



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, 2022 – September 30, 2023

November 2023

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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, and resumed the short-term postdoctoral research program for 58 Spanish Scholars after a year hiatus. In addition to this large program, the Commission selected and managed seven grants for up-to two years for research at universities and research centers in the US within the Postdoctoral program with the Galicia regional government, a full academic year Scholar-in-residence research and teaching grant at Mott College, as well as three postdoctoral researchers grants through the long-standing Ruth Lee Kennedy and Spanish Association for American Studies travel grants. The 2022-23 academic year also procured the first cohort of two Spanish university professors from STEM fields selected to join the research and teaching grant program at Florida Polytechnic University in.

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 an agreement with the U.S. Embassy, three new ETA awards were offered at the three American Spaces in Spain: American Space Barcelona, American Space Quixote, and American Space Valencia

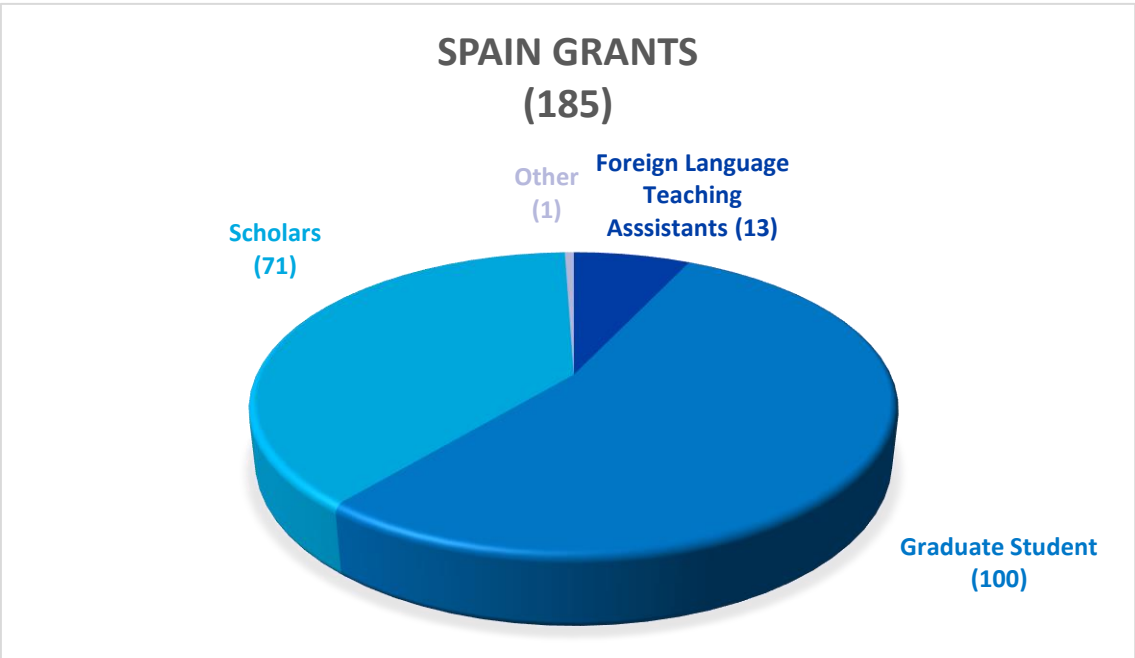
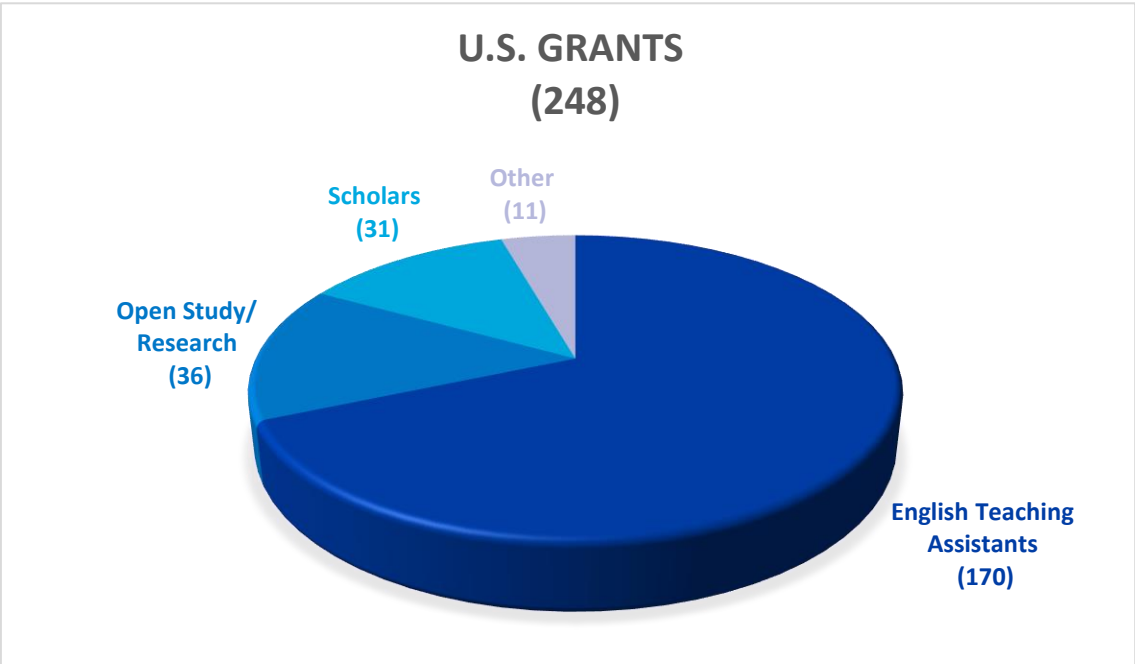
The Commission continued receiving support from Spanish universities aiming to host U.S. Fulbright professors and researchers. Of the 31 Scholars carrying out their research and teaching objectives, 16 were co-sponsored by six different Spanish universities. The Commission was in constant communication with all universities to keep them fully informed and enhance mutual collaboration. During the 2022-23 academic year, 23 US Predoctoral researchers initialed their grant at different universities, specialized training and research centers throughout Spain and one additional grantee renewed her grant for a second year becoming the mentor to the Researcher and Master (RAM) cohort. Also, during this year seven master candidates studied at three prestigious universities in Madrid, Salamanca and Navarra.

