



Comisión de Intercambio Cultural,  
Educativo y Científico entre España  
y los Estados Unidos de America

Commission for Cultural, Educational  
and Scientific Exchange between  
the United States of America and Spain

***ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT***

***October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020***

***October 2020***



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **1. HIGHLIGHTS**

As in previous years, the Commission received generous support from the U.S. Department of State and the Spanish government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and through the Ministry of Universities.

The Ministry of Universities also continue funding the program of Spanish Fulbright Scholars although it has suffered a considerable decrease in the number of scholarships provided due to some factors that are being currently evaluated.

Funds received for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) program from regional governments have grown due to an increase in the number of awards for U.S. citizens from the Regional Government of Galicia and the Regional Government of Canarias and also as a result of the new cooperation agreement signed with the Universidad de Málaga.

The Regional Government of Galicia also sponsors a new postdoctoral program within the scope of the Galician University System for researchers to carry out postdoctoral research at top research centers in the United States.

Funding for the Spanish graduate program continued to be supplemented through sponsorship from the regional governments of the *Junta de Andalucía* and, although with a slight decrease, other private foundations and multinational companies including Coca-Cola, *Cosentino*, *Fundación Iberdrola España*, *Fundación Mapfre*, *Fundación Ramón Areces* and *Grifols*. The Commission is extremely grateful to these companies whose contributions enabled more awards to be offered to Spanish citizens.

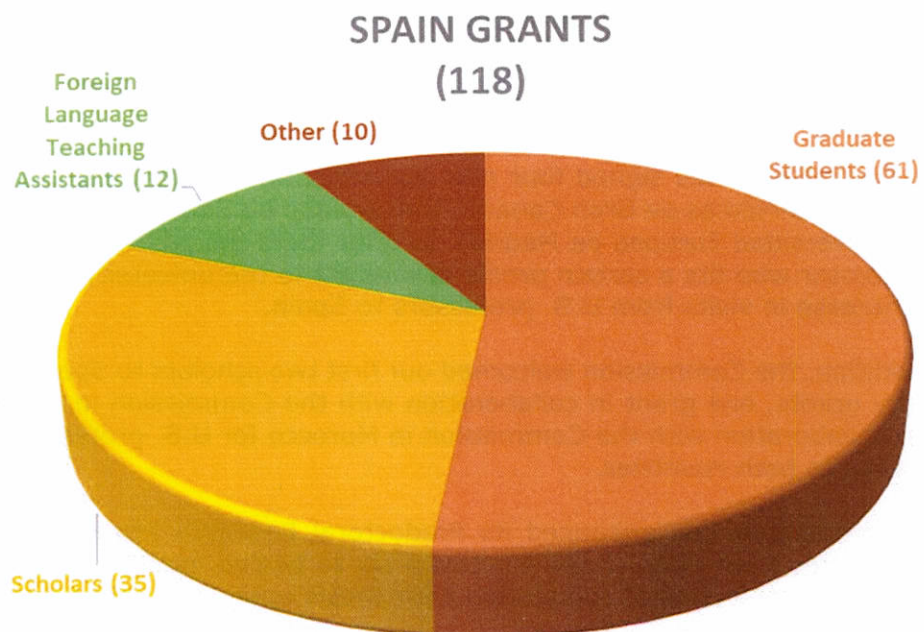
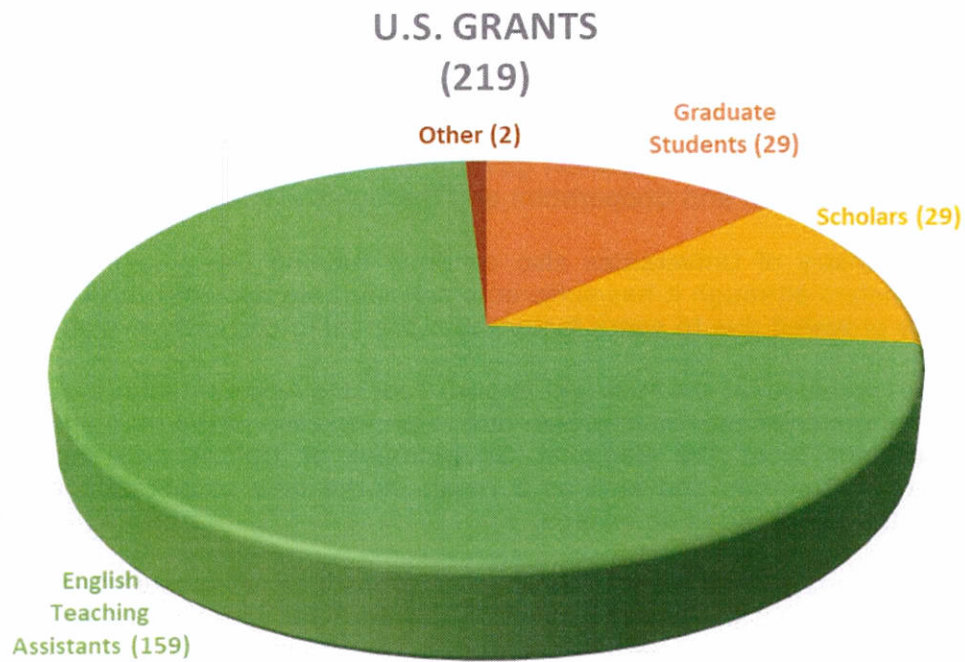
The Commission has signed four new agreements with different universities (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Universidad de Salamanca, Universidad Carlos III y Universidad Europea de Madrid) to offer them the possibility to select a Fulbright professor who fits a certain profile of interest to the university, achieving a significant increase in visits from U.S. professors to Spain.

