, and to reflect the diversity of Portuguese society. In other words, their potential to be cultural ambassadors for Portugal and for the Fulbright Program during their stay in the U.S. and after, when returning to Portugal, within their academic and home communities in general. Therefore, even though Fulbright Grants are merit-based, the Committee also considers aspects for merit that go beyond the "academic merit", such as:

- Potential for bringing positive changes to education in general.
- Civic engagement and participation in social initiatives.
- Capacity to overcome hardship and adversity.- The applicant's journey leading up to applying for a Fulbright grant, and their access to resources.
- Impact of personal and cultural identities, or family and community circumstances, on the candidate's academic and professional paths.

In the Research category for students and for scholars, Fulbright Grants support candidates who want to develop research and/or a teaching project (the latter just for scholars) in HEI or research centers in the U.S., for all scientific domains. Eligible applicants must have:

- A *Licenciatura* (undergraduate) degree for students, and a Ph.D. degree for scholars.
- Proficient knowledge of the English language.
- An Affiliation letter: agreement with their research project from one accredited American university or research center.

In the Graduate Studies category, our Fulbright Master's and Ph.D. Grants support students who have been accepted to the first year of a Master's or a Ph.D. program, respectively, in an accredited American university, for all fields of study. Eligible applicants must have:

- A *Licenciatura* (undergraduate) degree.
- Proficient knowledge of the English language.
- An Admission letter from one accredited American university.

Awardees of multi-country programs, such as the **Fulbright-Schuman Program** (administered by the Fulbright Commission in Belgium and Luxembourg) and the **Fulbright Scholar in Residence Program** (administered directly by the IIE) are also supported by Fulbright Portugal throughout their programs.

2024/2025 list of grantees

Portuguese Scholars

Emanuel Gonçalves

Field of Study: Bioinformatics and Machine Learning
Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa
Project Title: Developing novel combinatorial base-editing CRISPR screens
Host Institution: Broad Institute

Luís Cruz

Field of Study: Economy
Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra
Project Title: Local and regional economic assessment in the framework of the Energy Transition Initiative
Host Institution: University of Virginia

Ricardo Miguel Godinho

Field of Study: Paleoanthropology
Home Institution: Universidade do Algarve
Project Title: The impact of the Mesolithic-Nelolithic transition on European mandibular morphology
Host Institution: State University of New York at Buffalo

Fulbright Grant for Scholars with the Support of Camões I.P.

Annarita Gori

Field of Study: History
Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa
Project Title: Cultural relationships between Portugal and the United States during the early Cold War era
Host Institution: University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

Portuguese Students

Fulbright Grant for PhD with the support of FCT

Mauro Barbosa Franqueira

Field of Study: Aerospace Engineering
Project Title: Advanced Guidance, Navigation, Control, and Autonomy (GNCA) space applications
Host Institution: University of Florida

Rodrigo Costa

Field of Study: Clinical Psychology
Project Title: Examine the experiences of marginalized or otherwise stigmatized individuals and communities
Host Institution: University of Florida

Fulbright Grant for Masters

Leonor Melo Ribeiro

Field of Study: Technology Law and Policy
Project Title: Explore how to harness the full potential of emerging technologies and the promotion of innovation, while mitigating the inherent risks new technologies pose to human rights
Host Institution: Georgetown University

Fulbright / Fundação Carmona e Costa Grant for Master of Fine Arts – Drawing

Bernardo Bagulho

Field of Study: Graphic Design and Illustration
Home Institution: School of Visual Arts

Fulbright-FLTA, Foreign Language Teaching Assistant

Inês Almeida

Field of Study: Portuguese as a Second or Foreign Language

Home Institution: University of Porto

Host Institution: Northwestern University

Fulbright Grant for Research

Francisco Almeida

Field of Study: Neuroscience

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Lipid Signaling and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) determinants of Myelin Turnover

Host Institution: Columbia University

Maria Vale

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Technology-facilitated dating abuse among adolescents

Host Institution: George Mason University

Pedro Moreira

Field of Study: Artificial Intelligence

Home Institution: Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Sapienza University of Rome, and University College London

Project Title: From Explainability of Models to Explainability of Errors: Addressing Bias in AI-Enabled Healthcare Diagnosis

Host Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fulbright Grant for Research, with the support of FLAD

Ana Sofia Costa

Field of Study: Business

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Project Title: Using generative AI to refine decision-making in entrepreneurial environments, with the goal of developing analytical tools that evaluate entrepreneurial ideas with precision and impartiality

Host Institution: Harvard Business School

Miguel Correia

Field of Study: Biochemistry

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Furthering our understanding of cellular aging by investigating the molecular mechanisms linking actin cytoskeleton dynamics, organelle inheritance and protein quality control

Host Institution: Buck Institute for Research on Aging

Pedro Monteiro

Field of Study: Allied Health

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Project Title: D(GIS)isparities: Geographic disparities in rehabilitation supply and need in Portugal mapped through a geographic information system (GIS) and hotspot analysis

Host Institution: The Ohio State University

Fulbright Grant for Research, with the support of the Regional Government of the Azores

André Gomes

Field of Study: Robotics

Home Institution: Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich

Project Title: Advancing autonomous drone technology through learning-based and adaptive control strategies

Host Institution: Carnegie Mellon University

Beatriz Mamede

Field of Study: Law

Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Project Title: The uses of neurosciences for the social reintegration of criminal agents

Host Institution: University of Washington

Carolina do Carmo

Field of Study: Biomedical Sciences
Home Institution: Universidade dos Açores
Project Title: How can artificial intelligence (AI) for remote sensing with unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imagery boost the biodiversity protection of the Azorean archipelago while improving its community's well-being?
Host Institution: University of California-Los Angeles

Joana Gomes

Field of Study: Social Work
Home Institution: ISCTE-IUL
Project Title: How the integration of social workers contributes to the overall quality of services provided by veterinary teams?
Host Institution: University of Tennessee