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. The agreements with the Regional Government of Andalusia and the Regional Government of Murcia continued to provide additional funds to award doctoral researchers at universities of those Regions.

This was the second year of the new Alumni Association, Fulbright Network Spain (FNS). The 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 exchanges, and intellectual dialogue. There are currently 125 registered members of the association: a mix of Spanish and U.S. alumni of the Fulbright program. Thanks to AEIF funding from the Department of State and close collaboration with U.S. Embassy representatives and the Fulbright Commission, there have been 10 organized events this year, held both in-person and online. We look forward to further supporting this alumni association as its members expand their reach and plan events throughout Spain.

FY-23 Grants



FY-23 Non-Core Sponsorships

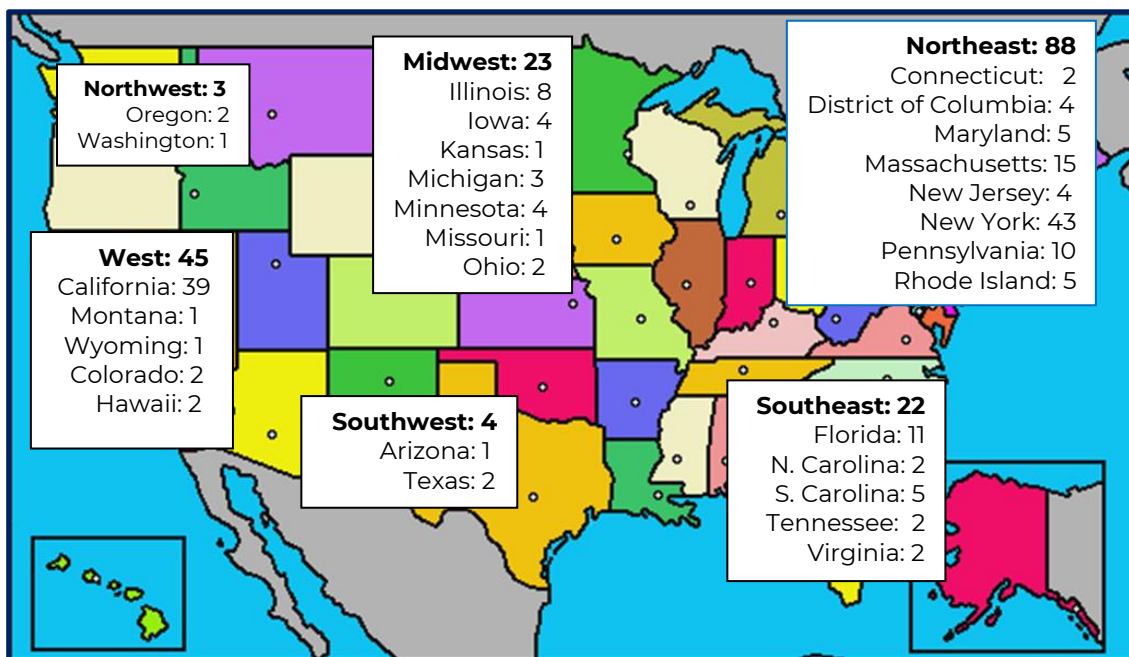
SPONSORS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT CO-FINANCED
Ministry of Education and Professional	78	\$884.335
Galicia Regional Government	54	\$579.032
Andalucia Regional Government	12	\$348.102
Madrid Regional Government	30	\$340.839
Canarias Regional Government	33	\$332.996
Ministry of Culture and Sport	5	\$243.700
La Rioja Regional Government	27	\$215.070
Universidad de Málaga	9	\$121.971
Asturias Regional Government	14	\$119.003
IE Business School	8	\$111.470
Fundación Mapfre	2	\$97.480
Fundación Ramón Areces	1	\$97.480
Fundación Séneca	4	\$97.480
Florida Poly	2	\$90.000
Universidad Camilo Jose Cela	6	\$88.434
The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation	1	\$76.551
Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	2	\$66.865
Universidad de Murcia	5	\$66.010
Universidad Carlos III	2	\$52.218
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	3	\$50.401
Fundación Iberdrola	1	\$48.740
Cosentino	1	\$48.740
Grifols	1	\$48.740
Universidad de la Laguna	3	\$35.701
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	1	\$16.924
Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canarias	1	\$15.519
Colegio Decroly	1	\$14.739
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	1	\$14.739
Fundación Secretariado Gitano- Embassy	1	\$14.739
Universidad de Navarra	1	\$14.688
FERE/CECA	1	\$14.193
International Institute Madrid	2	\$5.000
Universidad de Salamanca	2	\$3.899
American Studies Researcher (SAAS)	1	\$2.924
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	0	\$0
Centro Universitario de la Defensa - Vigo	0	\$0
American Space BCN-VLC-Cuenta- Embassy	3	
TOTAL	319	\$4.288.724

