



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, 2021 – September 30, 2022

November 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. HIGHLIGHTS

As in previous years, the Commission received its core 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 continued collaborating with the Commission through the program for Spanish Master seeking students, but discontinued the program for Spanish Scholars due to technical and budgetary reasons. It will be resumed in 2022-23.

Funds received for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) program from regional governments remained unchanged as did the number of awards in this important program.

Under a new agreement with the Universidad de Navarra, an award was offered for U.S. students to pursue a full-time Master's degree in Spanish Second Language Teaching (*MELE: Máster Universitario en Enseñanza del Español como Lengua Extranjera*), starting in 2023-24.

The Commission continued receiving support from Spanish universities aiming to host U.S. Fulbright professors and researchers. Of the 29 Scholars carrying out their research and teaching objectives, 14 were co-sponsored by seven different Spanish universities. The Commission was in constant communication with all universities to keep them fully informed and enhance mutual collaboration.

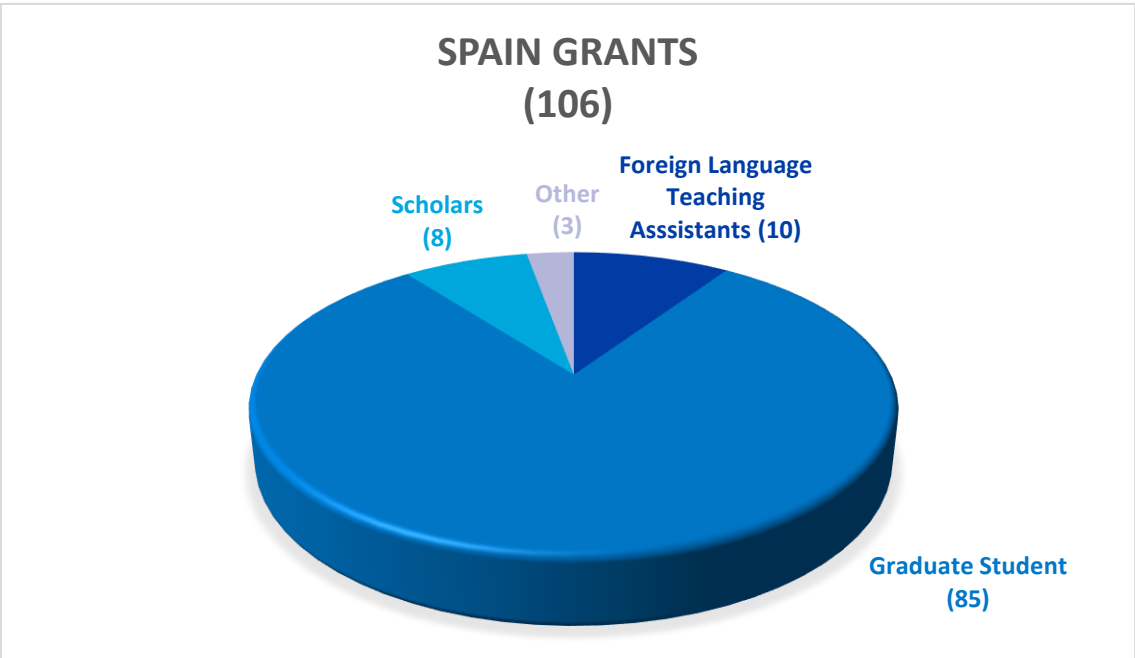
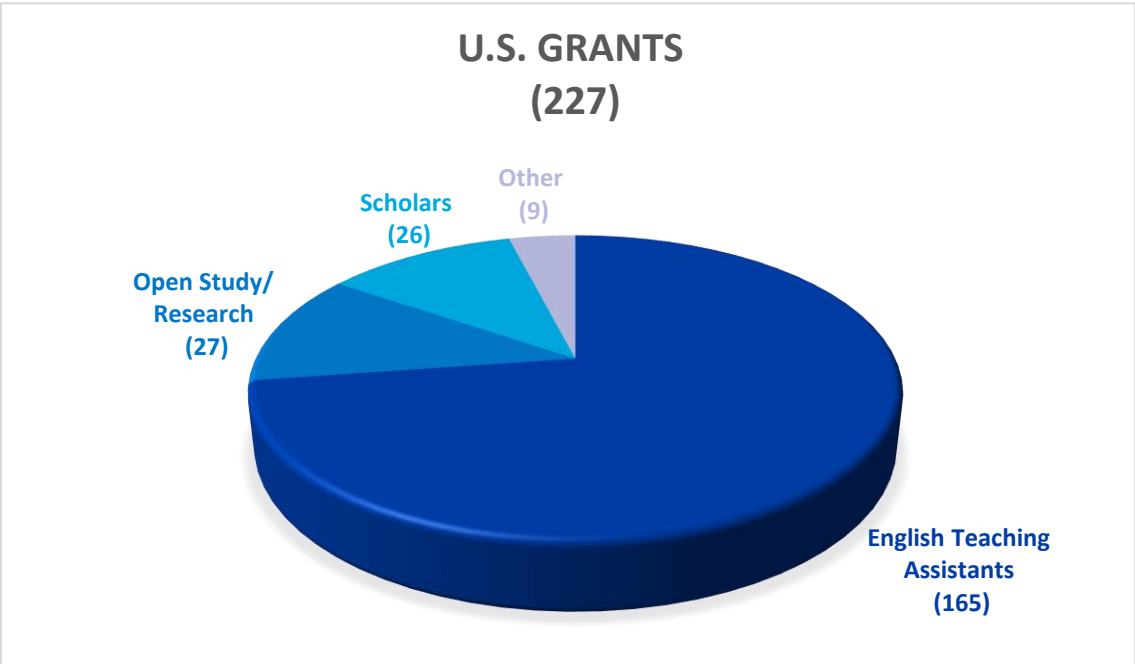
Funding for the Spanish graduate program continued to be supplemented through sponsorships from the regional government of Andalucía, private foundations and multinational companies including Cosentino, Fundación Iberdrola España, Fundación Mapfre, Fundación Ramón Areces and Grifols.