Fulbright Grant for Research, with support from FCT

Ana Isabel Roque

Field of Study: Biology
Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa e Politécnico de Leiria
Project Title: Employ an intestinal organoid-bacteria co-culture model to infer if commensal bacteria can disrupt and translocate the intestinal epithelial barrier and contribute to the autoimmune response observed in celiac patients
Host Institution: Harvard Medical School

André Governo

Field of Study: Medical Engineering
Home Institution: Instituto Superior Técnico
Project Title: Develop an innovative wave-powered converter for sustained oceanographic measurements offshore the Azores archipelago
Host Institution: National Renewable Energy Laboratories

André Sousa

Field of Study: Biology
Home Institution: Universidade do Porto
Project Title: Metabolic paradox between prostate cancer and type 2 diabetes, exploring innovative biotechnological therapies based on aptamers
Host Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Beatriz Mariz

Field of Study: Biology
Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Project Title: The development of analytical strategies for the evaluation of biopharmaceuticals, targeting their characterization and quality control
Host Institution: Carnegie Mellon University

Catarina Teixeira

Field of Study: Biology
Home Institution: Universidade do Porto
Project Title: Elucidating the primary role of m6A modification in kidney cancer
Host Institution: Weill Cornell University

Daniela Trindade

Field of Study: Biomedical Sciences
Home Institution: Universidade do Porto
Project Title: Development of a minimally invasive treatment for temporomandibular joint disc regeneration, through the production of an injectable hydrogel obtained from decellularized ovine discs
Host Institution: University of Colorado Boulder

Delfina Fernandes

Field of Study: Psychology
Home Institution: Universidade do Minho
Project Title: Direct provision of evidence-based trauma services to victims of crime and how institutions must create a supportive and sensitive environment for this population
Host Institution: California State University-Long Beach

Francisca Perfeito

Field of Study: Biotechnology
Home Institution: Universidade de Aveiro
Project Title: Three-dimensional (3D) printing of functional living materials in large tissue constructs in order to achieve a living complex material capable of readily providing oxygen for large timepoints
Host Institution: Harvard Medical School

Isabela Santos

Field of Study: Sustainability Chemistry
Home Institution: Universidade do Porto
Project Title: Disclose the therapeutic potential of natural compounds, specifically flavonoids, in targeting TGF- β in metastatic osteosarcom
Host Institution: Harvard Medical School

Joana Reis Parda

Field of Study: Clinical and Health Services Research
Home Institution: Universidade do Porto
Project Title: Compare the strategy of bias-adjustment with the conventional approach of restricting meta-analysis to trials with a low risk of bias
Host Institution: Stanford University

Maria Carolina Amorim

Field of Study: Chemistry

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Proof-of-concept of dehydropeptides-based model protocells

Host Institution: City University of New York

Nelson Descalço

Field of Study: Neuropsychiatry

Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Project Title: Characterizing the white matter structure of the brain in patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder using neuroimaging methods

Host Institution: Stanford University

Quelvina Fortes

Field of Study: Forestry Sciences

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Project Title: Understanding the dynamics of mountain forest ecology and biodiversity, particularly their disturbances

Host Institution: Northern Arizona University

Valéria Gomes

Field of Study: Materials Engineering

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Unlock novel insights into specific cytotoxicity, laying the groundwork for innovative cancer treatments

Host Institution: Brandeis University

Maria das Neves Gomes

Field of Study: Slavic Studies

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: How a selection of modern Russian poets used Classical motives to conceptualize their identities, within a social context where the relationship with the Classics continued to be forcefully reshaped to fit political agendas

Host Institution: Princeton University

Pedro Sousa

Field of Study: Agricultural Studies

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Project Title: Evaluate and develop advanced methodologies for assessing consumer perception of innovative and novel foods

Host Institution: University of Arkansas

Sara Cerqueira

Field of Study: Biomedical Engineering

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Project Title: Human-Robot Collaboration to mitigate the prevalence of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSDs) and drive innovation in ergonomic interventions

Host Institution: Massachusetts Institute Technology

Zoe A. Arnaut

Field of Study: Chemistry

Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Project Title: Formulation and assessment of nebulized solutions for in vitro treatments of pneumococcal pneumonia

Host Institution: Texas A&M University

2024/2025 grantees' testimonies

Portuguese grantees are kindly invited to give their testimonials during and after their Fulbright grant. This visual and written material published on our social media, including in the Newsletter, has become an important and dynamic tool, not only to give an insight into the Fulbright life cycle, but also to communicate how wide and rich the Fulbright community is. Furthermore, Fulbright testimonials can be positive, real, and informative feedback for all – Commission, partners, HEI, alums community, and followers in general.

Portuguese Fulbrighters both learn and teach during their Fulbright experience. As Cultural Ambassadors, they have exposed their host communities to new cultures and ideas, and in turn have taken their experiences back and shared them with family, friends, peers, and with prospective Fulbright candidates, for instance, during the Commission's outreach events. This exchange is a fundamental part of our Program's mission of promoting mutual understanding.

During the grant's life cycle: "Fulbrighters in Action"

«This experience has been transformative-both academically and personally. Working on multi-agent AI in medicine at MIT gave me the opportunity to explore cutting-edge research with real-world impact. Collaborating with researchers from different backgrounds challenged me to think in new ways and pushed the boundaries of what I believed was possible. I'm especially grateful for the vibrant, interdisciplinary environment at MIT and for the friendships and mentorships that helped shape this journey. I leave feeling inspired, enriched, and more committed than ever to using science to solve global challenges.»

Visiting Student Researcher, Pedro Moreira



«Being at the Broad Institute and Kendall Square is like being at the epicenter of the ongoing biotechnological revolution. It has been deeply inspiring to see firsthand the scale and diversity of disruptive technologies that are emerging. I am very grateful to Fulbright and Instituto Superior Técnico for providing me with this opportunity, and for being able to be here with my family, balancing professional and personal life. »

Visiting Scholar, Emanuel Gonçalves

«This opportunity has not only helped me develop new professional skills but has also boosted my confidence and strengthened my sense of self-efficacy. Also, staying with an American host family has been an incredible opportunity. It has also been amazing to explore Long Beach and Los Angeles, visiting places I had only ever seen on TV or in movies/series. I know that when I leave, I will walk away feeling enriched in ways I never could have imagined.»