In addition, the Commission welcomed our first two scholars to Spain awarded multi-country grants, one grant in collaboration with the Commission in Greece and the other in collaboration with the Commission in Morocco for U.S. professors whose projects related to both countries.

The Commission has enhanced its Predoctoral Research Program, allowing doctoral candidates from Spanish universities a six to twelve months research stay in the U.S. with the objective of completing their thesis upon their return to Spain.

The Spanish J.W. Fulbright association also sponsors a scholarship for a Spanish student to carry out graduate studies in the USA. The Commission has a close relationship with the Association, regularly inviting its members to participate in events held by the Commission and publicizing the Association's events and activities on its social networks.

## FY-20 Grants



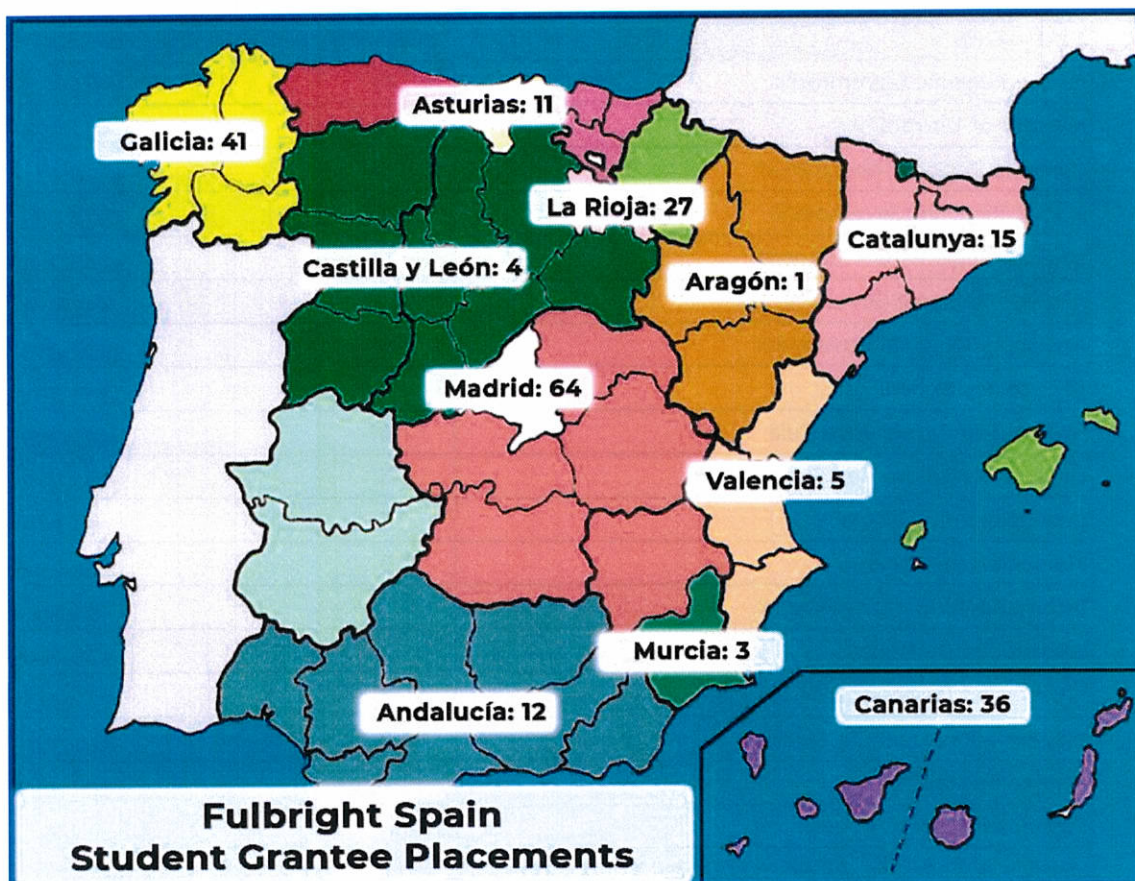


## FY-20 Non-Core Sponsorships

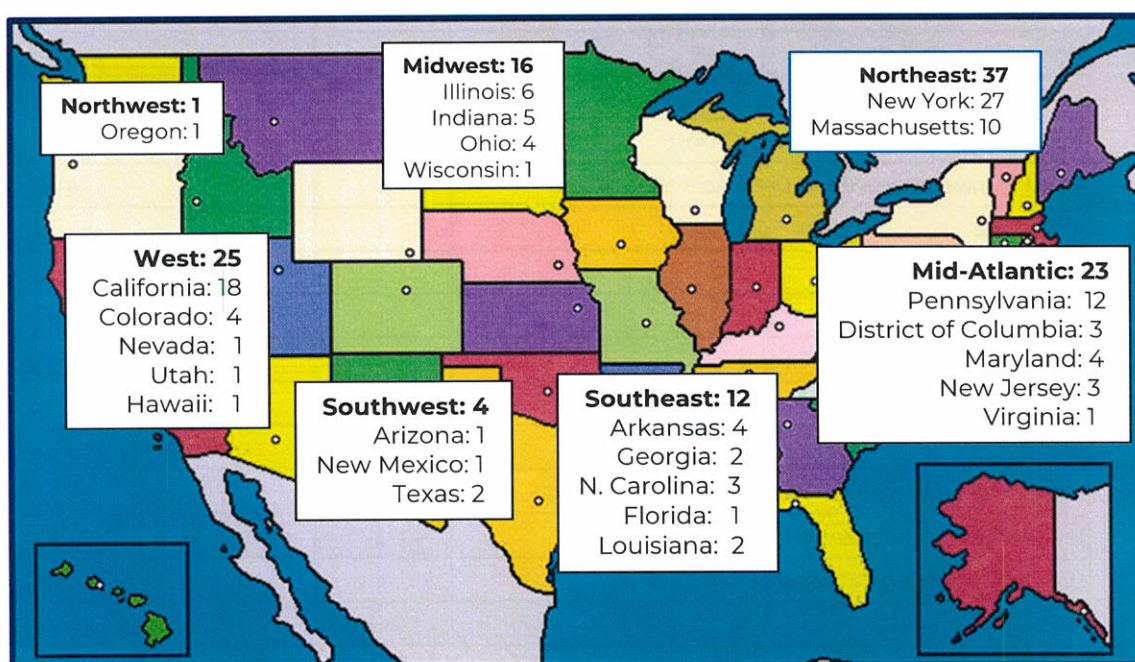
SPONSORS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT CO-FINANCED
Galicia Regional Government	45	\$741.615
Ministry of Universities	44	\$1.587.624
Canarias Regional Government	33	\$390.131
Madrid Regional Government	30	\$377.092
La Rioja Regional Government	27	\$242.258
Asturias Regional Government	11	\$97.979
Andalucía Regional Government	9	\$522.840
IE Business School	7	\$107.261
Universidad Camilo Jose Cela	6	\$98.785
Ministry of Culture and Sport	5	\$272.225
Universidad de Málaga	5	\$65.878
Fundación Iberdrola	3	\$108.890
International Institute Madrid	3	\$4.500
Universidad de Murcia	3	\$35.769
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	3	\$47.711
Univesidad Europea de Madrid	3	\$61.391
Fundación Mapfre	2	\$108.890
Fundación Ramón Areces	2	\$108.890
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation	2	\$155.596
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism	2	\$150.803
Universidad Carlos III	2	\$48.574
Universidad de la Laguna	2	\$30.748
Universidad de Salamanca	2	\$17.481
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	1	\$16.464
American Studies Researcher (SAAS)	1	\$3.267
Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Vigo	1	\$18.547
Coca-Cola	1	\$54.445
Cosentino	1	\$54.445
Colegio Decroly	1	\$12.217
Fundación Secretariado Gitano	1	\$17.289
FERE/CECA	1	\$15.854
Grifols	1	\$54.445
Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	1	\$3.363
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	1	\$16.963
Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria	1	\$15.374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>\$5.665.606</b>

