



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

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November 2024

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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 Sciences, Innovation and Universities.

The Ministry of Sciences, Innovation and Universities also sustained its support for the largest cohort of Visiting Scholars by funding 53 Spanish scholars in its short-term postdoctoral research program. In addition to this large program, the Commission selected and managed five new grants, and four second-year grantees, 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 College of the Sequoias, as well as three postdoctoral researchers grants through the long-standing Ruth Lee Kennedy and Spanish Association for American Studies travel grants. The 2023-24 academic year also procured the second cohort of two Spanish university professors from STEM fields selected to join the research and teaching grant program at Florida Polytechnic University. In 2023-24, the Commission, in partnership with the Spanish National Research Council, launched a new program to select ten visiting scholars to conduct research across all disciplines at host institutions in the United States.

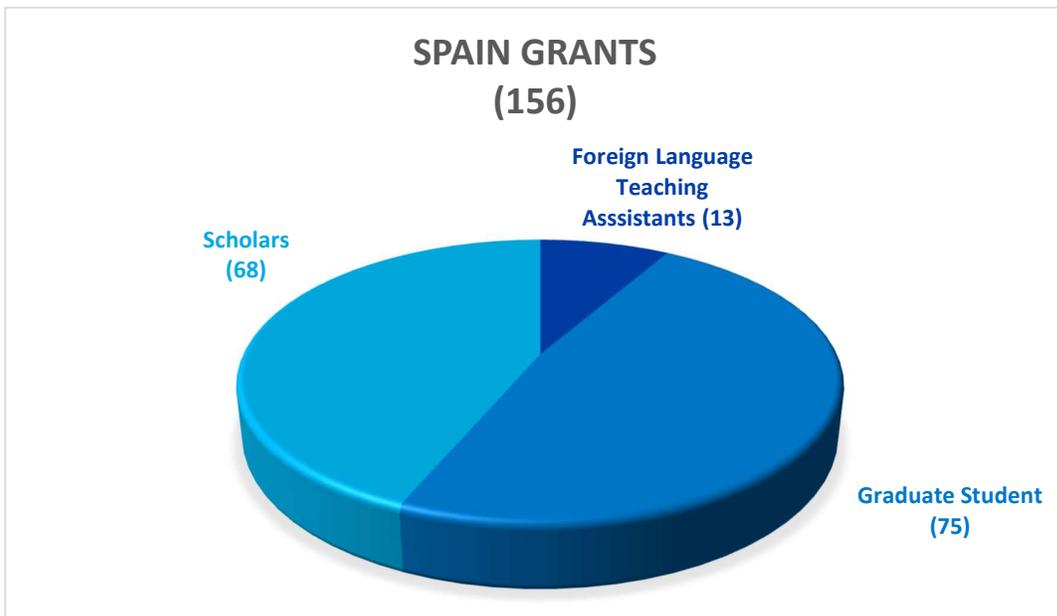
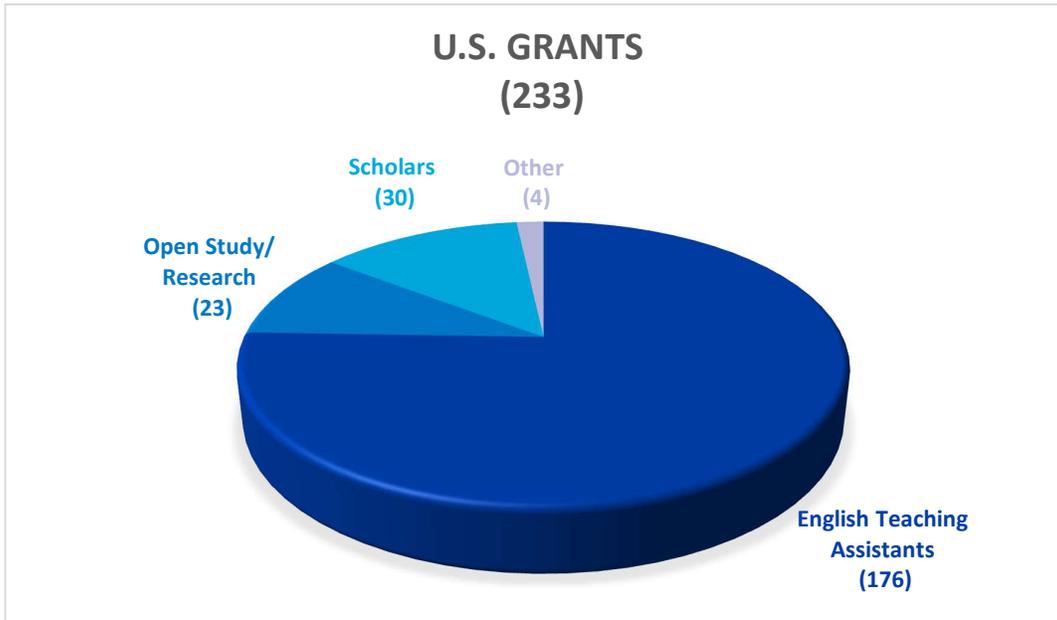
Funds received for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) program from regional governments remained unchanged as did the number of awards in this important program.