The Commission continued promoting and enhancing its PreDoctoral Research Program, allowing doctoral candidates from Spanish universities a six to 12-month research stay in the U.S. with the objective of completing their thesis upon their return to Spain. Following the agreement with the Regional Government of Andalucía, the Commission signed a second one with the Regional Government of Murcia to provide additional funds to award doctoral researchers at universities of that Region.

This year, a new alumni association was started in Spain: the Fulbright Network Spain (FNS). This association aims to create a network of professionals from both Spain and the United States who have shared Fulbright experiences through networking events, cross-cultural experiences, and intellectual exchanges. There are currently 90 registered members of the association: a mix of Spanish and U.S. alumni of the Fulbright program. Since its inauguration, there have been seven organized events, both in-person and online. Thanks to AEIF funding from the Department of State and close collaboration with U.S. Embassy representatives and the Fulbright Commission, the FNS celebrated its Annual Flagship event on May 5th, 2022 at the U.S. Ambassador's residence. A highlight of this event was the "fireside chat" with U.S. Ambassador Julissa Reynoso. We look forward to further supporting this alumni association as its members expand their reach and plan events throughout Spain.



FY-22 Grants

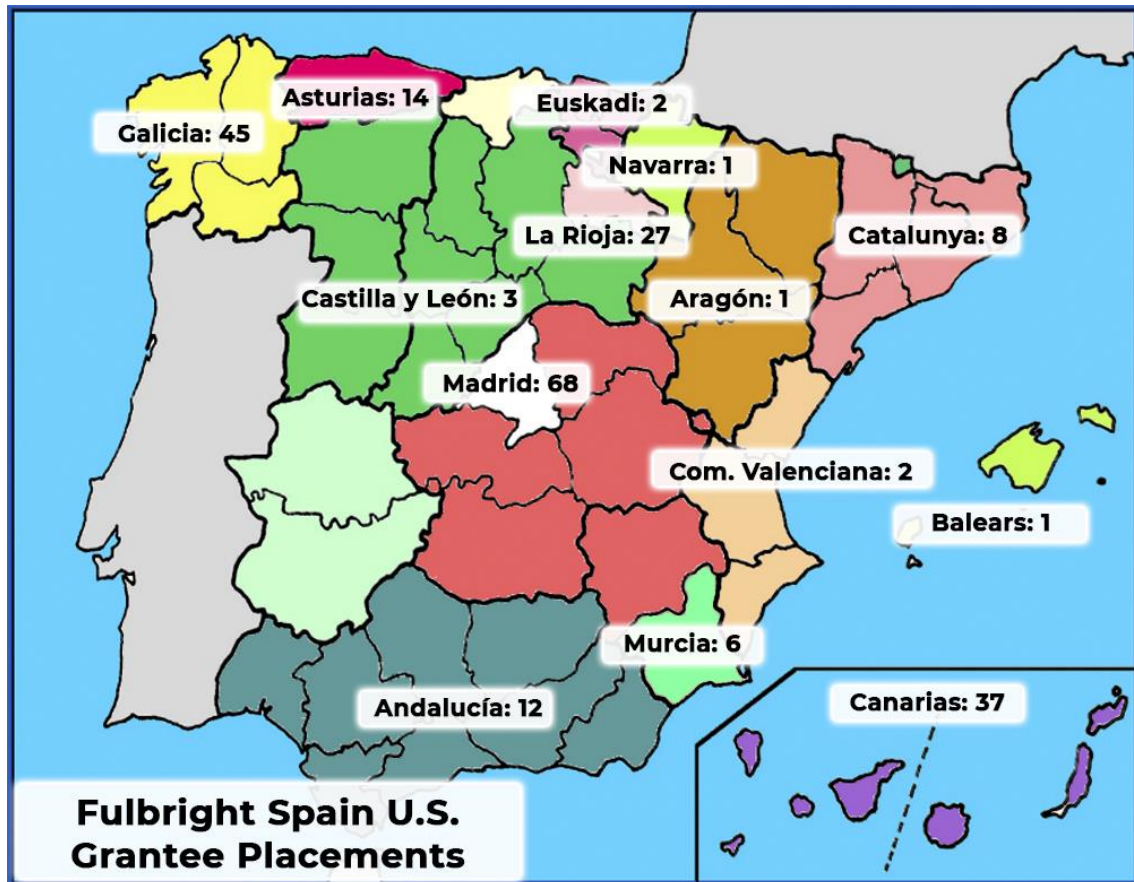


FY-22 Non-Core Sponsorships

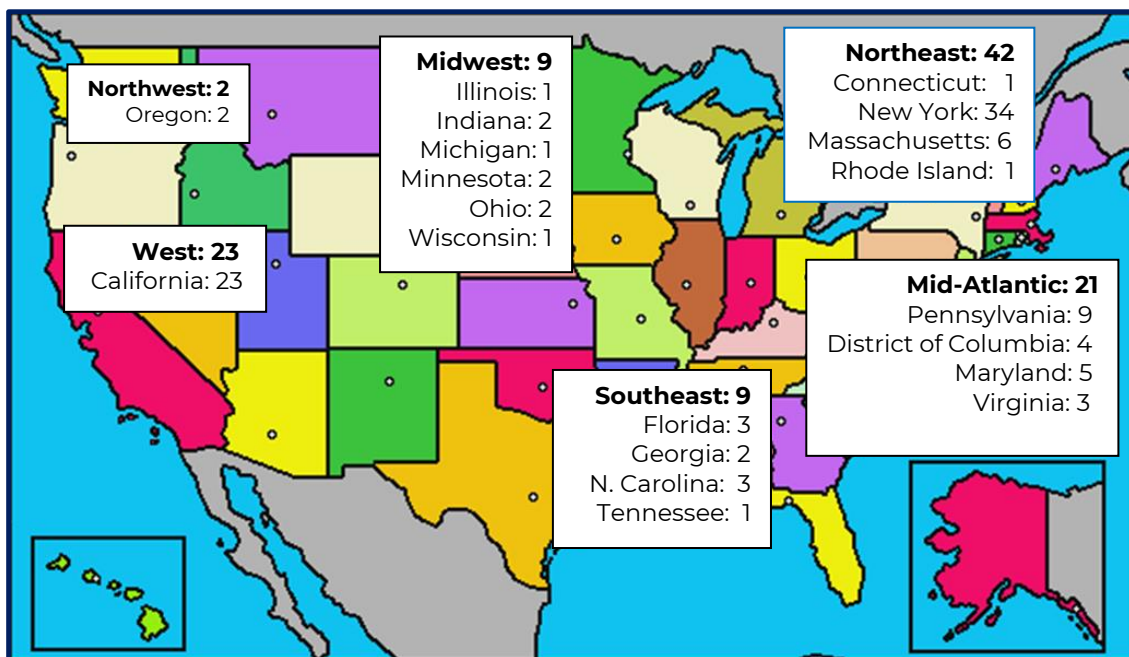