## Geographic Distribution

U.S. Grants in Spain (219)



Spanish Grants in the U.S. (118)





## **II. ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **1. EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **a. U.S Program**

As in previous years, there was great interest in seminars hosted by other Fulbright Commissions in Europe. One of our teaching assistants attended the Mid-Year Diversity Seminar "Our Voices: Navigating Identities in the Fulbright Program" hosted by the Fulbright Commission the Netherlands and a predoctoral researcher from Spain attended the [E.U.-NATO Seminar](#) on the European Union and Nato hosted by the Fulbright Commission in Brussels.

Four Senior Researchers in Spain were invited to Ireland and one senior researcher was invited to Poland as Intercountry Lecturers.

#### **b. Spanish Program**

The Commission in Spain is a Permanent Observer on the Andorra Fulbright Bilateral Committee. Collaboration continued by attending the annual Bilateral Committee meeting. Support services were offered to the departing Andorran student, who was invited to the virtual pre-departure orientation organized by the Commission.

### **2. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES**

#### **a. U.S Program**

*Visits to Asturias, La Rioja, Galicia and the Canary Islands*

Commission staff travelled to these four regions to participate in orientations for all language assistants organized by each regional government in late September and early October. The Commission then held follow-up meetings with the Fulbright ETAs in November 2019.

*First Fulbright Spain Research Seminar for U.S. Student and Scholar Grantees*

The first Fulbright Spain Research Seminar was held in Madrid, Spain in November 2019. During the two-day seminar, Fulbright Spain grantees exchanged ideas in discussion groups and workshops, participated in a poster session, heard from Spanish Fulbright alumni, and either presented or listened to individual project presentations by their peers. The Seminar concluded with a traditional Thanksgiving lunch that was particularly well received as the seminar took place one week before Thanksgiving.

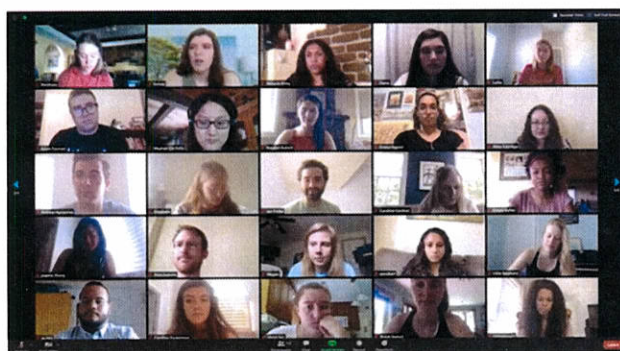
### *Mid-Year Seminar for U.S. Grantees in Spain and Andorra, Academic Year 2019-2020*

The *Universidad de Murcia* hosted the Mid-Year Seminar from February 12-15, 2020. 210 U.S. grantees attended the working sessions and cultural and social activities. José Francisco Ballesta Germán, the Mayor of Murcia, opened the seminar and Representatives from the Commission, the U.S. Embassy, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Regional Governments of Asturias and the Canary Islands, and the *Universidad de Murcia* also took part in the seminar. Former Spanish grantees and representatives from the *Universidad de Murcia* attended a reception to meet and engage with the U.S. grantees. Grantee evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and confirmed that the seminar was a highlight for U.S. grantees.