Geographic Distribution

U.S. Grants in Spain (248)



Spanish Grants in the U.S. (185)



II. ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

a. U.S. Program

There was great interest in seminars hosted by other Fulbright Commissions in Europe. One of our predoctoral researchers, Hannah Scotch, attended the E.U.-NATO Seminar on the European Union and NATO hosted by the Fulbright Commission in Brussels from February 27 to March 4th, 2023. The conference helped solidify her interest in international scientific policy and allowed her to have many interesting interdisciplinary conversations about her research in neuroscience. It also provided her with new perspectives on the role of Spain, the US, and their relationship in international affairs. One of our English Teaching Assistants was grateful for the opportunity to attend the sixth edition of the EU-US Young Leaders Seminar: "The Future of Democracy", which took place in person from April 3 to 5, 2023 in Brussels.

Two US Scholars took advantage of the intracountry program to travel and present their work beyond their host institutions at other universities and research centers in Spain. A Senior Researcher in France was invited research and present his work at Centro de Astrobiología (CSIC-INTA) 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.

In-person 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 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid. This four-day-long orientation served as a way to welcome grantees and provide them with valuable 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.

We were incredibly grateful to welcome the U.S. Ambassador Julissa Reynoso to one of the Orientation sessions: "A conversation with U.S. Ambassador Julissa Reynoso"



Office Hours

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

Host Institution Fulbright ETA Sessions

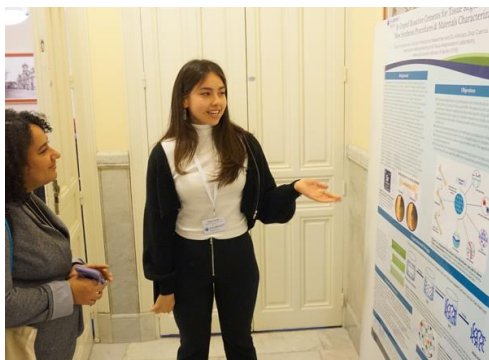
Commission staff led Fulbright ETA information sessions for the bilingual coordinators, or host institution representatives, of each respective region. These sessions outlined the purpose of the Fulbright program and offered clear information about the role of the Fulbright ETA in the institution.

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

Fulbright teaching assistants participated in the in-person or 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. The U.S. Embassy organized a check-in meeting in Madrid for the 3 American Space ETAs, in conjunction with the inauguration of the American Space Quixote. The US Consulate in Barcelona hosted an informational gathering about volunteering opportunities in the region to US students and scholars. Commission staff also joined the meeting and carried out a group check-in meeting with seven grantees in Barcelona.



2022-23 Fulbright Spain Research Seminar for U.S. Student and Scholar Grantees



The third Fulbright Spain Research Seminar was held in Madrid, Spain in November 2022. 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.

Mid-Year Seminar for U.S. Grantees in Spain and Andorra

The Universidad de Navarra (UNAV) hosted the Mid-Year Seminar from February 8-11, 2023. 206 U.S. grantees attended the presentations, working sessions, and cultural and social activities. Representatives of the University and Jon Piechowski, U.S.-Spain Commission Co-Treasurer and Counselor for Public Diplomacy, opened the seminar. Representatives from the Commission and the Spanish Government (Belén Yuste, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation). Grantees and representatives and Fulbright alumni from the UNAV 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.

Crossing the Strait Seminar in Morocco



The IV Crossing the Strait seminar took place in Tangier, Morocco, from April 24 - 27, 2023 bringing together US Scholars and Researchers in Morocco and in Spain, to share and facilitate the discussion on the historical, cultural, religious, and economic aspects of the Spanish-Moroccan relationship. Scholars and researchers participated at individual presentations and workshops and built wonderful memories together in cultural visits in Tangier and surrounding sites, as well as to the fortified town of Asilah.