Visiting Student Researcher, Delfina Fernandes



After the grant (debriefing): "My Fulbright Experience"

« Over the course of my six months at Weill Cornell, I had the chance to collaborate with people from all over the world, which enriched both my personal and professional growth. At the same time, New York City also served as a teacher to me. The city's energy promoted creativity and ambition, which challenged me to continually strive for excellence. The Fulbright program gave me a unique opportunity to engage and connect with exceptional people, and to contribute to the field of oncology research in a meaningful way. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. »

Visiting Student Researcher, Catarina Teixeira



«Being a Fulbright scholar meant, for me, not only the completion of a research project, but the full experience of an ideal of cooperation and knowledge sharing between countries and cultures. The Fulbright experience is undoubtedly a unique opportunity for growth and bridge-building, which I highly recommend to all Portuguese researchers who wish to broaden their horizons and give new scope to their work. »

Visiting Scholar, Annarita Gori

«The experience also gave me the opportunity to represent Portugal abroad, sharing insights about our academic environment and ongoing AI research initiatives. Through conversations and collaborations, I contributed to reinforcing Fulbright's mission of promoting cross-cultural understanding and building bridges through education and research. »

Visiting Student Researcher, Ana Sofia Costa



«During my year as a Fulbright scholar in the United States, I completed an LL.M. in Technology Law and Policy at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. It was a profoundly enriching experience. I discovered an innovative teaching method, different from what I was used to in Portugal: the classes were true discussions between professors and students. The professor didn't just present the material; everyone participated in a genuine collective exercise of critical thinking. I also realized that difference, especially in academic contexts, is a great asset and a source of learning. I finished the program deeply grateful and motivated, certain that "The journey starts now!"»

Visiting Student, Leonor Melo Ribeiro

2025/2026 list of selected grantees

Portuguese Scholars

Fulbright Grant for Scholars and Research with Ph.D.

Adriana Sampaio

Field of Study: Psychological Neuroscience

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Host Institution: Harvard Medical School-Mass General Brigham

João Morais Cabral

Field of Study: Structural Biochemistry

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ricardo Louro

Field of Study: Biochemistry

Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Host Institution: California Institute of Technology

Portuguese Students

Fulbright Grant for Ph.D. with the Support of FCT

Ana Graça

Field of Study: Design, Environment and the Arts

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: Arizona State University

João Franco

Field of Study: Complex Systems and Data Science

Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Host Institution: University of Vermont

Fulbright Grant for Masters

Álvaro Correia Pinto

Field of Study: Jazz Saxophone

Home Institution: Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa

Host Institution: Manhattan School of Music in New York City

Fulbright-FLTA, Foreign Language Teaching Assistant

Mariana Rodrigues

Field of Study: Teaching of Portuguese

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: University of Georgia

Fulbright Grant for Research

Joana Pimenta

Field of Study: Artificial Intelligence

Home Institution: Università di Bologna

Host Institution: Yale University

Margarida Freitas

Field of Study: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: Harvard Medical School-Boston Children's Hospital

Fulbright Grant for Research, with the support of FLAD

Ana Paula Condesso

Field of Study: Moral and Political Philosophy

Home Institution: Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Host Institution: University of South Carolina

Pedro Teixeira

Field of Study: Early Modern History

Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Host Institution: Brown University

Miguel Mota Cruz

Field of Study: Informatics Engineering

Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Host Institution: University of Notre Dame

Fulbright Grant for Research, with support from FCT

Anna Kobrock

Field of Study: Biomedical Sciences

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Daniela Tavares

Field of Study: Cognitive-Behavioral Approach

Home Institution: Universidade Lusófona

Host Institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Daniela Tavares

Field of Study: Cognitive-Behavioral Approach

Home Institution: Universidade Lusófona

Host Institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dora D'Orsi

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: ISPA - Instituto Universitário

Host Institution: University of Maryland-College Park

Filipe Cruz

Field of Study: Physics

Home Institution: ISPA - Instituto Universitário

Host Institution: University of California-Los Angeles

Joana Veiga

Field of Study: Classical Studies

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: Boston College

João Pedro Gomes

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Host Institution: California State University-Long Beach

Luís Afonso

Field of Study: Aquatic Sciences

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: University of Washington

Miguel Pinto

Field of Study: Physics and Astrophysics

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Cláudia Silva

Field of Study: Materials Engineering

Home Institution: Universidade do Minho

Host Institution: Harvard University-Brigham and Women's Hospital

David Mesquita

Field of Study: Classical Studies and the History of Science and Medicine

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: Indiana University Bloomington

David Mesquita

Field of Study: Classical Studies and the History of Science and Medicine

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: Indiana University Bloomington

Duarte Almeida

Field of Study: Bioengineering

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Íris Damião

Field of Study: Computer Science

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: University of Vermont

João Camões dos Santos

Field of Study: Bioengineering

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: University of Southern California

Jorge Oliveira

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Marta Barros

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: Universidade de Lisboa

Host Institution: University of Colorado Boulder

Nádia Catarina Seidi

Field of Study: Psychology

Home Institution: Universidade de Aveiro

Host Institution: University of South Florida

Nuno Tavares

Field of Study: Biomedical Sciences

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: Cornell University

Tiago Cidade

Field of Study: Biodiversity, Genetics, and Evolution

Home Institution: Universidade do Porto

Host Institution: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Pedro Costa

