

Competition for Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program



STATISTICAL AND NARRATIVE REPORT
OFFICER IN CHARGE DORA ARENGA
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FULBRIGHT
Portugal

Description of the Program

The Fulbright Commission in Portugal offers opportunities for faculty, researchers, artists, and professionals to teach, research, and exchange ideas at university, research centers, museums, art schools or other cultural or educational institutions in Portugal.

Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Degree: candidates who have completed a Doctoral degree, or other terminal degree, at the time of the application;
- Invitation / affiliation letter: mandatory;
- Affiliation: agreement with the candidate's teaching or research project from an appropriate host institution; it can be any accredited higher education institution, research center, cultural institution or museum, governmental or non-governmental organization with educational or scientific purposes.

Award activity includes teaching, research or professional projects but, in addition to their primary activities, Scholars are also encouraged to give public talks, mentor students and engage with the host community.

All grants include the following benefits:

- A monthly stipend of EUR 3 000;
- A monthly housing allowance of EUR 1 000;
- A travel allowance of EUR 1 100;
- A monthly dependent allowance of EUR 250 for spouses, and of EUR 750 per unmarried child under 18 y.o. (if applicable);
- A travel allowance of EUR 1 100 per dependent (if applicable);
- Fulbright sponsorship of the National Temporary Stay Visa (including dependents, if applicable) and waiver of visa fees;
- Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) coverage during the grant period;
- An online Pre-Departure Meeting;
- An in-country Orientation Meeting;
- Ongoing support from the Fulbright Commission before, during and after their stay;
- Opportunities to present lectures and/or participate in seminars and other cultural or scientific events organized by the Portuguese and other European Fulbright Commissions;
- Integration in the global network of Fulbright grantees and alumni.

The Fulbright Commission offered the following awards in 2026/2027:

- **All Disciplines**, which supports one teaching, teaching/research or professional project in any field of study for a 4-month period;
- **Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology Award (All Disciplines)**, which supports five research projects in any field of study, for a 4-month duration;
- **Fulbright Award Atlantic for Future / IPMA - Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere**, which supports one research project in Oceanography, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geography, Geology, Paleontology, Physics or Statistics, for a period of 4 to 6 months;
- **Fulbright Award in Computer Science / Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre**, which supports one teaching/research project in Information Sciences/Systems, for a 4-month duration;
- **Fulbright Award in Law and Sustainability / NOVA School of Law**, which supports one teaching/research project in Law, for a 4-month duration;
- **Fulbright Award in Management / ISCTE-IUL, Business Research Unit**, which supports one teaching/research project in Accounting/Finance, Business, Economics or Marketing, for a 4-month duration;
- **Fulbright Award in Marketing, Communication & Media Studies / IPL-Politécnico de Lisboa**, which supports one teaching/research project in Communication, Journalism, Marketing, Media Studies, for a 4-month duration;
- **Fulbright Award for the Ocean, Environment and Space / AIR Centre**, which supports one professional or research project in Biology, Oceanography, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Information Sciences/Systems, Mathematics or Physics, for a 4-month duration;

The Commission in Portugal also offers multi-country awards such as the **Fulbright Global Scholar Award** – which is centrally funded and supports projects where one segment is spent in Portugal and the other has to be spent in a different world region over the course of one or two academic years – and the **Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Award** – which is administered by the Fulbright Commission in Belgium and Luxembourg and supports research projects in two different European Union countries.

Promotion, Competition and the Selection Process

(planning, outreach & media, competition calendar, pool of evaluators, selection)

Competition was open from March 1 to October 7, 2025.

Planning

The Fulbright Commission in Portugal defines the selection calendar, in coordination with the Institute of International Education (IIE), drafts and edits the content of all awards to Portugal in the [Fulbright US Scholar Program catalog of Awards](#), and on the [Fulbright Commission website](#), and plans and defines grant benefits. The Commission also makes available online resources for candidates such as country description, visa requirements and country priorities, if applicable.

The Commission announces and promotes the awards and responds to questions from candidates.

Promotion

Media Promotion

During the application cycle, the information about the U.S. Scholar Awards offered in Portugal was highlighted on the Commission's website, weekly Newsletter, and shared on Fulbright social media: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Fulbright Program's partner institution in the United States, the Institute of International Education (IIE), assists the Commission in its recruitment efforts by sharing information about awards to Portugal to Fulbright advisors at universities in the United States and by holding office hours with potential candidates.

Our partner institutions in the grant administration program are also valued allies in promoting the awards with their network of contacts – universities, research centers, lectorates and Portuguese language centers – in the United States.

In-person Promotion

Flyers and other promotional materials were produced to be poster-presented and handed out to visitors of the Portuguese pavilion shared at international education events such as the **2025 Annual NAFSA Conference & Expo**, in San Diego, CA.

Fulbright promotional materials were handed out by staff of the Portuguese Embassy in Washington, D.C. during the **EU Open House**, an event that took place on May, 2025, when Embassies of European Union member countries in Washington, D.C. open their doors to the public for free.