The Commission continued receiving support from Spanish universities aiming to host U.S. Fulbright professors and researchers. Of the 20 Scholars carrying out their research and teaching objectives, 15 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 2023-24 academic year, nine postdoctoral researchers and 15 US Predoctoral researchers initiated their grant at different universities, specialized training and research centers throughout Spain and one additional predoctoral grantee renewed her grant for a second year becoming the mentor to the Researcher cohort. Also, during this year seven master candidates studied at three prestigious universities in Madrid and Salamanca.

Funding for the Spanish graduate program continued to be supplemented through sponsorships from the regional government of Andalucía, and multinational companies or its Foundations, 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 Andalucía and the Regional Government of Murcia continued to provide additional funds to award doctoral researchers at universities of those Regions.

FY-24 Grants



FY-24 Non-Core Sponsorships

SPONSORS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT CO-FINANCED
Galicia Regional Government	55	\$1.268.393
Ministry of Education and Professional	78	\$528.064
Canarias Regional Government	33	\$399.022
Madrid Regional Government	30	\$392.261
La Rioja Regional Government	27	\$242.677
Asturias Regional Government	14	\$134.200
Andalucia Regional Government	15	\$480.950
IE Business School	8	\$127.623
Universidad Camilo Jose Cela	6	\$101.106
Ministry of Culture and Sport	5	\$250.471
Universidad de Málaga	9	\$147.714
Fundación Iberdrola	1	\$52.970
International Institute Madrid	2	\$5.000
Universidad de Murcia	6	\$91.084
Fundación Mapfre	3	\$105.940
Fundación Ramón Areces	2	\$105.940
Fundación Séneca	4	\$91.680
Universidad Carlos III	3	\$73.448
Universidad de la Laguna	4	\$60.643
Universidad de Salamanca	2	\$4.492
Universidad de las Palmas de Gran Canarias	1	\$16.953
American Studies Researcher (SAAS)	1	\$3.178
Cosentino	1	\$52.970
Colegio Decroly	1	\$16.851
Colegio Alameda de Osuna	1	\$16.851
Fundación Secretariado Gitano- Embassy	1	\$15.765
American Space BCN-VLC-Cuenta- Embassy	3	\$44.740
FERE/CECA	1	\$16.258
Grifols	1	\$26.485
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism	1	\$6.454
Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	2	\$101.439
Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Service	1	\$62.843
The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation	1	\$76.193
Florida Poly	2	\$50.000
TOTAL	325	\$5.120.657

Geographic Distribution

U.S. Grants in Spain (233)



Spanish Grants in the U.S. (156)



II. ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. EUROPEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

a. U.S. Program

There was great interest in seminars hosted by other Fulbright Commissions in Europe.