SPONSORS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT CO-FINANCED
Galicia Regional Government	45	\$488.902
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training	23	\$1.283.545
Canarias Regional Government	33	\$401.275
Madrid Regional Government	30	\$404.860
La Rioja Regional Government	27	\$257.610
Asturias Regional Government	14	\$144.639
Andalucia Regional Government	13	\$605.039
IE Business School	7	\$115.679
Universidad Camilo Jose Cela	6	\$105.045
Ministry of Culture and Sport	5	\$289.475
Universidad de Málaga	8	\$120.519
Fundación Iberdrola	3	\$115.790
International Institute Madrid	2	\$5.000
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	1	\$19.299
Universidad de Murcia	4	\$54.310
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	2	\$40.362
Fundación Mapfre	2	\$115.790
Fundación Ramón Areces	3	\$115.790
Fundación Séneca	3	\$101.776
Universidad Carlos III	2	\$51.272
Universidad de la Laguna	4	\$61.167
Universidad de Salamanca	2	\$4.632
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	0	\$0
Universidad de Navarra	1	\$17.378
Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Vigo	1	\$18.190
American Studies Researcher (SAAS)	1	\$3.474
Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Vigo	0	\$0
Cosentino	1	\$57.895
Colegio Decroly	1	\$17.507
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	1	\$17.507
Fundación Secretariado Gitano	1	\$943.827
FERE/CECA	1	\$16.859
Grifols	1	\$57.895
Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	1	\$36.357
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism	1	\$88.638
TOTAL	250	\$6.177.303