Mid-Year Seminar Participants after the opening ceremony at the *U. de Murcia*

### *End-of-Year Event for U.S. Grantees in Spain, Academic Year 2019-2020*



On June 6, 2020, the Commission hosted a Virtual End-of-Year Event for the U.S. grantees completing their grants from the U.S. after their early departure in March due to the pandemic. Stewart Tuttle, Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy and Co-President of the Commission, opened the meeting.

2019-2020 grantees celebrate their Fulbright grant year

#### **b. Spanish Program**

Fulbright grantees engage in grant enhancement activities in preparation to their departure, upon arrival in the U.S., during the grant period and as returned alumni. These supplementary activities are especially designed and organized to augment grant benefits as well as boost public visibility of the Fulbright program as a public-oriented service entity vis-à-vis competing educational exchange programs that lack benefits beyond basic grant allowances.



### *Pre-departure Virtual Orientation*

In July 2020, a two-day-long, pre-departure virtual orientation program was held for academic year 2020-2021 departing students. The sessions offered special opportunities to bring together individuals from various student grant categories and backgrounds to form a cohesive group with common interests.

In total, 36 grantees attended, representing four Commission grant categories. Activities included: ice-breakers, staff presentations, discussions on grant administration topics and clarifying visa regulations. Alumni panels also shared personal, professional and academic experiences with departing grantees.



*2020-2021 student grantees, Embassy representative and Commission staff at the virtual pre-departure orientation*

The Commission is also grateful to the U.S. Embassy in Madrid in their assistance in organizing group visa processing sessions for student grantees.

### *Fulbright Outreach*



Screenshot of the presentation shared at Fulbright Program info sessions highlighting that Fulbright is "MORE THAN A GRANT", linked to the ceremony of the Prince of Asturias Award in the category of International Cooperation

A rigorous campaign was carried out to increase public awareness of the Fulbright Program with on-site visits to 25 Spanish institutions throughout the country representing a variety of centers, geographical diversity and including small-, medium- and large-sized colleges and universities. These visits allowed Commission staff to meet personally with a large number of university officials, administrators and students to inform them of the Commission's activities and present information sessions on U.S. study and Fulbright scholarship opportunities. Additionally, when the pandemic forbade traveling, the Commission organized eight virtual information sessions attended by more than 200 potential candidates.



### III. GRANTEE AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### 1. ACHIEVEMENTS

##### a. U.S. Program



Luz Nagle, Senior Scholar at the *Universidad de La Laguna* on the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands), was invited to give a keynote address on the topic of globalization and modern day slavery at the [\*Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País de Tenerife\*](#) (Royal Economic Society of the Friends of the Land of Tenerife); and participated in an international conference on transborder criminal asset forfeiture at the *Universidad de Salamanca*, which led to her collaboration on the book [\*Decomiso y Recuperación de Activos Crime Doesn't Pay\*](#), published in July 2020, with the chapter

"*Corrupción Internacional y Decomiso Penal en EE. UU.: Casos Salpicados de Política.*"

Jessica Yang, Master's Candidate in the International Master's in Business Administration at IE University in Madrid, finished first in her class and [addressed her fellow graduates](#) at their virtual graduation ceremony in July 2020. During her grant year, she and her team from IEY, "World of Good," placed in the top 5 teams worldwide at the [Creative Shock 2019](#) finals in Lithuania. She also participated in [IE Business School's Social Impact Lab](#) and traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, where she worked with Emzingo, a startup implementing waste management technology solutions across South Africa.



Miranda Hale, Predoctoral Researcher, *Universidad de Granada*, was invited to give a guest lecture to translation and interpretation students at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas in Granada about her Fulbright research project. The lecture had a very positive impact on the students and one commented that this talk was what made her decide to pursue translation professionally as it would allow her to give a voice to those who do not traditionally have one in mainstream society



Marial Quezada, 2019 Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Madrid Regional Government, Marial Quezada, co-organized the community event, II Encuentro de los Pueblos Indígenas at the Casa de la Andina (Madrid). Until early December she co-taught a Quechua class with the Casa de la Cultura Andina and from mid-December until the end of February, she taught a Quechua class.