Online Promotion

The Commission hosted an online information session to PALCUS – Portuguese-American Leadership Council of America's **NextGen Leadership Academy**, *"a year-long program for the advancement of Young Portuguese-Americans (18-35 years of age) who have demonstrated outstanding promise, leadership potential, and passion for celebrating and preserving Portuguese culture in the United States"*. This session, attended by over 50 participants from the East and West coasts of the United States, provided an excellent opportunity to present Fulbright award opportunities in Portugal and discuss candidates' possibilities, expectations and opportunities for engagement with their heritage.

Online information sessions with potential candidates and campus advisors, hosted by the Institute of International Education (IIE), including one office-hours session dedicated to award opportunities to Portugal, with the presence of around 80 participants, where the Commission had the opportunity to present about each award, discuss award components and profiles sought and answer country-specific questions.

The Commission hosted a webinar about "Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award opportunities in Portugal" aimed at potential candidates. This webinar was recorded and shared on the Commission's weekly newsletter and social media platforms.

Targeted email campaigns to Fulbright alumni with information about the opportunities and request for referencing colleagues and students who might be interested in applying. More than 800 emails were sent, with an open rate of 27%;

Over 25 prospective candidates contacted the Commission via email for information about the selection process, award-specific questions and country-specific questions. Some individual online meetings with candidates were also held during the application cycle.

Evaluation

U.S. Fulbright Scholar Programs' applications are peer-reviewed by National Screening Committees (NSC), divided by fields of study and geographic areas, 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 are, then, evaluated by the Commission. Partner host institutions have the prerogative of ranking and recommending their preferred candidates, and they often waive the requirement to interview candidates. Nevertheless, hosts must present a recommendation justification, to be approved by the Commission's Board of Directors

The Commission-appointed selection committee reviews the paper applications, interviews candidates and recommends –finalists for selection by the Board of the Fulbright Commission for the **Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology Award (All Disciplines)**, in addition to the **All Disciplines Award**.

Candidates' evaluation is based on criteria such as their qualifications, project quality, potential for impact, cultural preparedness, interest in pursuing a project in Portugal and choice of host institution.

Selection Committees

The Selection Committees, composed of Fulbright alumni, Board Members and Partner institutions' representatives, review all recommended applications and interview semi-finalists for the two awards that accept applications for post-doctoral research, teaching, professional or artistic projects.

The Selection Committees were composed of the following members:

Fulbright Award with the support of FCT (All Disciplines) AND All Disciplines Award

Composition of the Selection Committee:

- **Miguel Moniz**, Board Member, Researcher at Institute of Social Sciences-ULisboa, Fulbright alumnus;
- **Paula Diogo**, representative of FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology;
- **Rui Ribeiro**, Researcher at Universidade do Porto; Fulbright alumnus.

Selection

National Screening Committee Review

After the application cycle has ended, the Institute of International Education (IIE) conducted a preliminary review to eliminate ineligible and incomplete applications. After this review, IIE forwarded applications to the National Screening Committee (NSC) – composed of U.S. academics, including Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program alumni – for academic review.

Project's evaluation is based on how well each application met the following review criteria:

- Project Proposal and Grant Purpose (timeline, methodology, affiliation and feasibility);
- Qualifications & Background (academic background, training and/or experience, publications and awards);
- Contribution to Fulbright Mission & Personal Attributes (adaptability and flexibility, community engagement, future impact upon return to home country).

Portuguese Selection Committee Review

The Commission received the applications recommended by the NSC and, again, these applications were reviewed by the Portuguese Selection Committee and all candidates were interviewed, via Zoom after the review process. After the interviews, the Committee nominated the candidates for selection.

The Selection Committee evaluated mainly aspects related to the candidates' ability to represent the principles of the Fulbright Program in aspects such as:

- the potential to reflect the multiplicity of American society and to serve as cultural ambassadors for the United States and the Fulbright Program by living up to its principles;
- the candidates' choice of teaching, research or artistic project and affiliation in Portugal;
- even though Fulbright grants are merit-based, the Committee also considered aspects for merit such as leadership potential, access to resources, and the applicant's journey leading up to applying for a Fulbright grant.

Statistics

The **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to Portugal** for the 2026/2027 cycle received **38 applications**, of which 23 were recommended for further review. According to IIE, the discrepancy between the number of applications submitted and those advancing to the finalist stage is due to how well each application met the following review criteria: qualifications, project quality, potential for impact, and cultural preparedness.

In 2026 we could see a small increase in the number of recommended applications for the Scholar Awards, an **increase of 15% from 2025**, when we received 20 applications.

The **Fulbright Award in Law and Sustainability / NOVA School of Law**, received four applications but three were not recommended so this award ended up without candidates as the one recommended semi-finalist withdrew from the competition. Additionally, the **Fulbright Award for the Ocean, Environment and Space / AIR Centre** did not receive applications.

The remaining partnership awards all received recommended semi-finalists and each ultimately selected one candidate.

The **Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Award** was awarded to one candidate who will divide her project between Belgium and Portugal.

The **Fulbright / FCT: Foundation for Science and Technology** received ten applications for five grants to award and the **All Disciplines Award** received four recommended applications for one grant to award.