Vicente Bickel, 2023-24 Master's Candidate at the Universidad de Salamanca, and **Nilesh Kavthekar**, Schuman Scholar conducting research at IE University in Madrid, attended the EU-NATO Seminar, where they met other Fulbrighters from across Europe, explored the structure and function of the EU and NATO, and learned how these institutions affect Europeans' academic, professional, and personal lives. Highlights of the annual seminar included visits to the European Court of Justice, the European Commission, the U.S. Mission to the EU, and NATO Headquarters.



2023-24 English Teaching Assistant **Stephanie Oyolu** was grateful for the opportunity to attend the seventh edition of the EU-US Young Leaders Seminar: "The Security Implications of Climate Change", which took place in person from March 20 to 22, 2024, in Brussels. Stephanie reported that she could not overstate how enriching of an experience this was for her, especially given her placement in the tricontinental Canary Islands. Meeting Fulbrighters from all across the continent and hearing about their experiences, as well as the experience of other European students and professionals, renewed her interest in International Affairs, prompting her to more seriously consider a career or Master's degree in that field.



Two Postdoctoral Researchers in Music, Tomás Cotik and Javier Mendoza, utilized the Intracountry Program to expand their research reach, traveling beyond their host institutions to present their work at other universities and research centers across Spain. Additionally, Researchers based in Spain, Eda Pepi and Tomás Cotik, were invited to conduct research and share their expertise as Inter-country Lecturers in Bulgaria and Italy. The Universidad Complutense de Madrid also hosted Dr. Derek Schutt, currently conducting his Fulbright research in Iceland, for a collaborative visit with Dr. Fullera at the Department of Earth Physics and Astrophysics.

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 choosing evaluators for the 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 Resources

The Commission staff launched a new initiative featuring a series of pre-departure video resources for incoming grantees, covering topics such as the visa process, healthcare, travel, housing, banking, communication, and cultural adaptation. Additionally, three Q&A virtual sessions were hosted over the summer to address specific questions related to these topics.

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, from 9 to 12 September. 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.



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 Catalunya

Researchers, Scholars, and one American Space ETA attended an in-person meeting at the U.S. Consulate in Barcelona, held one month after their arrival, to follow up on their adaptation process. In addition to meeting with their Commission contacts, they were welcomed by Consulate staff and Gilman Scholars, who shared information about local volunteer opportunities.

Check-in Meetings with grantees in Málaga

U.S. Scholars and ETAs at the Universidad de Málaga attended an in-person meeting at the U.S. on Campus program, along with the university's Fulbright Program institutional contact and current alumni. The purpose of the meeting was to gather feedback on their experiences at the university and in Málaga.

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

In addition to the Commission's Orientation, Fulbright English Teaching Assistants participated in in-person or virtual welcome for language assistant programs 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 check-in meeting for the three American Space ETAs was held virtually, but they had the opportunity to attend the 10th anniversary celebration of American Space Valencia, organized by the U.S. Embassy in December 2023.



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

The first edition of the Mediterranean Research Seminar brought together Fulbright U.S. Researchers from across the Mediterranean to discuss important regional issues from various academic perspectives. During the three-day event, participants shared and debated their work, creating connections that crossed different disciplines, countries, and cultures. Held in Alicante, Spain from November 16-19, 2023, the seminar hosted 51 researchers from 9 Mediterranean countries.



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

The [Mid-Year Seminar](#), held from February 7-10 in Oviedo, Asturias, featured grantee-led presentations, discussion groups, and reflection on the progress of grant objectives. The event offered participants time to gather and interact as a cohort, and concluded with a lively showcase of talents during the Fulbright's Got Talent show. Grantee evaluations were overwhelmingly positive and confirmed that the seminar was a highlight for U.S. grantees.

2024 marked the tenth anniversary of the awarding of the Prince of Asturias Award (now known as the Princess of Asturias Award) to the Fulbright Program, making the celebration of the seminar in Oviedo—the headquarters of the Princess of Asturias Foundation and the location where the prize is received—especially meaningful.