Geographic Distribution

U.S. Grants in Spain (227)



Spanish Grants in the U.S. (106)



II. ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

a. U.S. Program

Due to the pandemic, European regional activities continued to be limited, but as in previous years, there was great interest in seminars hosted by other Fulbright Commissions in Europe. One of our Fulbright Master's recipients and one of our predoctoral researchers attended the [E.U.-NATO Seminar](#) on the European Union and Nato hosted by the Fulbright Commission in Brussels from February 16 to 18, 2022. Another of our predoctoral researchers was grateful for the opportunity to attend the fifth edition of the EU-US Young Leaders Seminar: "The Future of Democracy", which took place in person from April 27 to 29, 2022 in Brussels.

A Senior Researcher in Spain was invited to institutions in Germany, Portugal and the U.K. as an Intercountry Lecturer.

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 and evaluating Andorran graduate student applicants. Support services were offered to the departing Andorran student, who was invited to the pre-departure orientation and visa processing organized by the Commission in Madrid.

2. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

a. U.S. Program

Predeparture Webinars

Commission staff led a series of predeparture webinars for incoming grantees which highlighted topics including: the visa process, healthcare, travel, housing, banking, communication, and cultural adaptation.

Virtual Orientation

As Fulbright grantees arrived in Spain or prepared to arrive in Spain, the Commission organized and led a comprehensive [Orientation for US Grantees to Spain and Andorra](#), held in a virtual format due to the pandemic. This two-day-long orientation served as a way to welcome grantees and provide them with information about their grant, host region and Spain. It also served to review the support and resources available to them during the grant year. This included sessions on grant logistics, details on Spanish regions, pedagogy, research, cultural adaptation, and community-building activities.

Office Hours

In order to provide several different avenues of support for grantees, each of the four U.S. Program Associate reserves four hours a week for intentional one-on-one communication with the grantees in their respective programs.

Host Institution Fulbright ETA Sessions

Commission staff led Fulbright ETA information sessions for the bilingual coordinators, or host institution representatives, of each respective region. These sessions outlined the purpose of the Fulbright program and offered clear information about the role of the Fulbright ETA in the institution.

Check-in Meetings with grantees in Asturias, La Rioja, Galicia, Madrid, Málaga, and the Canary Islands



Fulbright teaching assistants participated in the virtual orientations for all language assistants in Spain organized by each regional government. The Fulbright Commission staff was also able to lead in-person check-in meetings with the Fulbright grantees in each region in order to give them an opportunity to voice their experiences and concerns with their host institutions, role as an ETA, and general adjustment. Justin Thomas, Public Diplomacy Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and Commission co-treasurer, accompanied us at the check-in meeting held in Galicia.

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

The second Fulbright Spain Research Seminar was held in Madrid, Spain in November 2021. During the two-day seminar, Fulbright Spain grantees exchanged ideas in discussion groups and workshops, participated in a poster session, and either presented or listened to individual project presentations by their peers. The Seminar concluded with a traditional Thanksgiving lunch.



Spring Seminar for U.S. Grantees in Spain and Andorra, Academic Year 2021-2022



After the postponement of our annual Mid Year event which was originally to be held in February due to the pandemic, the *Universidad de Málaga* hosted our Spring Seminar, from May 18 to 21, 2022, at which 197 U.S. grantees attended the working sessions and cultural and social activities. Tomás Cordero Alcántara, Vicerrector of the University of Málaga, opened the seminar and Representatives from the Commission, the U.S. Embassy, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Regional Governments of Madrid and the Canary Islands, and the Universidad de Málaga also took part in the

seminar. The closing ceremony was presided by the mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre Prados, as well as Guzmán Palacios Fernández, Co-President U.S.-Spain Fulbright Commission, Director of Cultural and Scientific Relations; Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and Julissa Reynoso Pantaleón, Honorary Co-President of the U.S.-Spain Fulbright Commission and U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.

Fulbright Annual Spain Video Competition

Fulbright Spain grantees were encouraged to participate in the Fulbright Spain Video Competition to illustrate their experience as a Fulbright grantee. They were introduced to the competition and given instructions during the Virtual Orientation. The Commission received [17 submissions](#) and voted on three winners who were featured at the Spring Seminar celebration held in May.

