

Competitions for Portuguese Grant Programs

Graduate Studies:

Fulbright/Fundação Carmona e Costa

Master of Fine Arts Grant - Drawing



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



FULBRIGHT
Portugal

Grant

- **Fulbright/Fundação Carmona e Costa Master of Fine Arts Grant - Drawing**

Brief description of the Grant

The purpose of this award is to support a master's-level candidate in Fine Arts, with a focus on Drawing, in pursuing a program of study at a U.S. university or art institute. Offered in partnership with Fundação Carmona e Costa, the grant recognizes the value of contemporary art and its role in shaping and enriching today's societies.

Eligible applicants must hold a *licenciatura* (undergraduate) degree, demonstrate proficiency in English, and submit an artistic portfolio.

The competition is held every two years and selects one grantee for the academic year following the year of the competition.

Promotion, Competition and the Selection Process

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

Competition took place from April 15th to July 6th of 2025, for the academic year of 2026/2027.

Media Promotion

During the competition period, information about the award was prominently featured on the **Commission's website**, included in our newsletter, and disseminated through Fulbright's social media channels, including Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram. In parallel, targeted email campaigns were conducted through Mailchimp, reaching Portuguese alumni and institutions in the fields of Visual Arts and Design. Our well-established network of contacts with the International Relations Offices of Portuguese universities, together with the communication channels of our partner, **Fundação Carmona e Costa**, also played an important role in disseminating information about the award and supporting our recruitment efforts

In-person Promotion

As part of its outreach efforts, the Commission visited **5** higher education institutions across Portugal, from north to south, to present this award to students in Arts and Design departments: **Universidade do Algarve**; **Universidade de Évora**; **Instituto Politécnico de Leiria – Escola Superior de Artes e Design das Caldas da Rainha (ESAD)**; and **Universidade do Porto**. In total, **78** students attended these in-person outreach sessions.

During the session in Caldas da Rainha, a Fulbrighter also shared a testimonial about their Fulbright experience under this particular grant, providing prospective applicants with a firsthand account of the opportunities offered by the Program.

Online Promotion

The Commission also recorded a **webinar** on April 21, 2025, outlining the main application requirements and highlighting the benefits of this grant. The webinar received **49** views on our YouTube channel. By offering this online information session, the Commission aimed to reach a broader and more diverse pool of prospective applicants from different regions of the country.

Selection Process

Although **12** applications were initiated in the online portal, the number of applications and corresponding portfolios submitted for the AY 2026/2027 competition decreased significantly, from **10** in 2023 to **2** in 2025.

Following a thorough review, the Evaluation Committee selected both candidates to advance to the next stage of the evaluation process, the in-person studio visits.

Following the studio visits, both candidates were recommended by the Committee to proceed to the next stage of the competition, the interview. Both interviews were conducted remotely via Zoom, after which **1** candidate was nominated and ranked for the award.

The Evaluation Committee considered a range of factors in its assessment, including the candidates' academic records and objectives, portfolios, personal statements, and interview performance. The Committee also assessed their potential to reflect the diversity of Portuguese society and to serve as cultural ambassadors for Portugal and the Fulbright Program, both during their stay in the United States and upon their return to their home communities.

The selected grantee was admitted to, and accepted the offer of admission from, the **University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)**, IL, U.S.

Both candidates were female and had studied at higher education institutions in Lisbon; one of them resided in Leiria.

Selection Committee

The Committee had the following composition:

- **Dinorah Lucas**, Fundação Carmona e Costa Artistic Director.
- **Flannery Patton**, Strategic Initiatives Manager at the Artist Communities Alliance (ACA). American member of this Committee, living currently in Lisbon.
- **Manuel Costa Cabral**, Portuguese Visual Artist and Curator.

Statistics

Fulbright /FCC Award Number of Applicants versus Total

AY2026/2027	Number
Applicants	2
Grantee	1
Success Rate	50%

Home Institutions

Applicants	Number	%
Universidade de Lisboa	1	50%
Universidade Nova de Lisboa	1	50%
Total	2	100%

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

Geographical Area of Residence (District)

Applicants	Number	%
Leiria	1	50%
Lisboa	1	50%
Total	2	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Lisboa	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Gender

Applicants	Number	%
Female	2	100%
Total	2	100%

Grantee	Number	%
Female	1	100%
Total	1	100%

Statistics (cont.)

Age Range

Applicants	Number	%	Grantee	Number	%
20-25	1	50%	26-35	1	100%
26-35	1	50%	Total	1	100%
Total	2	100%			

Career Position

Applicants	Number	%	Grantee	Number	%
Self-employed Artist	1	50%	Self-employed Artist	1	100%
Student	1	50%	Total	1	100%
Total	2	100%			

Competitions for Portuguese Grant Programs
Graduate Studies: Fulbright/Fundação Carmona e Costa
Master of Fine Arts Grant - Drawing

Statistical and Narrative Report
July 31st, 2026