Representatives of the University of Oviedo, the Commission, the U.S. Embassy (Jon Piechowski, U.S.-Spain Commission Co-Treasurer and Counselor for Public Diplomacy), the Spanish Government (Santiago Sierra, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation) and regional government (Lydia Espina, Department of Education) opened the seminar. Holly Emert, Senior Program Officer from ECA, was in attendance, and participated as one of the main speakers at the Closing Ceremony. Spanish grantees and Fulbright alumni from the University of Oviedo attended a reception to meet and engage with the U.S. grantees.



Crossing the Strait Seminar in Córdoba, Spain

The Fifth edition of the *Crossing the Strait Seminar* took place in Córdoba from April 25-28, 2024, bringing together 31 Fulbright Scholars and Researchers from Spain and Morocco. The event explored various dimensions of the Spanish-Moroccan relationship, including historical, cultural, geographical, and economic aspects. With 17 participants from Spain and 14 from Morocco, the seminar fostered rich interdisciplinary dialogue and academic exchange.



To enhance the cultural experience, the seminar included guided tours of Córdoba's historic patios, landmarks, the Mosque, and the Jewish Quarter. Participants also enjoyed a Welcome Cocktail with views of the illuminated Mosque-Cathedral from the hotel rooftop and a closing dinner at Bodegas Campos, a venue known for its ties to flamenco celebrations.



www.fulbright.es/crossing-the-strait

Fulbright Annual Spain Video Competition

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 [guidelines for participation](#) during Orientation. The Commission received [12 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 7th, 2024, 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".



Additionally, January 2024 brought the incorporation of 7 additional English Teaching Assistants relocated from Israel to Spain. **Lydia Kang**, English Teaching Assistant at Universidad Camilo José Cela (UCJC), partnered with an organization for at-risk students to lead after-school workshops in sketchbook art; **Tara Lynn Smith**, also an English Teaching Assistant at Universidad Camilo José Cela (UCJC), organized weekly open yoga and wellness sessions in Retiro Park; and **Dawn Thomas**, English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, led primary school-aged children in an interdisciplinary art and podcast project to introduce the people, places, and movements of the Harlem Renaissance.



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 2024, a three-day-long, pre-departure in-person orientation program was held for academic year 2024-2025 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, 53 grantees attended, representing eight Commission grant categories. Activities included: icebreakers, networking events, Commission staff presentations, discussions on grant administration topics, and clarifying visa regulations.



Above: 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.



On the second day of the 2024 Orientation, the U.S. Ambassador's offered a BBQ-style luncheon at the DCM residence. The Commission was grateful to share this event with many representatives from their co-sponsors, including ministry and regional government officials.

Above: Photos from the event at the DCM 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 through a group session.



Additional Fulbright events

In March, 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.



Above: The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant webinar about the AIMS process

Grantees with co-sponsors were able to attend special events with institutions that contribute funds for their grants, including a visit to the MAPFRE offices in Boston and the graduation ceremony for the Iberdrola Foundation, presided by His Majesty King Felipe VI.



In October 2024, a virtual event was held for the incoming 2025-2026 cohort of the Fulbright Foreign Student program in order to foster community within the program and explain the U.S. university application process.



Fulbright Outreach

- A rigorous campaign was carried out to increase public awareness of the Fulbright Program with 16 virtual and 13 in-person information sessions throughout Spain attended by more than 800 potential candidates.



Above: 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, highlighting Fulbright alumni, as well as conducting direct campaigns to ex-grantees and to Spanish research institutions and universities.



- Representatives from Fulbright Spain participated in EducationUSA's Fall university fair in Madrid, which was attended by over 450 people.



- Fulbright Selection Committees 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.

Swathi Kella, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant at the University of Málaga (UMA), researched the local artistic, historical, and religious cultures of Málaga and Andalucía to create an artistic portfolio project titled *Entre sol y tierra*. Her project not only explores themes and motifs across Andalusian artists' oeuvre, but also examines how American art has influenced Andalusian art and vice versa.



Gianna Zades, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in La Rioja, led community dance classes at La Gota de Leche youth community center in Logroño. Her classes were featured in the organization's programming, as well as local City Hall social media pages. She expressed that the workshops had a great turnout, teaching different choreography for each class and adapting the difficulty level to the participants.