Regional End-of-Year Events for U.S. Grantees

Fulbright Spain Mentors hosted regional and program specific End-of-Year activities for grantees including a weekend canoeing trip down the famous *Descenso del Río Sella* route in Asturias, a day trip to the *Rías Baixas* in Galicia, hiking and dance lessons on the Canary Islands, a winery tour and horseback riding in La Rioja, a visit to the *Sagrada Família* and *Parc Güell* in Barcelona, a traditional flamenco show, a Spanish Civil War-themed guided tour, and picnics in iconic parks in both Sevilla and Madrid.



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 In-Person and Virtual Orientations

In June 2022, a two-day-long, pre-departure in-person orientation program was held for academic year 2022-2023 students departing in the Summer. The sessions offered special opportunities to bring together individuals from various student grant categories and backgrounds to form a cohesive group with common interests.



Left: Commission staff members welcoming grantees with Orientation materials. Right: Fulbright grantees and alumni from Spain and Andorra pose for photos during the welcome event of Orientation

In total, 79 grantees attended, representing nine Commission grant categories. Activities included: icebreakers, networking events, Commission staff presentations, discussions on grant administration topics, and clarifying visa regulations



Group photo of the Spanish and Andorran grantees and Commission staff during Orientation



Left: Commission staff members facilitate discussions regarding cultural considerations of the United States to the grantees. Right: Grantees listen to a fellow Fulbrighter sharing their opinions and experiences with cultural differences

Alumni panels also shared personal, professional and academic experiences with departing grantees.



Alumni present their experiences and advice to 2022-2023 grantees of their grant category during Orientation sessions

The closing event of the 2022 Orientation took place at the U.S. Ambassador's residence. The Commission was grateful to share this event with many representatives from their co-sponsors, including regional government representatives.



Photos from the closing event at the Ambassador's residence

Two smaller virtual orientations were organized in the Fall for the five recently selected grantees of the Ministry of Culture Program in the Arts, and for the 13 Visiting Student Researchers with 2023 start dates.



Two presentation slides from the pre-departure virtual orientation for the Ministry of Culture Program in the Arts student grantees

Additionally, in September 2022, a virtual event was held for the incoming 2023-2024 cohort of Fulbright Foreign Student program in order to foster community within the program and explain the U.S. application process.



FULBRIGHT España	
SESIÓN VIRTUAL DE TOMA DE CONTACTO BECA FULBRIGHT AMPLIACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS, CURSO 2023-2024	
Lunes 19 septiembre 2022 - 17.00-18.45	
PROGRAMA	
17.00-17.10	BIENVENIDA Y PRESENTACIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN ♦ Alberto López, Director Ejecutivo, Comisión Fulbright ♦ Nines Aguilar, Apoyo Técnico ♦ Victoria Ruiz, Jefe de Programa, Comisión Fulbright ♦ Linnea Monson, Adjunta a la Jefe de Programa, Comisión Fulbright ♦ Carina Nilsen, Adjunta a la Jefe de Programa, Comisión Fulbright
17.10-17.20	PRESENTACIÓN DE LOS BECARIOS ♦ Los 17 candidatos seleccionados de Ampliación de Estudios 2023-2024
17.20-17.50	ACTIVIDAD SOCIAL ORGANIZADA ♦ Four in Common Game
17.50-18.40	EL PROCESO DE ADMISIÓN EN UNIVERSIDADES DE EE. UU. ♦ Ronda de preguntas
18.40-18.45	DESPEDIDA

Left: Opening slide of the Commission presentation section of the virtual event entitled, "The U.S. University Admission Process". Right: Brief event outline of this first meeting for the 2023-2024 Fulbright Foreign Student program

The Commission is also grateful to the U.S. Embassy in Madrid in their assistance in expediting the visa process for student grantees.

Fulbright Outreach

A rigorous campaign was carried out to increase public awareness of the Fulbright Program with 34 virtual and five in-person information sessions attended by more than 800 potential candidates.

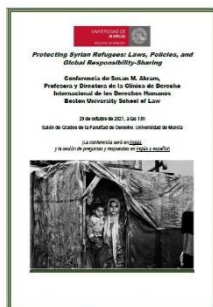


Social media posts advertising information sessions

III. GRANTEE AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. ACHIEVEMENTS

a. U.S. Program



Susan Akram, 2021-22 Scholar at the *Universidad de Murcia*, was invited to give multiple lectures while on her grant, including "Protecting Syrian Refugees: Laws, Policies, and Global Responsibility-Sharing" at the U. Murcia on October 29, 2022 and at the Inauguration of Statelessness Platform and Research and Advocacy Network on Statelessness in the MENA in Cairo on December 7, 2022. Given her expertise on refugees and statelessness, Susan has also been interviewed by multiple [news outlets](#) regarding the refugee crisis due to the war in Ukraine.