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 [11 submissions](#) and voted on three winners who were featured at the End of Year celebration held in June.

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

On June 2nd, 2023, the Commission hosted an End-of-Year Event for the U.S. grantees completing their stay in Spain. Jon Piechowski, Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy, opened the meeting, and Margarita Mayo Cuéllar, Professor of Leadership and Organizational Behavior at IE Business School in Madrid, delivered the keynote address on “Authentic Leadership and Importance of Leaders as Agents of Change”



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 specially 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 2023, a three-day-long, pre-departure in-person orientation program was held for academic year 2023-2024 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: Spanish students work in small groups to discuss relevant experiences and advice.
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 present grant logistical information to all grantees.
Right: Grantees listen to a fellow Fulbrighter sharing their opinions and experiences.*

Alumni panels and grant-specific presentations also shared personal, professional, and academic experiences with departing grantees.



Left: Alumni present their experiences and advice to 2023-2024 grantees of their grant category during Orientation sessions. Right: Commission staff members facilitate alumni discussions regarding cultural considerations of the United States to the grantees.

The second day of the 2023 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 officials.



Above: Photos from the event at the Ambassador's residence. Below: Grantees are pictured with the co-sponsors of their scholarships.



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

Additional Fulbright events

In September 2023, a virtual event was held for the incoming 2024-2025 cohort of the Fulbright Foreign Student program in order to foster community within the program and explain the U.S. university application process.



Left: Slide of the Commission presentation section of the virtual event entitled in Spanish, "Presentation of the 15 Foreign Student Grantees".

Right: Brief event outline of this first meeting for the 2023-2024 Fulbright Foreign Student program.

Similarly, the Fulbright Spain Commission held a webinar for the Foreign Language Teaching Assistants with the goal of creating community and going over the Applicant-Institution Matching System (AIMS) which is used to match each of them with their host universities in the U.S.



Poster for the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant webinar about the AIMS process

- The Fulbright Spain Commission and the *Xunta de Galicia* put on an event for the *Programa Cultura Xunta de Galicia-Fulbright* in Santiago
 - Five scholarship recipients attended the event in Santiago in person and shared their experiences with the *Xunta de Galicia*. Four of them recently completed the grant and the fifth travelled to the U.S. in January.
 - Two grantees connected virtually and presented their experiences from New York.
 - Pre-recorded videos were played from three grantees who were currently in the USA (NY and California).
- In March 2023, grantees and Commission staff attended an event hosted by the *Consejería de Universidad, Investigación e Innovación de la Junta de Andalucía* for Fulbrighters from Andalucía in the *Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Cartuja* in Sevilla.



The Commission accompanies and assists all Spanish Visiting Scholars through the nomination, onboarding, and documentation processes before their departure to the U.S., in bundles by program and reporting dates at the host institution. Online specific orientation sessions are organized to inform about preparation travel and visa applications, as well as to explain the first steps required at arrival, introduce the role of the assigned IIE Advisor, and recommend taking advantage of opportunities offered while on grant through the enrichment program and Outreach Lecture Fund.

Fulbright Outreach

- A rigorous campaign was carried out to increase public awareness of the Fulbright Program with 30 virtual and five in-person information sessions throughout Spain attended by more than 800 potential candidates.



Social media posts advertising information sessions



The Commission also announces open its calls and application periods for all award competitions through its official channels in social media, as well as conducting direct campaigns to ex-grantees and to Spanish research institutions and universities.

- Representatives from Fulbright Spain participated in EducationUSA's Spring and Fall college fairs in Madrid, which were attended by over 650 people.



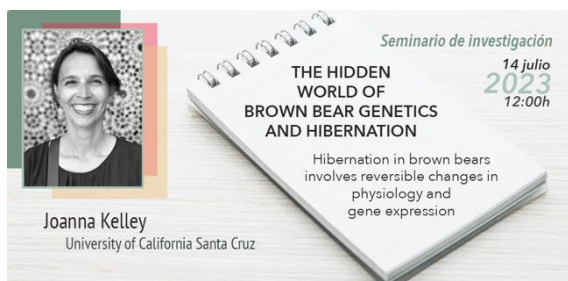
- Fulbright Selection Committees were consisted of Fulbright Alumni from each respective program and field of study. They underwent interview and content training from the Commission and then interviewed the applicants who had passed the preliminary selection in groups of two. Final candidates and alternate candidates were selected according to their ranking system and comments.



III. GRANTEE AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. ACHIEVEMENTS

a. U.S. Program



Joanna Kelly, 2022-23, PostDoctoral researcher at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Carried out at the presentation based on her research "The Hidden World of Brown Bear Genetics and Hibernation" at the Museum of Natural History Museum in Madrid in July, 2023.

Franco Biondi, 2022-23 Senior Scholar at Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canaria, published the article "Heartwood Relationship with Stem Diameter in Pinus canariensis Plantations of Gran Canaria, Spain" in the peer-review journal Forest, based on the research obtained in collaboration with his host institution during his grant in Spain.