Field of Study: Mechanical Engineering

Home Institution: Universidade de Coimbra

Host Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fulbright Schuman Award

Estela Lopes

Field of Study: Law

Home Institution: European University Institute

Host Institution: New York University

Grant Supporting Activities

Events and activities for Grantees

2025 Fulbright Portugal Forum

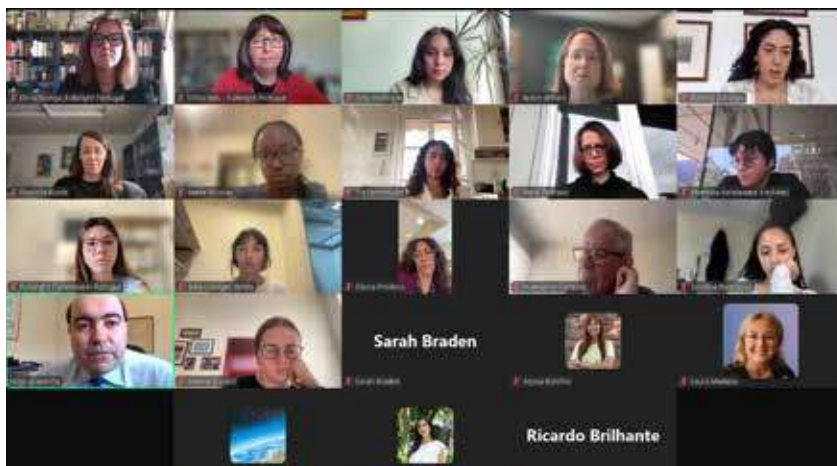
This annual event aims at providing the opportunity for current grantees and alums to present their projects developed under the aegis of the Fulbright Program and for engaging with each other, in an interesting dialogue between Portuguese and U.S. participants.

In 2025 the Forum was part of Fulbright Portugal 65th anniversary celebrations and it was centered on the theme "Fulbright Portugal @65 – Celebrating Democracy and Public Diplomacy".



U.S. grantees Virtual Pre-Departure Meeting

The Commission gathered the 2025 cohort of U.S. grantees for a virtual pre-departure meeting, where we focused on aspects that grantees must consider before travelling to Portugal. Topics that were highlighted during the meeting included grantee's benefits and responsibilities; ASPE coverage; visa application; housing, schools, and medical checklist; cultural shock and mental health support; in-country support, networking and community engagement. Fulbright U.S. Programs alumni provide invaluable information and tips on navigating the very different academic and cultural environments that recently selected grantees will find in Portugal.



U.S. grantees In-country Orientation

The Fulbright Commission in Portugal hosted its annual in-country orientation for grantees starting their programs during the Fall. It was two full days of panel discussions presented by partner and host institutions, and Portuguese and U.S. alumni, on topics such as multiculturalism, community engagement and volunteer opportunities; host institution's welcoming strategies and how to manage the grantees' expectations; mental health & wellness abroad. Cultural and networking events offered the perfect opportunity for grantees to get to know the history and culture of Portugal and to develop connections with fellow Portuguese grantees and alumni, in an informal and friendly setting.



Portuguese Grantees Pre-Departure Session

The Commission offered a pre-departure orientation for Portuguese Fulbright grantees before the start of their grants in the U.S. The event is organized each year to allow students, scholars, and researchers to learn more about logistics when preparing for their programs: Port of Entry; finances; bringing family; health benefits and safety information; adjusting to a new life and a new culture; networking; etc. Resources on Mental Health Cultural Shock, and American HEI are designed to address questions that have come up in former feedback and shared with current grantees. A U.S. Consulate Visa Officer was invited to explain the Visa process and take questions from our grantees. The event was also supported by the help of former grantees, from different grants' categories, to offer first-hand advice and tips to current participants. To sum up, Pre-Departure orientation encourages Fulbrighters to get prepared to have a productive and meaningful experience in the U.S., allowing participants to meet and connect with each other right from the offset.



Award Ceremony

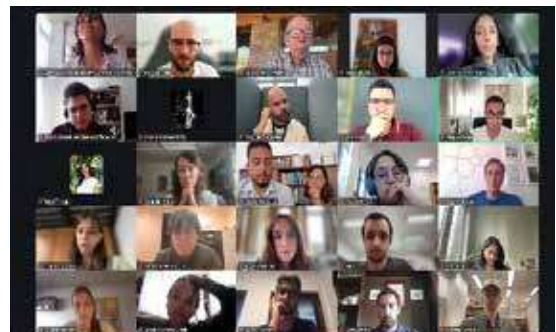
The Fulbright Commission hosted the Fulbright Portugal Award Ceremony, at FLAD, this year honoring both the Portuguese and American cohorts of grantees. The event was attended by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ana Isabel Xavier, and FLAD Board Member Michael Baum — both Fulbright alumni.



The ceremony celebrated the merit, accomplishments, and potential of an exceptional group of grantees — working across different fields of study, coming from and hosted by a variety of institutions throughout Portugal and the United States. These wide-ranging academic and institutional connections reflect the strength of the transatlantic relationship in higher education and science, as well as the dynamic cultural and artistic exchanges that continue to enrich and connect our two countries.

Fulbright PT/US Virtual Get Together

By the end of June, Fulbright held the Fulbright PT/US Virtual Get Together, an informal gathering for all Portuguese and American Fulbrighters before departing for their Programs in the United States and in Portugal. This event was an excellent opportunity for fellow Fulbrighters to meet, network, share experiences, and ask questions about their host countries. A broad range of topics were discussed: from concerns related to the journey ahead, relationships with peers and experts in their field, to culture shock and being ready for life-learning lessons.



In-person Get Together

Ahead of the Award Ceremony, staff, U.S. and Portuguese grantees and alumni got together for a gathering around the table, with drinks and gourmet snacks. It was the perfect chance to catch up on the conversation and watch the sun go down in Lisbon.



Alumni activities and Special Events

Thanksgiving Dinner November

We were delighted to have had the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving with a group of alumni, grantees, partners, and friends at Hotel Real Palácio. We are grateful for our friendly and thought-provoking Fulbright Community, Portuguese and American, and for being able to support it yet another year.



Fulbrighters Portugal Conference Series

The 4th Fulbrighters Portugal Conference Series was an initiative of Fulbrighters Portugal – the Association of Fulbright Scholars and Friends of the Fulbright Program, supported by the Fulbright Commission, with the aim of fostering the exchange of experiences among Fulbrighters, highlighting the merits and qualities of the Fulbright Program, and strengthening the Fulbright Alumni network.