Toni Anthony, 2021-22 English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, volunteered at the Amnesty International chapter in A Coruña. As part of her collaboration with Amnesty International, Toni planned a "Human Rights Day" event held at her high school: *IES Afonso X El Sabio*. The day consisted of a conversation with a representative from the association as well as a U.S. style spelling bee where students had to spell words related to human rights, and students performed Galician dance and music.



Garnet Brown, 2021-22 English Teaching Assistant in La Rioja, worked on [Stories del Camino](#), a podcast about the role of the English language for foreigners completing stages of the Camino de Santiago. She was able to complete five stages of the Camino and meet and interview people from all over the world, helping them to put La Rioja on the map.

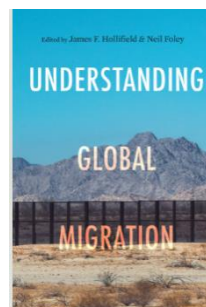
Samuel Buse, 2021-22 Predoctoral Researcher at the *Instituto del Órgano Hispano* in Sevilla, developed a [collection and presentation of recordings](#) representing the themes explored in the extensive theoretical and musical literature consulted in libraries and archives in Andalucía.





Cassandra Christian, 2021-22 IMBA Candidate at IE University, placed second at the [Berkeley Haas Investing in Inclusion Pitch Competition](#) with her team "Paraventures" from the Startup Lab at IE University. Paraventures is a travel platform dedicated to making adventure travel accessible to people with disabilities, focusing on people in wheelchairs to start.

Neil Foley, 2021-22 Scholar at the *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*, co-edited the book *Understanding Global Migration*, published by [Stanford University Press](#) in March 2022. Neil presented the book with his co-editor at the [28th International Conference of Europeanists](#) held in Lisbon, Portugal, from June 29-July 1. Neil was also invited to give a plenary lecture, titled "Whose History? Monuments, Memory, and the Contested Past of the U.S. South and West," at the [VIIth International Conference on the Historical Links between Spain and North America](#), hosted by the *Universidad de Alcalá*.



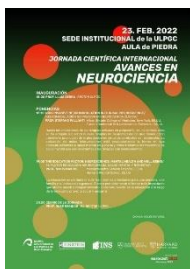
Science Fair at the school.

Jason Getzler, 2021-2022 English Teaching Assistant at the *Universidad de La Laguna* in the Canary Islands, organized an American-Style Science Fair at a local elementary school. From October to May, he taught elementary school students about the scientific method, followed by example experiments, how to make their own projects and how to present their results. In May, this culminated in a student-led

Maurizio Giannotti, 2020-21 Scholar at the *Universidad de Zaragoza*, published the paper "[Observable signatures of enhanced axion emission from protoneutron stars](#)" in *Physical Review D* in November 2021 based on his Fulbright research in Spain. Maurizio also led the study to analyze the IAXO potential to see axions from nuclear interactions in the sun, which involved 11 international scientists: three from the *Universidad de Zaragoza* and the others from other European universities and from the Livermore Lab in the US.

Rachel Jessen, 2021-22 Predoctoral Researcher at the *Universidade de Vigo* and the *Fundación Rosalía de Castro*, presented a photography exhibition on July 17 at the *Casa Museo de Rosalía de Castro* in Padrón, Galicia titled *O que sentimos: unha tradución visual da poesía de Rosalía de Castro* (What we feel: A visual translation of Rosalía de Castro's poetry).

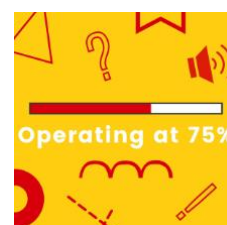




Nikolaos Makris, 2021-22 Scholar at the *Universidad de La Laguna* on the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands), was invited by the *Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria* to give the talk "[The Education Factor: Neuroscience, Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)" on February 23, 2022 and by the *Universidad de La Laguna* to give the talk "Learning and Mentoring across the Atlantic in the Spirit of International Cooperation" on April 7, 2022.

Madeline Maschka, 2020-21 and 2021-22 English Teaching Assistant in La Rioja, presented at the international conference 'Redefining Healthcare summit' in April, 2022 in Barcelona, Spain. Her presentation covered an organization she volunteered with called Clinic with a Heart, and through this conference she connected with medical professionals from all over the world and was able to share her experiences within the United States and Spain.