Eury German, 2022-23 Open Study/Research Award at National Dance Company, presented the presentation of his piece *v/sopao* he developed during this grant at a sold-out performance at Teatro Pradillo.

Hannah Scotch, 2022-23 Predoctoral Researcher at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Sevilla), researched developmental neuroplasticity in the mouse somatosensory cortex from an electrophysiological perspective during her grant, and was nominated to attend the annual Fulbright EU-NATO Conference;

"I was one of about 50 Fulbrighters in countries all over Europe at the conference, which consisted of visits to the American Embassy in Luxembourg, the European Court of Justice, the European Commission, European Parliament, the House of European History, NATO Headquarters, and the US Mission to the EU. There, I and the other participants received briefings on the structure and function of the EU, the war in Ukraine, the future of cybersecurity, and the EU's developing climate policy. I am so grateful to both Fulbright Spain and Fulbright Belgium for the opportunity to attend the conference, and will be reflecting on it fondly for years to come!"



Sophie Poole, 2022-23 Predoctoral Researcher at Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, published an article in The Dial magazine on her Fulbright grant research on Spain's Sephardic ancestry citizenship program through oral histories! Link here: [Undoing the Alhambra Decree](#)



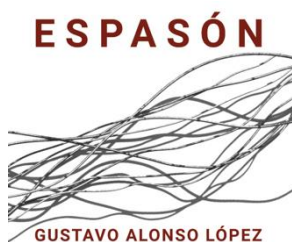
Mariana Ferreira, 2022-23 US Graduate Student and candidate for a master's degree in International Development at IE University in Madrid, was invited to represent her cohort at IE at the World Government Summit in Dubai. Mariana and the IE team walked away with a first-place prize for their proposal on a new International Charter for Digital Human Rights!

Sydnee Wong, 2022-23 Predoctoral Researcher at Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Barcelona, published her first first-author paper in an academic journal (Supportive Care in Cancer). Link/abstract here: [Effectiveness of the nutrition referral system in a multidisciplinary pancreatic cancer clinic](#)

David Crespy, 2022-23 US Scholar, has conducted public readings of five plays of the collection *Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia: Six Plays of Sephardic Spain & Greece*, his Fulbright project during his joint Fulbright Grant in Spain and Greece.

Ali Khosronejad, 2022-23 US Scholar at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, receives funds from National Science Foundation (NSF) to create a high-fidelity model using artificial intelligence to predict floods' impact on infrastructure.

Charles Nagle, 2021 US Postdoctoral Researcher, and his collaborators at Universidad de Murcia received three years of funding from Fundación Seneca to continue the research project that started during his Fulbright grant to study the effects of instruction and individual differences on the development of English pronunciation in foreign language contexts.



Gustavo Alonso Lopez, 2017 Predoctoral researcher in Sevilla at the Fundación Cristina Heeren, releases his new flamenco music album, Espasón.

Alec Fischthal, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, was selected to attend the EU- US Young Leaders seminar, where he met other Fulbrighters from across Europe as well as the Erasmus+ European students. He was able to visit the EU Parliament and attend receptions with program alumni and EU and US officials. He was also selected to lead the final seminar discussion and a panel on his group's proposal advocacy campaign on Peace and Security issues.



Brittany Torres Rivera, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, planned a bilingual Open Mic/Micro Abierto in her local host community of Tres Cantos in Madrid. She worked in conjunction with her school, students, town hall, local officials and community members to hold the final event with performances by staff, students, locals, and Fulbrighters on April 27th in the Town Hall of Tres Cantos. Performances of song, spoken word poetry, improv, and exposition were carried out in both English and Spanish to a wide audience in her Host Community.

Isabela Barnes, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in the Canary Islands, completed her community involvement project volunteering with the Red Cross. Specifically, she worked with the Immigration Emergency Response Team (ERIE-- Equipos de Respuesta Inmediata en Emergencias). This year alone they received over 2000 migrants arriving on the shores of Lanzarote. Isabela was trained as a medic and assisted with three arrivals, providing humanitarian aid.

Samantha Dorf, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in the Canary Islands, completed her community involvement project through volunteer hours at her school focused on English Language Learning Through Sensory Play. She created and used a sensory board to teach English colors, shapes, and textures. The novelty of this activity and opportunity for tactile input boosted engagement and retention for many learning-disabled students. Even some of my mostly non-verbal students felt comfortable speaking during this activity, which shows the tremendous hope for the role that sensory activities can play in education.



Elizabeth Beyer, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in Barcelona, worked on a project titled "The Use of Virtual Outreach to Further EducationUSA Spain's Mission". She interviewed Fulbright grantees to complete promotional videos for EducationUSA Spain to post on their social networks. Additionally, she created documentation to summarize her findings related to virtual reality programming possibilities for EducationUSA Spain.

Jacob Cramer, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, volunteered at the International Institute in Madrid every month doing read-alouds, arts and crafts, and theater plays. During his grant year, he wrote and performed his own plays at the International Institute Madrid, an elementary school in Gran Canaria, and his own Fulbright placement, Colegio Alameda de Osuna in Madrid.