The results of all awards indicate that of 23 recommended applications, 11 were selected, which indicates a **success rate of 48%**.

There is a majority of **female** candidates, 13 (57%), and grantees, 6 (55%).

The majority of candidates come from the State of **California** (26%) and are largely looking to conduct their projects in institutions in **Lisbon** (65%).

Statistics Tables

Overall Numbers

2026	Number
Recommended Applicants	23
Grantees	11
Success Rate	48%

Statistics (cont.)

Gender

Applicants	Number	%
Female	13	57%
Male	10	43%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
Female	6	55%
Male	5	45%
Total	11	100%

Field of Studies

Applicants	Number	%
Agriculture	1	4%
Anthropology	1	4%
Biology	2	9%
Business	4	17%
Communications	2	9%
Computer Science	4	17%
Environmental Sciences	1	4%
Fisheries	1	4%
International Relations	1	4%
Music Studies	1	4%
Neuroscience	2	9%
Political Science	2	9%
Writing	1	4%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
Agriculture	1	9%
Biology	2	18%
Business	1	9%
Communications	1	9%
Computer Science	1	9%
Fisheries	1	9%
Music Studies	1	9%
Neuroscience	1	9%
Political Science	2	18%
Total	11	100%

Statistics (cont.)

Home Institution

Applicants	Number	%
American University, DC	1	4%
California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, CA	1	4%
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, CA	1	4%
California State University-Los Angeles, CA	1	4%
Claremont McKenna College, CA	1	4%
Dickinson College, PA	1	4%
Georgia Institute of Technology, GA	1	4%
Marquette University, WI	1	4%
North Central College, IL	1	4%
Ohio State University, OH	1	4%
Oklahoma State University, OK	1	4%
Purdue University, IN	1	4%
Salisbury University, MD	1	4%
University of California-Berkeley, CA	1	4%
University of California-Riverside, CA	1	4%
University of Maine, ME	1	4%
University of Pittsburgh, PA	1	4%
University of Rhode Island, RI	1	4%
University of Washington-Seattle, WA	1	4%
Taylor University, IN	1	4%
Towson University, MD	1	4%
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, TX	1	4%
Wellesley College, MA	1	4%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
American University, DC	1	9%
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, CA	1	9%
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, CA	1	9%
Marquette University, WI	1	9%
Ohio State University, OH	1	9%
Oklahoma State University, OK	1	9%
University of Maine, ME	1	9%
University of Pittsburgh, PA	1	9%
University of Rhode Island, RI	1	9%
University of Washington-Seattle, WA	1	9%
Taylor University, IN	1	9%
Total	11	100%

Statistics (cont.)

State of Home Institution

Applicants	Number	%
California (CA)	6	26%
District of Columbia (DC)	1	4%
Georgia (GA)	1	4%
Illinois (IL)	1	4%
Indiana (IN)	2	9%
Massachusetts (MA)	1	4%
Maryland (MD)	2	9%
Maine (ME)	1	4%
Ohio (OH)	1	4%
Oklahoma (OK)	1	4%
Pennsylvania (PA)	2	9%
Rhode Island (RI)	1	4%
Texas (TX)	1	4%
Washington (WA)	1	4%
Wisconsin (WI)	1	4%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
California (CA)	2	18%
District of Columbia (DC)	1	9%
Indiana (IN)	1	9%
Maine (ME)	1	9%
Ohio (OH)	1	9%
Oklahoma (OK)	1	9%
Pennsylvania (PA)	1	9%
Washington (WA)	1	9%
Wisconsin (WI)	1	9%
Total	11	100%

Statistics (cont.)

Host Institution

Applicants	Number	%
Biblioteca Pública e Arquivo Reginal de Ponta Delgada	1	4%
Fundação Champalimaud	1	4%
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera	1	4%
ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	3	13%
Universidade Católica Portuguesa	1	4%
Universidade de Coimbra	2	9%
Universidade de Lisboa	2	9%
Universidade do Minho	1	4%
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa	5	22%
Universidade Politécnica de Lisboa (Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa)	2	9%
Universidade Politécnica de Portalegre (Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre)	2	9%
Universidade do Porto	2	9%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
Fundação Champalimaud	1	9%
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera	1	9%
Universidade Católica Portuguesa	1	9%
Universidade de Coimbra	1	9%
Universidade de Lisboa	1	9%
Universidade do Minho	1	9%
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa	1	9%
Universidade Politécnica de Lisboa (Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa)	1	9%
Universidade Politécnica de Portalegre (Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre)	1	9%
Universidade do Porto	1	9%
Total	11	100%

City of Host Institution

Applicants	Number	%
Braga	1	4%
Coimbra	2	9%
Lisboa	15	65%
Ponta Delgada	1	4%
Portalegre	2	9%
Porto	2	9%
Total	23	100%

Grantees	Number	%
Braga	1	9%
Coimbra	1	9%
Lisboa	7	64%
Portalegre	1	9%
Porto	1	9%
Total	11	100%

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September 1st, 2026