Tesa Pribitkin, 2021-2022 English Teaching Assistant at the Universidad Camilo José Cela in Madrid, created [Operating at 75%](#), a podcast about the 'thrilling, foreign, and often confusing experience of moving to a different country as a young adult.', which discussed topics such as Spain's perceptions of the U.S., culinary culture, and different regions in Spain.



Kevin Roche, 2021-20 Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA-CSIC) in Barcelona, had an article based on his Fulbright research published in the American Geophysical Union's flagship journal in March 2022, titled "[Benthic Biolayer Structure Controls Whole-Stream Reactive Transport.](#)" This paper presents a new model that predicts how the spatial variability of reactions in stream sediments controls how contaminants transport and degrade in rivers.



Melissa Scanlan, 2018-19 Scholar at the *Universidad de Alicante*, had her book [Prosperity in the Fossil-Free Economy: Cooperatives and the Design of Sustainable Business](#), based on her Fulbright research in Spain, published by Yale University Press in September 2021. This book has been included on multiple best-seller and recommended books lists, including Orion Magazine's list of Ten Books for Every Transformational Change Bookshelf and Progressive magazine's Favorite Books of 2021.

Hannah Singer, 2021-2022 English Teaching Assistant in Tenerife, created a student-led newspaper at her school CEIP Óscar Domínguez focused on current events, Canarian traditions, and other topics suggested by students in each grade level. Students loved writing, publishing, and reading the latest editions of the school paper.

b. Spanish Program



Among the ten recipients of the [2021 National Research Awards by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation](#), three were Fulbright Spain alumni: **Jordi Galí i Garreta**, 1983 Graduate Student who completed his PhD in Economic Theory at

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1989; **Francisco Jose García Vidal**, Postdoctoral Researcher in physics from 2019-2020 at the City University of New York; and **Purificación Muñoz Canoves**, 1990-1992 Postdoctoral Researcher in biology at the University of California, San Diego.

Susana Al-Halabí Díaz, 2017 Postdoctoral Researcher studying behavioral science at Columbia University, received [the 2022 Sanitarias Award](#) for Female Leadership and Talent in March 2022. She is currently a professor in the Psychology Department of the University of Oviedo.



Andrea Davila Rubio, 2021 Xunta de Galicia / Fulbright Artistic Studies grantee in sculpture at Boston College, was awarded first prize in the 16th Annual Sculpture Competition in Ourense, Galicia for her piece ["Sitting piece for 2"](#) in February 2022. Andrea's piece was selected out of a total of 507 entries that were submitted by artists from 15 countries, including Portugal, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Cuba and Taiwan.

Daniel Elechiguerra Batlle, 2021 Graduate Student in Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and **Albert Fernández i Veiga**, 2021 Graduate Student in Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University, were named two of the most promising students under 35 in 2022 by [Nova 111 Student List](#), in the categories of Industrial Engineering and Civil, Other Engineering & Technology respectively.