Alyssa Grzesiowski, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant at Universidad Camilo José Cela (UCJC), completed a project titled "Popular Sports Culture as a Vehicle for Intercultural Exchange and Identification". Collaborating with the American Sports Club and University Athletic Department, Alyssa discussed the basic rules of American baseball, its popularity and significance in popular culture, and encouraged students to compare and contrast baseball with other sports that are more familiar in Spain. While her project culminated with a full-roster baseball game, she found that speaking with students on the "field" or waiting to bat in the "dugouts" was equally rewarding.

Christina Chu, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in La Rioja, organized a month-long weekly volleyball clinic for cultural exchange for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Preparing games, activities, and lessons for each group, Christina taught volleyball skills through demonstration, coaching, partner work, and drills, culminating in volleyball matches. She reflects that it was a wonderful way to engage with her students outside of the traditional classroom environment, while also sharing one of her passions.



Tenley Seidel, 2022-2023 English Teaching Assistant in Asturias, directed a youth version of William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Throughout the year, she taught lessons about the history of theater, organized improvisational activities, and taught practical theater technique. The project aimed to expose students to theater as a means toward self-expression and discovery, all while using a classic English text.

Thomas White, 2022-23 English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, volunteered at a school and care facility for teenagers with autism in Ourense. Thomas assisted with individual tutoring to benefit students' motor and behavioral skills such as using everyday appliances and reinforcing positive behaviors during transitions. Thomas feels fortunate to have been able to see firsthand the similarities and differences between special education in Spain and the United States.



b. Spanish Program



Fulbrighter **Avelino Corma** received the [European Inventor 2023 lifetime achievement award](#). Dr. Corma is a chemist and researcher at the Instituto de Tecnología Química, and his discoveries are used in numerous industries, including energy, pharmaceutical, and cosmetics, among others. He was a Fulbright postdoctoral researcher in 1980 in the United States at Norton Company conducting research in applied catalysis.

Cristina Trenas, Fulbright alumna, director, producer and screenwriter, co-directed alongside Santos Bacana and Rogelio Gonzalez the documentary film [Esta ambición desmedida](#) about C. Tangana. This film follows the popular Spanish artist facing the challenge of creating the most ambitious tour of his career and revolutionizing the concept of live performance. Cristina studied a master's degree in audiovisual arts and production at the University of California at Los Angeles in 2015 thanks to the Fulbright / *Ministerio de Cultura* grant for artists.



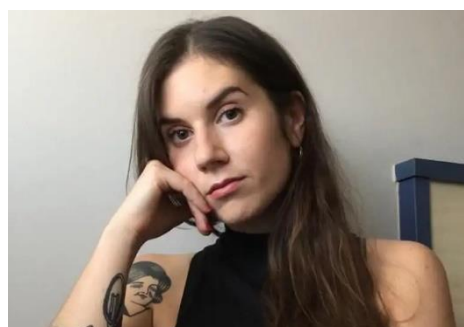
Emilio Chuvieco Salinero, a 1987 Fulbright Postdoctoral Researcher in Geography and Environmental Sciences at the University of California Berkeley supported by the *Ministerio de Cultura*, was awarded the [King Jaume I Environmental Protection Award](#). These awards promote scientific investigation and development in Spain. Emilio was chosen for his work in the field of remote sensing and its application in the location and observation of forest fires, extending this to the context of fires and their relation to human development and climate change.

Chemi Pérez Alcázar presented his documentary short "[Shirampari: Herencias del Río](#)" as part of the Official Selection of the prestigious [Sundance Film Festival 2023](#). Chemi received a Fulbright grant in 2018 to earn a master's degree in Filmmaking at the New York Film Academy. He produced this short film during his time in the U.S. in collaboration with co-director Lucia Flores, a Peruvian Fulbrighter whom he met at NYFA.



Two Spanish Fulbrighters received the 2022 [Premio Nacional de Investigación](#). [Mariano Barbacid](#), awarded in the field of biology, was a Fulbright scholar in 1974 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, where he devoted himself to cancer research. Dr. Barbacid received the "Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2018. **Fernando Tomás Maestre**, awarded in the field of natural resource sciences and technologies, obtained his Fulbright grant in 2003 to conduct research on ecological restoration at Duke University.

Mayte Gómez Molina was awarded the [Miguel Hernández National Youth Poetry Award](#) by the Spanish *Ministerio de Cultura* for her work *Los trabajos sin Hércules*. She was praised by the selection committee for the "poetic power and musicality of verses that resonate in the subconscious". Mayte was a 2019-2020 Fulbright Master's student supported by the *Junta de Andalucía* at the School of Art Institute of Chicago studying visual art.