1. **Teaching the Teacher** – Ron Bannon, Associate Professor (Essex County College, Newark).
2. **Nixon, Portugal and Portuguese Africa** – João Resende-Santos (Bentley University).
3. **Drinking water, waste water and climate change** – Ming Li, University of Maryland;
4. **Making Sense of the US Abortion Landscape after the Demise of Roe v. Wade** – Robin Wilson (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign).
5. **ELIXIR Portugal: providing a sustainable research infrastructure for life and health science data** – Ana Teresa Freitas (Universidade de Lisboa).
6. **Os Lusíadas: the poem and the new measure of the world** – Professora Isabel Lima e Almeida (Universidade de Lisboa).



Fulbright Portugal 65th Anniversary

The Fulbright Commission was created on March 19, 1960, through a diplomatic agreement signed by the United States Ambassador to Portugal and by the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For 65 years, Fulbright Portugal has been committed to promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and the sharing of knowledge between Portugal and the United States, by sponsoring educational and cultural exchange programs for individuals and institutions. We are grateful for the support of our program participants, partners, donors, board members, staff and the entire Fulbright Portugal community, which help to shape the future of our programs. 2025 was a year of celebration of the Commission's 65th Anniversary!



March 20th Anniversary Dinner

The Fulbright Commission celebrated its 65th anniversary with a commemorative dinner on March 20, 2025, at the iconic and monumental Casa do Alentejo, in Lisbon.

Attended by over 100 members of the Fulbright Portugal community – program alumni and current participants, partners, donors, board members, staff and friends - the event was a very nice occasion to commemorate the Commission, created on March 19, 1960, through a diplomatic agreement signed by the United States Ambassador to Portugal and by the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Elsa Henriques, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Commission, and Douglas A. Koneff, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the U.S. Mission to Portugal and Co-Honorary Chair of the Fulbright Commission, pinpointed in their remarks how, for 65 years, Fulbright Portugal has been committed to promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and the sharing of knowledge between Portugal and the United States, by offering educational and cultural exchange opportunities and programs for individuals and institutions.

As a guest of honor, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who is himself an alumni of the Fulbright Commission, highlighted the impact of the Fulbright Program in so many projects and careers, and its fundamental role as a bridge builder between Portugal and the U.S..





Recognition from the President of the Portuguese Republic

At the occasion of its 65th anniversary, the Fulbright Commission – Commission for Educational Exchanges between the United States and Portugal had the honor to be called an Honorary Member of the Order of Public Instruction (Membro Honorário da Ordem de Instrução Pública), by His Excellency, the President of the Portuguese Republic.

The Order of Public Instruction is a Portuguese order of civic merit, awarded to institutions and individuals in recognition of high services rendered to education and teaching.



Anniversary of the Fulbright Commission in Washington, D.C.

On June 2nd, the 65th Anniversary of the Fulbright Commission was commemorated in Washington DC, in a reception hosted by the Ambassador of Portugal in the US, Francisco Duarte Lopes, at his Residence.

This was a lovely opportunity to gather the Fulbright Portugal community - alumni, partners, staff and representatives from the State Department and IIE - to celebrate the impact of the Fulbright Program and its many contributions to the educational and cultural exchange between Portugal and the US.





Exhibit Posters – History of Fulbright Portugal now accessible to the public

Miguel Moniz, Fulbrighter and current U.S. Board Member of Fulbright Portugal, conducted research on our historical archives to produce a series of posters showcasing the history and the impact of the Fulbright Program in Portugal. The posters were exhibited at the dinner venue, together with a set of memorabilia and original documents, and were now made available online.

Miguel Moniz is an anthropologist (PhD, Brown University) at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, and was a US Fulbright student to Portugal.



Fulbright Portugal @65 Talks

From the Spring of 2025 on, the Commission hosted the Fulbright Portugal @65 Talks a series of lectures featuring the U.S. Fulbright Scholars in Portugal's projects and experiences:

- #1 – April 16 – **David Taylor**, Journalism (Johns Hopkins U) – Politécnico de Lisboa
- #2 – April 23 – **Ben Ford**, Archaeology (Indiana U of Pennsylvania) – U Porto
- #3 – April 30 – **Brent Chamberlain**, Environmental Planning (Utah State U) – U Lisboa / ISCTE-IUL
- #4 – May 7 – **Bruce Howe**, Oceanography (U Hawaii) – IPMA
- #5 – May 13 – **Fran Siegel**, Arts (UCLA) – U Lisboa
- #6 – June 18 – **Daniela Melo**, Political Science (Boston U) and Timothy Walker, History (U Mass Dartmouth)
- #7 – June 24 – **Adriana San Miguel**, Neurology (North Carolina State U) – U Algarve
- #8 – July 9 – **Renee Flasher**, Accounting (Penn State Harrisburg) – ISCTE-IUL, BRU



Other Commission activities

Partnership development and new awards

Working in partnership is essential to how the Fulbright Commission in Portugal operates and thrives. Throughout FY2025, the Fulbright Commission renewed partnerships and established new ones with:

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia – FCT, I.P.

The Fulbright Commission and FCT renewed its annual cooperation protocol, which establishes a joint grant program, allowing Portuguese students to attend full doctoral programs or carry out pre-doctoral research projects in the U.S, as well as U.S. researchers to develop research projects in universities and research centers in Portugal. FCT also supports the Fulbright Award in Space, Atmosphere, Ocean, Climate, Energy and Data Science / AIR Centre, for U.S. Scholars.



Fundação Gaudium Magnum

A new partnership was established for the implementation of the **Fulbright Grant for Curatorial Studies, with the support of Fundação Gaudium Magnum, Maria e João Cortez de Lobão**. Elsa Henriques, Chair of the Board of the Fulbright Commission, and Maria Cortez de Lobão, Co-President of the Fundação Gaudium Magnum, signed an MoU creating this grant that will be awarded to a Portuguese Scholar to develop a research project in the U.S. already in AY2025/2026.



