

Competitions for Portuguese Grant Programs

Foreign Language Teaching
Assistant (FLTA)



STATISTICAL AND NARRATIVE REPORT
OFFICER IN CHARGE SOFIA WAHNON
DATE OF REPORT JULY 31ST 2026



FULBRIGHT
Portugal

Description of the Program

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) grant is part of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. It is a nine-month, non-degree program for early career (not more than 7 years of experience) English teachers or professionals in related fields to teach their native language – Portuguese from Portugal – in an American college or university. Candidates in the fields of American Studies, Journalism and Media, American/English Literature, Translation and teachers of Portuguese as a Foreign Language are also eligible candidates on a case-by-case basis.

The main objective of the Fulbright/FLTA program in Portugal is for Portuguese participants to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States while serving as teaching assistants for their native language and culture to U.S. students at U.S. colleges and universities.

Eligible applicants must have, or be in the process of completing, a *licenciatura* (undergraduate) degree; be typically teachers of English or in training to become one; be fluent in English; demonstrate maturity and flexibility; and be open to sharing their language and culture with American students and communities and, thus, serving as cultural ambassadors of Portugal.

The final selection for the Fulbright/FLTA Program is dependent upon the ability of the Institute of International Education (IIE), Fulbright Program's partner in the U.S., to match the requests of the U.S. host institutions with the language skills and profile of the nominated applicant.

Candidates should be aware of the fact that a nomination is not a placement in the FLTA Program. In other words, placement will always be depended on a matching process between the requests of U.S. host institutions and the language skills and profiles of the applicant pool. In short, a nomination of a principal or alternate candidates does not guarantee a placement. It is critical as well that candidates clearly understand that placements can be offered by smaller rural colleges, or by ethnic diverse higher education institutions in the U.S. .

The academic year of 2026/2027 was the 4th year that Fulbright Portugal was able to launch the FLTA competition in our country.

Promotion, Competition and the Selection Process

(planning, outreach, media, calendars, pool of evaluators, etc.)

This competition took place during the months of September and October of 2025, for the academic year of 2026/2027.

Media Promotion

During the two months that the competition was open, the information about the award was highlighted on our website, included in our Newsletter, and shared on **Fulbright social media**: Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Our established network of connections with the Portuguese Universities' offices of **International Relations** was also very relevant in spreading the information to help recruit for the Fulbright-FLTA award. Simultaneously, **email campaigns** through MailChimp were targeted to Portuguese alumni and at institutions in the fields of Education, Language, and Culture, such as, "Direção Geral da Educação" – Ministry of Education; "Associação Portuguesa de Professores de Inglês (APPI)" (the English language teaching association in Portugal); and the Schools of Education (ESEs) in Portugal.

Online Promotion

Early September of 2025 (September 10), the Commission carried out an **online information session** on the application process of the Fulbright/FLTA grant. This session was recorded and made available on our YouTube channel, having had **55** views since then. In this session, we were able to have the testimonials of the two previous Portuguese FLTAS (AY24/25; AY25/26) who shared about their experiences, but also about the application process itself, answering questions from the attendees.

Applications and Selection Process

This year, **11** applications were initiated in the online portal, of which **5** were submitted by the application deadline—the same number as in the previous year. Following a thorough review of the eligible applications, all 5 eligible candidates were recommended by the Selection Committee for interview. All interviews were conducted remotely via Zoom.

Following the interviews, the Committee nominated and ranked **2** candidates: one Principal candidate and one Alternate. In the event that the Principal candidate declined the grant or withdrew from the Program, the Alternate would have been offered the award. The Principal candidate, however, accepted the award.

The **2** nominated applications were from candidates in the following study and professional fields:

- Translation Studies
- Languages and Literatures

For the AY2026/2027 competition, **60%** of the applicants (3 out of 5) were **male** and **40%** (2 out of 5) were **female**, reversing the trend observed in recent years, during which women submitted a higher number of applications in this grant category.

In terms of geographical distribution by district of residence, **2** applicants (**40%**) resided in Lisbon, while the remaining **3** (**60%**) were based in the districts of Setúbal, Porto, and Braga.

Finally, the Portuguese FLTA Principal candidate for the AY2026/2027 ended up being selected by and placed at the **Arizona State University**, Tempe, AZ, U.S. .

Evaluation Committee

The Committee was composed of the following:

- **Anna Klobucka**, Commonwealth Professor Emerita Portuguese and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; U.S. Fulbrighter to Portugal.

- **Inês Catarino**, Portuguese as a non-native language High-School Teacher; first Portuguese FLTA from Portugal.

- **José Duarte**, Assistant Professor in American Studies at the University of Lisbon; SUSI Scholar participant.

Statistics

Overall numbers

2026	Number
Applicants	5
Grantee	1
Success Rate	20%

Home Institution

Applicants	Number	%
Universidade de Lisboa	2	40%
Universidade do Minho	2	40%
Universidade Nova de Lisboa	1	20%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Universidade de Lisboa	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Major Academic Discipline

Applicants	Number	%
Languages and Literatures	4	80%
Translation	1	20%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Translation	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Geographical Area of Residence (District)

Applicants	Number	%
Lisboa	2	40%
Braga	1	20%
Porto	1	20%
Setúbal	1	20%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Lisboa	1	100%
Total	5	100%

Statistics (cont.)

Applicant versus Grantee Total by Gender

Applicants	Number	%
Male	3	60%
Female	2	40%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Male	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Age Range

Applicants	Number	%
25-30	4	80%
31-35	1	20%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
25-30	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Career Position

Applicants	Number	%
Student	3	60%
Teacher	2	40%
Total	5	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Teacher	1	100%
Total	1	100%

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