*Paulina Jenney*, Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Asturias regional government, wrote a series of articles published in [Terrain.org](https://terrain.org). Her articles highlight local hobby apiarists to seed savers, backyard gardeners and organic farmers, highlighting that all people who grow or harvest their own food and are interested in distancing themselves, at least to some degree, from the political and economic system that determines how we feed ourselves.



*Chloe Wheeler*, 2019 Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Galicia Regional Government, embarked on a podcast project with her students called "The Pintxos Podcast", which consists of an array of interviews with local students: some who immigrated to Lugo from Latin American countries, some who are first-generation students from a Spanish gitano background and others whose families go many generations back in the same pueblo. Its overall aim is to provide further insight of this region in Spain, to foster continuous "linguistic questioning" and to serve as a resource for teaching in the future. "The Pintxos Podcast" can be found on both [Apple Podcasts](https://applepodcasts.com) and [Spotify](https://spotify.com).

*Saoirse Hahn*, 2019 Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Canary Islands Regional Government, completed a 30-minute documentary film on the Colonia Agrícola Penitenciaria of Tefía (Fuerteventura), a concentration camp that was used for political dissenters and **homosexuals** under Franco's regime. This documentary included a series of interviews with former prisoners and History Professors who focused their research work on the Tefía camp.



*Luann Raposo*, 2019 Fulbright Teaching Assistant, La Rioja Regional Government, brought her students closer to technology through The Technovation Challenge, a STEM outreach program committed to teaching young girls how to develop mobile apps. She started a junior division Technovation Challenge team with high school students (ages 10-14) as an extracurricular activity at her school.



## b. Spanish Program

Antonio Fernández Anta, 1991 Master student in Computer Science at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, led the technical component of a series of national surveys tracking the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spain.



Manuel Franco, 2001 Ph.D. in Clinical Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University, has been a reference expert for COVID-19 research in Spain

Maria Grau Perejoan, 2017 Fulbright Ruth Lee Kennedy at University of Puerto Rico, along with Loretta C. Klobah, won the PEN Translate award for the edition and translation of "The Sea Needs No Ornament", a bilingual anthology of contemporary Caribbean poets.



Santos Juliá, 1974 Predoctoral Researcher in Sociology at Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford, has received the Research and Education Gold Medal for his long-life dedication to the study of the History of Spain.

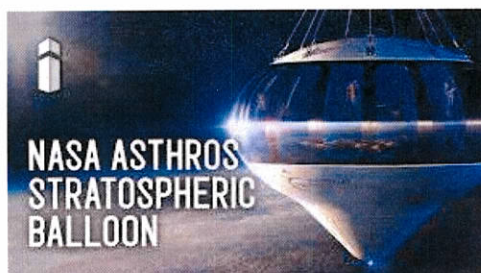
Joan Massagué Solé, 1979 Postdoctoral Researcher in Biochemistry at Brown University, along with scientists in his lab at the Sloan Kettering Institute discovered that cancers metastasize to other organs by co-opting to natural wound-healing pathways. These findings may lead to new ways of looking at possible treatment for cancer patients, as 90% of cancer deaths are caused by metastasis.





Roberto Sánchez Sánchez, 1995 Fulbright/Ministry of Public Works grantee at the United States Department of Commerce, was named Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructures.

José Siles, 2010 Postdoctoral Researcher in Telecommunications at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has been appointed Project Manager of Asthros, a high-altitude balloon mission for studying astrophysical phenomena.