"The Future Madrid"



featured in the journal *Arquitectura* of
Madrid's Official College of
Architecture



JAVIER GARCÍA-GERMÁN



ALEJANDRO VALDIVIESO

The journal of the official Architectural College of Madrid selected "El Futuro Madrid", the work of Fulbrighters **Alejandro Valdivieso** and **Javier García-Germán**, to be featured in the September 2023 edition of the journal, after which the two former Fulbrighters will take leadership of the journal. Alejandro Valdivieso was a 2014-2015 Fulbright Master's student at Harvard University studying architecture and design supported by the *Ministerio de Cultura*; Javier García-Germán was a Fulbright Masters Student in the 2003-2004 academic year, supported by the *Fundación Ramón Areces*, studying architecture and design at Harvard University. Their work reflects on the major demographic, economic, and

ecological changes that Madrid will face in the upcoming 25 years, and the changes that the architectural profession will require to respond to the challenges.

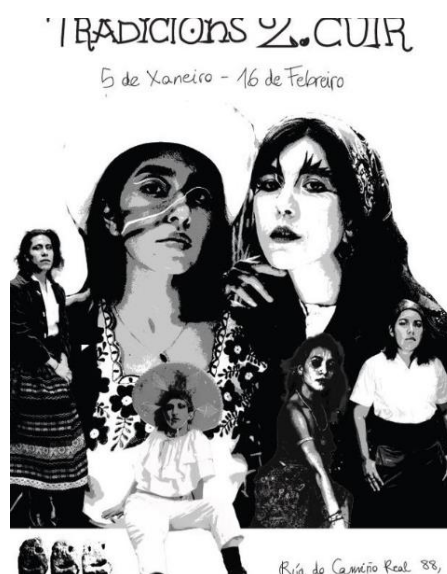
[Laura Melgar](#) was featured among the works of 27 Sevillian researchers in the "*Ciencia Joven*" exhibition in Sevilla. Laura obtained a Fulbright grant in 2021 to pursue predoctoral research in the field of big data at New York University with the support of the *Junta de Andalucía*. In Laura's words, "The technological reality is moving towards the new concept of Big Fast Data that focuses on reducing the time between the arrival of new data and the extraction of information from it... In my case, the six months at New York University with a Fulbright predoctoral research fellowship helped me to give the final push to my research, thanks to the knowledge gained from my collaboration with scientists from one of the leading centers in the world. From my point of view, research opens the doors to the future so that you can be an active part of it."





With his short film "The Other 700 Club", **Juan Blanco Garcia** won a variety of recognitions including the Best International Short Film Ibiza Cinefest. In addition, the Short Film was officially selected for the St. Louis International Film Festival, the Athens International Film + Video Festival, and the West Chester International Short Film Festival. In 2020, Juan was a Fulbright Master's student with support of the *Ministerio de Universidades* at the City University of New York: City College studying audiovisual arts with a film specialization.

Fulbright artist, **Icía Vazquez**, presented the exposition "Tradicións 2.Cuirs" at the Solaina Gallery in Lugo between January 5 and February 16, 2023. In 2020, Icía studied visual arts specializing in fashion photography for one year at the New York Film Academy thanks to the Fulbright artist grant sponsored by the Regional Government of Galicia (*Xunta de Galicia*).



Alberto Martín López

Beca Fulbright / Junta de Andalucía 2021,
Investigación predoctoral
en University of California,
Berkeley