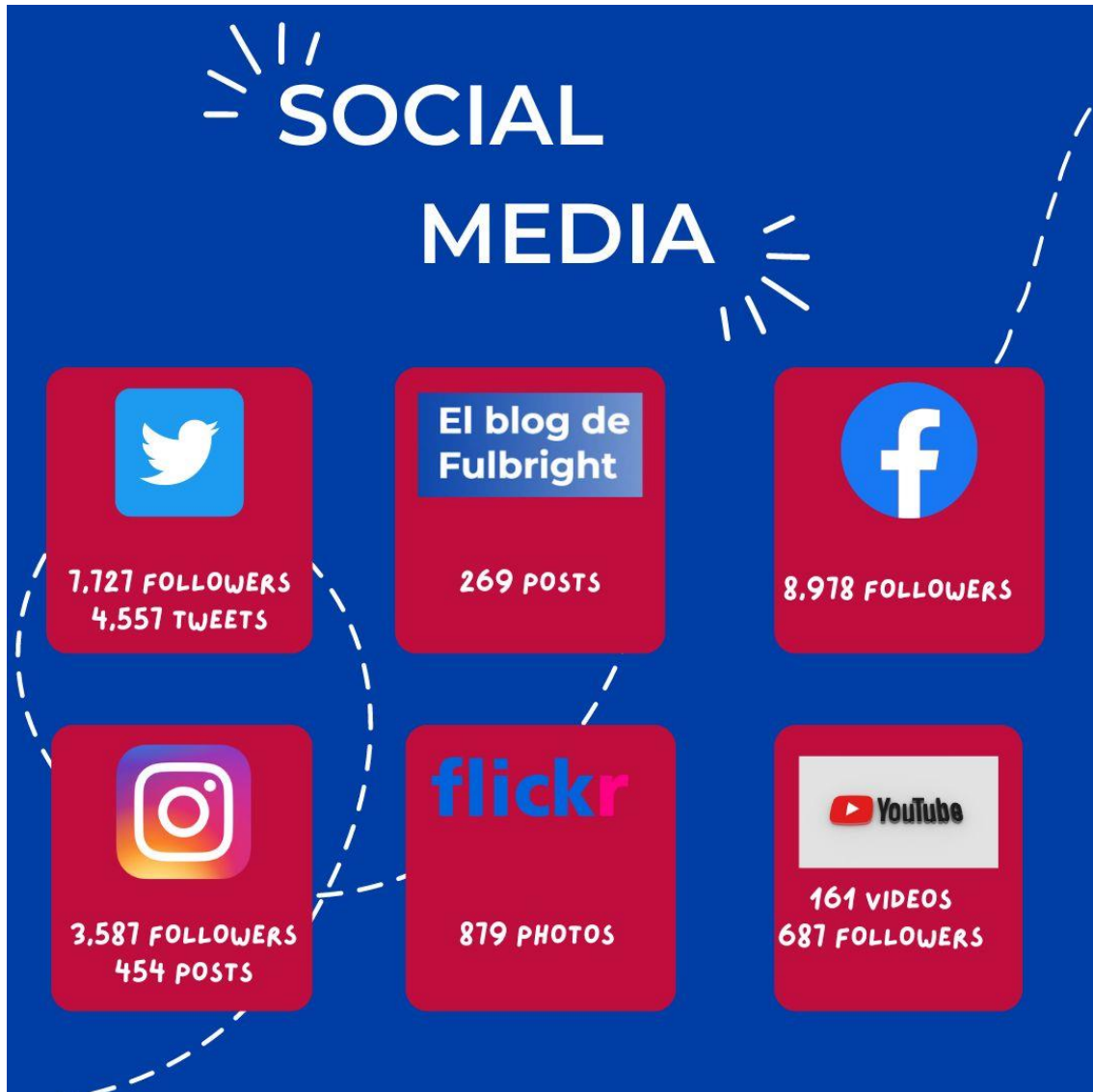


Alicia González Martínez, 2020 Predoctoral Researcher in neurology at Harvard University was the first runner-up at [the Sanitas MIR 2021 Awards](#) for the prize for the best medical resident in Spain. Alicia is currently a neurologist at the University Hospital La Princesa, in Madrid.

María José Jorquera Hervás 2012 Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at St. Bonaventure University (NY), was appointed the [Director of the University of Virginia's Global First Valencia](#) in April 2022. She now leads an international academic program at the UVA Valencia.



IV. SOCIAL / PROFESSIONAL MEDIA



V. EDUCATIONAL ADVISING

According to Open Doors, in the 2020-2021 academic year 5,781 students from Spain were studying in the United States a significant drop from the previous academic year, due to the global pandemic. Although the number decreased, interest in studying in the U.S. has remained high. Spain is the number 23 place of origin worldwide, and number 3 place of origin for among European countries, for students studying in the United States.

1. OUTREACH

EducationUSA Spain once again participated in the annual EducationUSA Europe LL.M. Tour in November, which was conducted virtually and in collaboration with EducationUSA centers 10 European countries in which 40 law schools participated with 120 attendees. EducationUSA Spain two virtual US University fairs, a comprehensive one in October with 61 participating HEIs, 4 info sessions and nearly 400 attendees from all over the country, and a STEM Fair in May with 58 HEIs, 5 info sessions, and 170 attendees.



Study in the USA Pavilion at AULA
Educational Fair – March 2022

Advisers also conducted numerous virtual presentations to Spanish universities about opportunities for US Study as well as to public and private high schools throughout Spain where there they spoke to high school students about studying in the US and the Competitive College Club program. They also worked with counselors to provide them with knowledge on the US higher education system and filling out US university applications.

In March, EducationUSA also participated in the country's largest educational fairs, AULA in Madrid and Saló in Barcelona, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and Consulate in Barcelona, where they had a pavilion to promote U.S. higher education.

2. IN-CENTER ADVISING

EducationUSA Spain continues to run its two-year cohort advising program: Competitive College Club (CCC) with its high school members gaining admission to top universities around the US and 14 students enrolling for the fall.

Continually, EducationUSA offers monthly online sessions of 5 Steps to US Study and Ask the Adviser sessions, 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. In June, EducationUSA Spain, with the participation of US Consular Services, organized a virtual Pre-departure Orientation.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA

EducationUSA is active on social media with 3,140 followers [Facebook](#), 2,438 followers on [Twitter](#) and 254 followers on LinkedIn and 1,841 followers on [Instagram](#). 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. EducationUSA Spain continues to develop its [YouTube](#) channel, publishing an additional 57 videos this year with 309 subscribers.