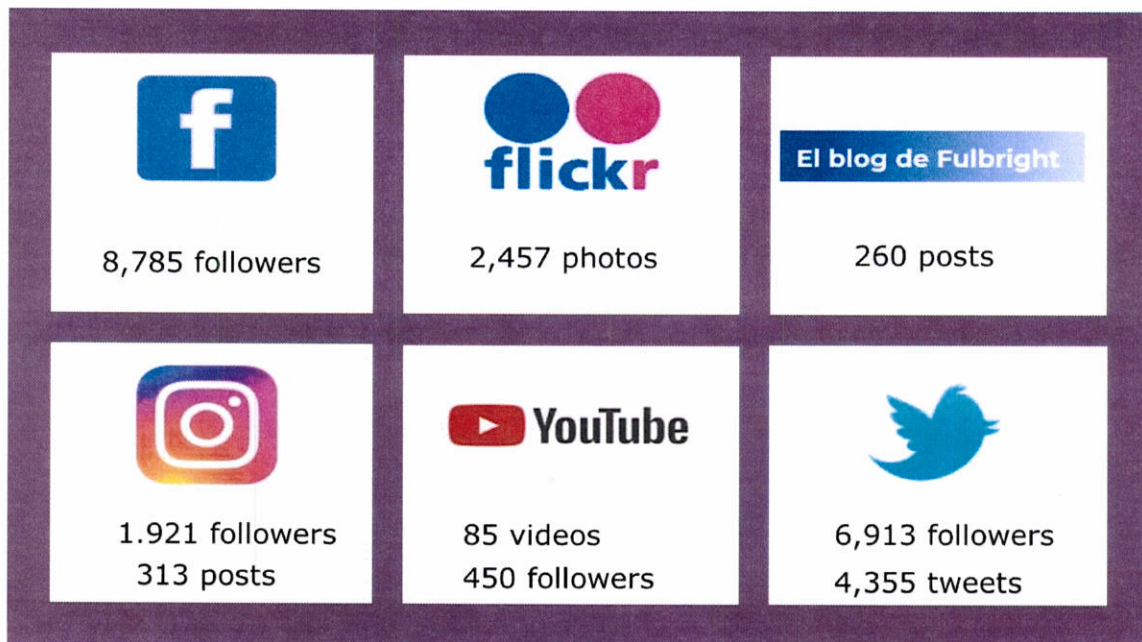
Alberto Torres Cantero, 1986 Ph.D. in Public Health and Epidemiology at Harvard University, is leading the medical team fighting the COVID-19 pandemic at the Murcia Region in Southeast Spain. Irene Martínez Morata, current Master candidate in Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University, continued her studies online during the 2020 Spring semester while joining the front-line team fighting COVID-19 at Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca, Murcia's main hospital.

Sergio Vila-Sanjuán, 1991 Máster student in Cultural and Artistic Journalism at Boston University, has been awarded the National Prize on Cultural Journalism 2020.





#### IV. SOCIAL / PROFESSIONAL MEDIA



## **V. EDUCATIONAL ADVISING**

According to Open Doors, in the 2018-2019 academic year 7,262 students from Spain were studying in the United States. Spain continues to be the 25th leading place of origin for students studying in the United States.

### **1. OUTREACH**

EducationUSA Spain once again participated in the annual EducationUSA Europe LL.M. Tour, holding a fair in Madrid on November 20th with 24 Law Schools and 46 attendees.



*EducationUSA LL.M. Fair 2019 – Madrid*

Advisers also conducted numerous visits to public and private high schools throughout Spain where they presented to students, informing them about U.S. study and the Competitive College Club program, and worked with counselors to provide them with knowledge on the US education system and filling out US university applications. They were also invited to and attended a couple of high school college fairs where they provided general information on U.S. higher education and EducationUSA services. Finally, the EducationUSA lead adviser, in conjunction with Fulbright, held a few information sessions at Spanish universities regarding graduate studies in the U.S.

In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, EducationUSA Spain had a presence in AULA, Spain's largest educational fair, speaking to nearly 1,000 students. U.S. community colleges and universities were also invited to participate in the booth.

### **2. IN-CENTER ADVISING**

EducationUSA Spain continues to run its two-year cohort advising program: Competitive College Club (CCC) with members gaining admission to top universities around the U.S.

EducationUSA also offers monthly online sessions of 5 Steps to US Study and Ask the Adviser, in addition to other topic-specific sessions, at times in collaboration

with US HEIs, to the public. Requests for information are met by email, phone and video-calls. Individual advising takes place regularly.

### **3. SOCIAL MEDIA**

EducationUSA solidified is active on social media with 3,002 followers [Facebook](#), 2,232 followers on [Twitter](#) and 135 followers on LinkedIn. [Instagram](#) saw the greatest increase, with 1.028 followers. Information on universities in the U.S., articles of interest related to higher education, information sessions, events and college fair promotion are shared across platforms.