ARDITI – Agência Regional para o Desenvolvimento da Investigação, Tecnologia e Inovação

On January 13, 2025, the Fulbright Portugal Commission was at the premises of ARDITI – Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology and Innovation, in Funchal, for the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding, with the aim of awarding a Research Grant to PhD fellows directly funded by ARDITI and residing in Madeira, who have foreseen or will foresee as part of their training plan, the completion of a research period at a university or research center in the USA. The protocol was signed by the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, Otília Reis Macedo, the President of the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Commission, Elsa Henriques, the President of ARDITI, Rui Caldeira, and Clemente Aguiar, Member of the Board of Directors. To RTP Madeira, the Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, Otília Macedo Reis, shared that the scholarships are available for all areas of study. Working in partnership is part of the way the Fulbright Commission in Portugal operates and thrives. In this sense, Fulbright Portugal, in the person of the Executive Director, is pleased to sign this partnership with ARDITI, for the establishment of a Fulbright Research Fellowship at this institution, which will certainly provide an excellent new opportunity for portuguese researchers who wish to embark on a rich and meaningful exchange experience.



The Commission pursued fruitful collaboration with all its other esteemed partner institutions, as follows:

Camões, Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P. Joint grant program for Portuguese Scholars students and U.S. pre-doctoral students and researchers

Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento – FLAD Joint grant program for Portuguese master's students and U.S. pre-doctoral students and researchers

Fundação Carmona e Costa – FCC Grant for MFA – Drawing, competition opens every two years. The grant endorses the value of art and its role in shaping and enriching today's society.

Florida Polytechnic University Fulbright Visiting Award, for Portuguese Scholars

Azores Regional Government – GRA Joint grant program for Azorean and U.S. pre-doctoral students, researchers and professionals

ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit - BRU-IUL Fulbright Award in Management / ISCTE-IUL, BRU, for U.S. Scholars

Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere – IPMA Fulbright Award Atlantic for Future / IPMA, for U.S. Scholars

Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon Fulbright Award in Marketing, Communication & Media Studies / IPL-Politécnico de Lisboa, for U.S. Scholars

NOVA University of Lisbon, School of Law Fulbright Award in Law and Sustainability / NOVA School of Law, for U.S. Scholars.

Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre Fulbright Award in Computer Science / Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre

Atlantic International Research Centre: AIR Centre Fulbright Award in Ocean, Environment and Space / AIR CENTRE

Polytechnic Institute of Leiria Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program, for U.S. Students

University of Aveiro Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program, for U.S. Students

University of Madeira Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program, for U.S. Students

Communication and Outreach

For both academic years of 2024/25 and 2025/26, several outreach sessions were conducted: in person at HEI from North to South of Portugal, including the archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira; and online. Hundreds of potential candidates attended our outreach sessions in person. There were also hundreds of views of the recorded online sessions, a powerful tool to reach out to potential candidates wherever they are based and at their own time and convenience.



According to feedback from potential candidates, the recorded sessions are also excellent support in completing the Fulbright application form. For these sessions, in person and online, the Commission was able to welcome the testimony of at least one Fulbrighter, a student and/or a scholar, who shared their Fulbright experience in the U.S., as well as their feedback with the application process, both of which were said to be demanding but straightforward and very rewarding.

Media Promotion: During the two months that competitions were open, the information about the awards was highlighted on our website, included in our Newsletter, and shared on Fulbright social media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Our established network of connections with the Portuguese HEI offices of International Relations were also crucial in spreading the information to help recruit Fulbright applicants.

Newsletter: The Commission's weekly Newsletter is established as a source of information for a wide audience of potential applicants, institutions of higher education and, in particular, alumni, providing them not only the opportunity to share their own projects and events with the community, but also a sense of belonging, underlining one of the Program's virtues, "Once a Fulbrighter always a Fulbrighter".

New Website: As part of the Commission's 65th anniversary celebrations the official website was renovated.

International Days (ID): ID are key to engaging our community and audiences in general when it comes to bringing awareness on important topics to our societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

Manual da Juventude: What if all the information was in one place? This is the premise behind the Manual da Juventude, an initiative that aims to compile the main useful and practical information for young Portuguese people on a single platform. Fulbrighter José d'Assis Cordeiro, the driving force behind the project, explains the advantages: "This Handbook aims to bridge information gaps, allowing cross-cutting access to information and opportunities for all young people in Portugal, ensuring that the sources are reliable and secure." The Fulbright Commission is one of several partners and promotes this valuable project. The Manual da Juventude includes information about internships, scholarships, lectures, volunteering opportunities and more.

Support to the Internationalization of the Portuguese Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

The Fulbright Commission organizes and participates in projects which intend to support the efforts of internationalization of the Portuguese HEI towards the U.S. In FY2025, such projects included:

2025 Fulbright Portugal / USA Study Abroad Workshop

The 2025 Fulbright Portugal / USA Study Abroad Workshop was a one-day event for key staff and administrators at Portuguese higher education institutions to help them better promote study opportunities in Portugal and gain first-hand knowledge of how U.S. universities study abroad structures operate. The number of U.S. students in Portugal has been steadily increasing but there is room for bigger growth in the next few years, taking advantage of the increased visibility of Portugal as a top travel destination.

These activities support U.S. study abroad to Portugal and are funded through a Study Abroad Engagement Grant from USA Study Abroad within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

The event took place on April 28th, 2025 at Colégio da Trindade, University of Coimbra, and had the participation of 20 representatives from Portuguese Higher Education Institutions and two guest speakers from the US: Gonzalo R. Bruce, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement at Boise State University and Leigh Poole, Assistant Provost for Student Success and Executive Director of the International Center at Winthrop University.



Study & Research in Portugal and Fulbright Portugal-USA Dialogues

Within the scope of the USA Portugal Campus initiative, the Fulbright Commission, the National Agency for Erasmus+ Education and Training (ANE+EF), and FLAD organized the Portuguese pavilion and delegation at NAFSA, the largest Expo/Conference of international education in the U.S.. In 2025, NAFSA took place in San Diego, California, between May 27-30.

The Portuguese delegation was composed by representatives from 18 institutions.