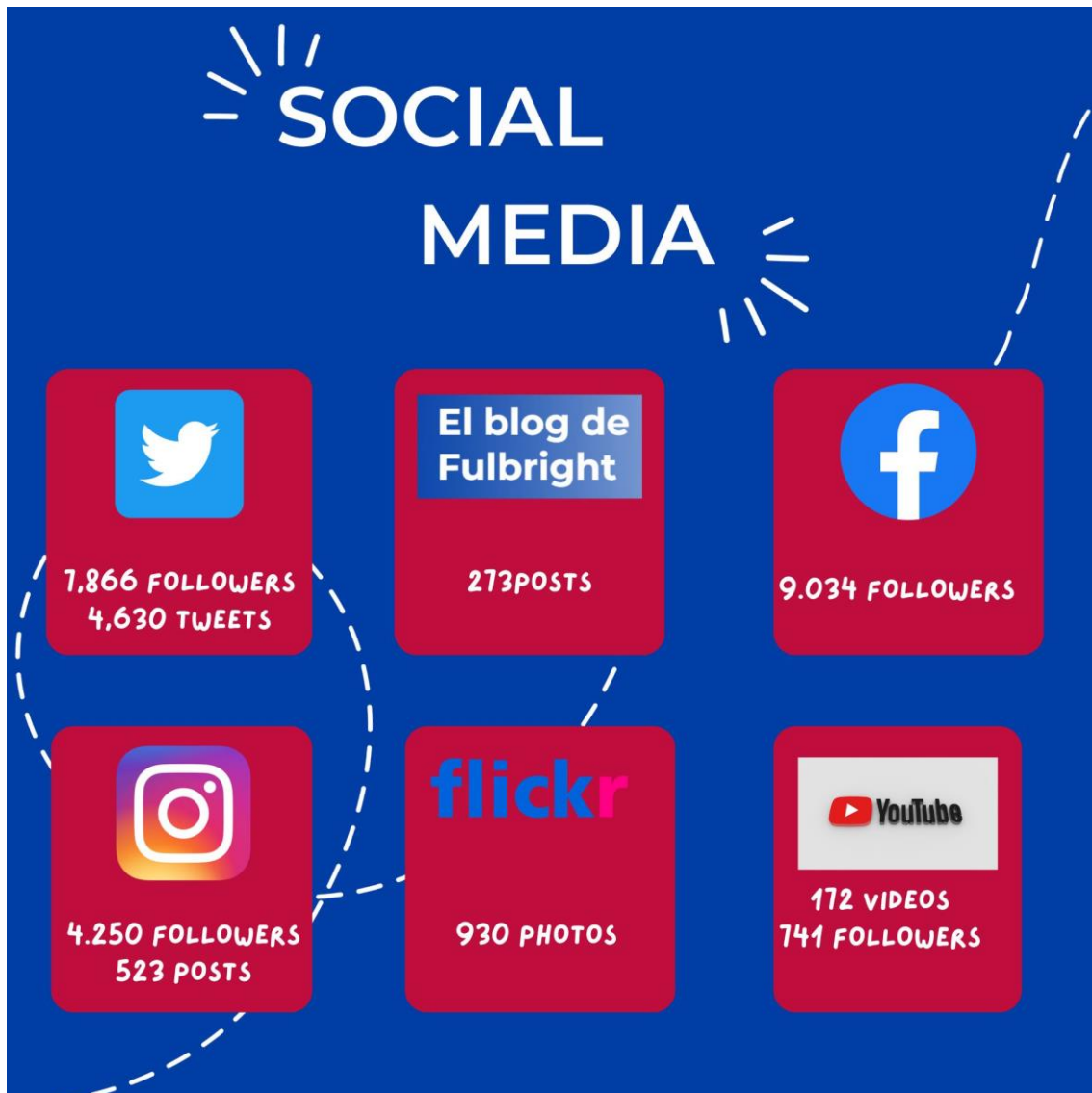
Alberto Martín López, a Fulbright predoctoral research fellow with the support of the *Junta de Andalucía*, has been awarded the 2022 [Ph. D. in Computer Science under 30 years old](#) by the *Sociedad Científica Informática de España* (SCIE) and the BBVA Foundation. Six prizes are awarded each year to young doctoral candidates in Computer Science for the contributions to science or industry they have made during their career.

Miguel Cid Montoya, visiting Postdoctoral researcher from Galicia Regional Government 2018 program, receives the 2023 IAWF Junior Award at the International Association of Wind Engineering.



Javier Garcia Martinez, 2001 Ministry of Education visiting scholar program, was named Doctor Honoris Causa by Universidad de la Rioja for his outstanding career as professor in inorganic chemistry and as director of Laboratorio de Nanotecnología Molecular de la Universidad in Alicante.

IV. SOCIAL / PROFESSIONAL MEDIA



V. EDUCATIONAL ADVISING

According to Open Doors, in the 2021-2022 academic year a record number of 8,165 students from Spain were studying in the United States a 41% increase from the previous academic year, indicating a significant rebound from the effects of the global pandemic. Spain is the number 19 place of origin worldwide, and number 4 place of origin for among European countries, for students studying in the United States.

1. OUTREACH

EducationUSA Spain started the year off with a large scale virtual Competitive Application Workshop, with the participation of 6 HEIs. Later in the year returned to in-person events, holding two comprehensive U.S. College and University Fairs, one in April and one in September. The fair in April had the participation of 22 HEIs, 3 of which were community colleges, 300 attendees, and 5 information sessions and the fair in September had the participation of 23 HEIs, 3 of which were community colleges, 380 attendees and 4 information sessions. Before the fairs, Country Briefings and Networking Sessions were offered to participating HEI and local high school and university representatives.



EducationUSA College & University Fair
September 2023

Advisers also conducted numerous virtual and in-person presentations to Spanish universities about opportunities for US Study as well as to public and private high schools throughout Spain where 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. Finally, advisers participated in numerous educational fairs in Spain, promoting and providing information on US study and EducationUSA services.

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 11 students enrolling.

Continually, EducationUSA offers monthly online and in-person sessions of 5 Steps to US Study and Ask the Adviser sessions, in addition to other topic-specific sessions or workshops, 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 May, EducationUSA Spain, with the participation of US Consular Services, organized a virtual Pre-departure Orientation.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA

EducationUSA is has made a concerted effort to increase its presence and post engaging content on social media, including more videos of student successes from the Competitive College Club and individual advisees, both before heading to the US and once on a US campus. EducationUSA Spain has 3,246 followers [Facebook](#), 2,439 followers on [Twitter](#) and 310 followers on LinkedIn and 2,122 followers on [Instagram](#) and 368 subscribers on [YouTube](#). 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. A monthly newsletter is also sent out to 7,196 contacts, which includes information on upcoming programming, scholarships and other relevant updates or opportunities.