During the week of the NAFSA Conference and Expo in San Diego, California, the Fulbright Commission organized visits to two Higher Education Institutions, namely San Diego State University and University of San Diego.

Representatives from these two institutions welcomed the Portuguese Delegation and helped better understand the needs of american study abroad students and the services they offer to international students also. Partnerships between institutions from both countries was also one of the topics approached during the visits.



Educational Advising

Information Services and Advising Activities

The Fulbright Commission hosts EducationUSA, which main activity is to promote U.S. higher education to students in Portugal, and we offer a wide range of in-person and virtual advising services to students and their families based on the 5 Steps to U.S. Study:

- The admissions process and standardized testing requirements
- How to finance a U.S. education
- Prepare and submit applications
- The student visa process
- Preparing for departure to the United States

We offer accurate, comprehensive, and current information about opportunities to study at accredited postsecondary institutions in the United States, and we also provide services to the U.S. higher education community to help institutional leaders meet their recruitment and campus internationalization goals.

Cohort Advising Programs

In our efforts to help increase the numbers of Portuguese students studying in the US we have been running a Competitive College Club since 2016. The CCC is a cohort advising program that is run in several countries and is run also in Portugal and is designed to help highly motivated and talented students submit competitive applications to very selective colleges and universities in the U.S. The program includes for example explanation of the U.S. education system, tests preparation seminars, essay writing sessions and assignments, a book club, application advising, volunteering opportunities, and much more. While CCC does not guarantee admissions, it is designed to assist self-organized and independent students to improve chances of being admitted to U.S. colleges or universities.

We have also been running a similar program, called Pathway to Graduate School, since 2018 and this program is one of the few in our region that is designed to help highly motivated and talented students submit competitive applications to graduate programs in the U.S. It is very similar to the CCC program, but it has fewer sessions because students looking for graduate programs are usually more independent and need less support.

For these two programs the help of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) that come to Portugal each year on a Fulbright grant has been crucial. Each year we have sessions prepared by the ETA on different topics, and the students appreciate the insights they share since they have been through the application processes. Sessions may include essay writing workshops, book clubs, or preparation for the standardized tests. We also collaborate quite a lot with HEI representatives as we invite a few every year to present to our students either on standardized testing, or to give them insights on what is a good personal essay or a good recommendation letter. The HEI representatives are usually very enthusiastic when speaking to our students, and some students may end up applying to their institutions.

Outreach and Fairs

In an effort to reach out to more high school students we have partnered with a Portuguese association that organizes education fairs in high schools in Portugal. The Inspiring Future Association has helped us reach more students, as by joining a group of Portuguese HEI and other providers for an education fair at each school through the Inspiring Future project we are able to visit approximately 30 high schools in the Lisbon area and a selected few in other cities. We also coordinate our outreach efforts to high schools with the U.S. Embassy, and we join efforts whenever possible and visit several high schools in Portugal each year.

Educational fairs are an important way for us to reach students interested in undergraduate and graduate programs, and we participate in several and organize two throughout the year. Futurália is Portugal's biggest annual education fair, and each year is visited by 50/60.000 students' parents and professors from all over the country. We organize our Study in the U.S. booth each year at this fair and we invite HEI representatives to join us and talk directly to our audience. Futurália is our biggest annual event and together with the Fulbright Staff we spend 4 days speaking to students, parents, and teachers about studying in the US and our services. The EducationUSA Portugal Virtual Recruitment Fair has also been one of our main events during the year, and since 2021 we have invited US HEI to register and talk to prospective undergraduate and graduate students from Portugal.

We participate also in the Study Abroad Portugal events. These are smaller fairs that take place in the Fall and Spring each year, in Porto and Lisbon and are also a great way to reach out to more students interested in undergrad or grad programs.

EducationUSA Portugal joins efforts with the Fulbright Commission to do outreach at Portuguese HEI all over the country, taking the opportunity to promote advising services to the students at these institutions.

Our cohort advising programs and personal advising services are fully virtual. Innovative tools and online platforms allow us to reach out more students from all over Portugal, including the Azores and Madeira, and give them equitable access to our events and services.



The Year in Numbers

35 Portuguese
Grantees

PT STUDENT RESEARCH

3 visiting student grantees (Fulbright Grant for Research)

3 visiting student grantees with the support of FLAD

3 visiting student grantees with the support of The Regional Government of the Azores

18 visiting student grantees with the support of FCT

PT STUDENT GRADUATE STUDIES

2 Ph.D. students with the support of FCT

1 Ms student

1 Ms student with the support of FCC

PT SCHOLAR RESEARCH

3 Visiting scholars

1 Visiting scholar with the support of Camões I.P.

23 US
Grantees

US STUDENT PROGRAM

2 Fulbright research students with the support of FLAD

1 Fulbright research students with the support of the Azores Regional Government

1 Fulbright student with the support of Camões, I.P.

5 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants

US SCHOLAR PROGRAM

5 Fulbright Scholars with the support of FCT

2 Fulbright Scholars with the support of IPMA

1 Fulbright Scholar with the support of ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit (BRU-IUL)

1 Fulbright Scholar with the support of the Polytechnic of Lisbon

1 Fulbright Scholar with the support of NOVA School of Law

US SPECIALIST PROGRAM

4 Specialist Projects

The Year in Numbers

30 Portuguese Fulbrighters in Action

12 My Fulbright Experience testimonials

28 Fulbrighters in Focus

15

Outreach Sessions

7 sessions in person: over **111** attendees

8 sessions online: **156** people attended Zoom sessions; with over **325** views afterwards

6 cities: Aveiro; Coimbra; Funchal in Madeira, and S. Miguel in Azores; Leiria; Lisboa.

EducationUSA Advising

9.278

Total people reached through outreach

12

Participants in the Cohort advising programs

Social Media

Fulbright Portugal

10.764

Facebook followers

2.272

Instagram followers

7.114

Linkedin followers

1.706

X followers

285

Youtube Subscribers

3.329

Newsletter followers

Board Members and Staff

Board of Directors

The Ambassador of the United States to Portugal and the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs are Honorary Co-Chairpersons of the Commission.

The Commission is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors. The Board consists of five citizens of the United States of America, appointed by the American Honorary Co-Chairperson, two of whom are officers of the U.S. Foreign Service in Portugal, and five citizens of Portugal, appointed by the Portuguese Honorary Co-Chairperson, at least two of whom being governmental representatives of Portugal.

By the end of FY2025, the composition of the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Commission was the following:

American Board members, appointed by the American Honorary Co-Chair:

Mrs. Marie Blanchard (Chair)

Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Lisbon

Mr. Kabeer Parwani

Political Officer, U.S. Embassy in Lisbon

Mrs. Sheree Mitchell (Vice-Treasurer)

President & Founder, Immersa Global

Mrs. Kelly Doss (Treasurer)

Principal, KSD Consulting

Dr. Miguel Moniz

Anthropologist, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

Portuguese Board members, appointed by the Portuguese Honorary Co-Chair:

Dr. Elsa Henriques

Professor at ISTécnico

Dr. Joaquim Mourato

Director General for Higher Education

Dr. Madalena Alves

President of the Board of Directors of FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

Mrs. Florbela Paraíba

President of Camões – Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P

Mr. David Sousa

Director General for Education

Staff

Executive Director, Otília Macedo Reis

U.S. Program Coordinator, Dora Reis Arenga

Portuguese Program Coordinator, Sofia Wahnou

Educational Advisor, Dorian Rosca

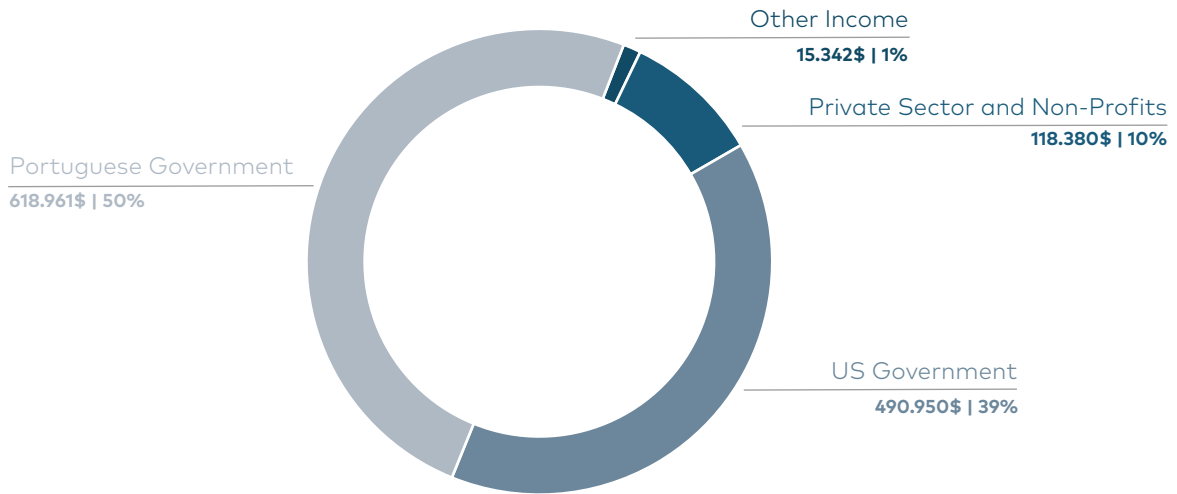
Administration and Communications Assistant, Catarina Abreu de Pinho



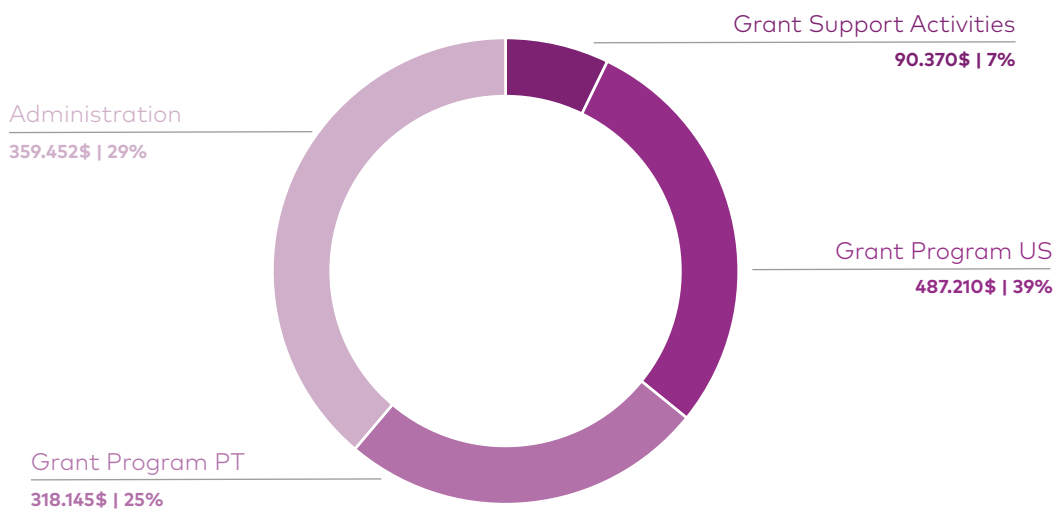
Financial Information

Binationalism, a cornerstone of the Fulbright Program, involves both governments in the governance and funding of the Fulbright Commission. Costs generated by the administrative structure of the Commission are covered by allocations from both governments (structural funding), securing the operational capacity required to support its activities (grants, grantees' orientation, and follow-up services, EducationUSA services, conferences and training workshops, grants' promotion, outreach, etc). The Commission also receives significant monetary and in-kind contributions from governmental entities, HEI and foundations, which guarantee extra funding for Fulbright Grants and other activities.

Fulbright Portugal Funding Sources FY 2025



Fulbright Portugal Costs FY 2025





The Fulbright Commission Portugal thanks all its partners for their support in FY2025.



March 25, 2026.