Ximena Garcia, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, partnered with a local organization for her community side project, la Fundación Acción por la Música. This Spanish organization uses collective musical practice as a tool for social transformation, primarily supporting children and adults in socially vulnerable situations, aiming to foster social inclusion and personal development through music. Ximena put an enormous effort into her volunteer work with this organization, and successfully initiated a collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Madrid in order to host a concert which took place on May 14, 2024. This concert fostered a connection between cultures through music and values of social equity. The event was a huge success and truly impacted and connected with all in attendance. Embassy personnel in attendance were so moved they requested that the concert planned by Ximena be made into an annual event.





information about the area's orography, flora, and fauna, enriching the experience with his deep knowledge of the natural environment.

Ryan Kovarovics, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, embarked on a fascinating community project comparing the National Parks of the United States and Spain, covering aspects such as their history, characteristics, resources, size, and management. He presented his findings at the La Pedriza National Park Visitors Center, and afterward, Ryan led attendees on a hiking route where he provided valuable data and

Saoirse McNally, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in the Canary Islands (Gran Canaria), led the initiative to start an after-school Crochet Club with the Elementary School Students at her Host Institution CEIP Príncipe de Asturias, which was a way to continue their informal English conversation learning while giving them the opportunity to learn a new craft and work with their hands. The club quickly became so popular among students that several family members, including grandparents, joined the club as well, in order to both share their knowledge of crochet and join in the intercultural exchange organized by Saoirse.



Sarah Gentile, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in the Canary Islands, was placed on La Gomera, one of the smallest islands in the archipelago, and one of the few islands with only one Fulbright grantee placement. Sarah partnered with a local dance studio on the island, giving Cardio Dance and Ballet Classes weekly to students of all ages. She taught these classes in exchange for attending classes on local dances such as Sevillanas and Flamenco. Throughout this collaboration she choreographed dances for the local holiday of Carnaval, performed in a local art exhibition, and attended multiple community events. Additionally, Sarah presented at the Fulbright Mid-Year Academic Seminar in Oviedo on strategies to "Combat Loneliness on a Tiny Island."



This presentation was enormously impactful and well-received by the entire Fulbright Spain Cohort and Andorra grantees in attendance, who found her concrete suggestions very relevant and empowering as they finished out their grant year in their respective placements.



Madeline Kleinschmidt, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant at American Space Quixote, started an English Reading Club in partnership with a public library in Cuenca. She collaborated with the library to host semi-weekly reading group sessions, where participants met every other week for an hour and a half to discuss the assigned book. The group was highly engaged and enthusiastic. This was the first-ever English reading club in Cuenca, and it was even featured in the local newspaper.

Carter Janse, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant at American Space Valencia, founded a Coding Club for young students. Participants learned web design techniques and created a final project that showcased the culmination of their skills. At the end of the school year, students presented and published their projects. This initiative not only allowed them to explore their interest in coding but also gave them the chance to practice their English skills.

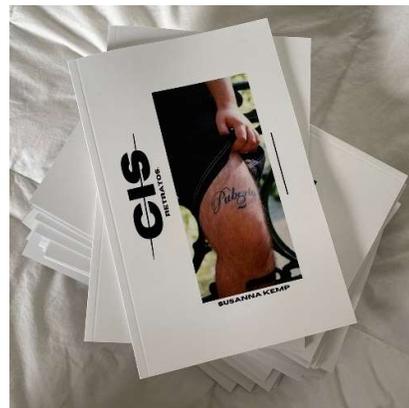


Hope Borsic, 2023-24 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Asturias, explored the linguistic and cultural intersections between African American English (AAE) and Asturianu in her project, "Negotiating Linguistic Borders in AAE and Asturianu." Through her research, she gave voice to native speakers and examined the historical marginalization of both languages, highlighting their significance as full linguistic systems worthy of respect and recognition. Hope's project drew parallels between the sociolinguistic challenges faced by these communities and emphasized their role as symbols of cultural pride and resistance against

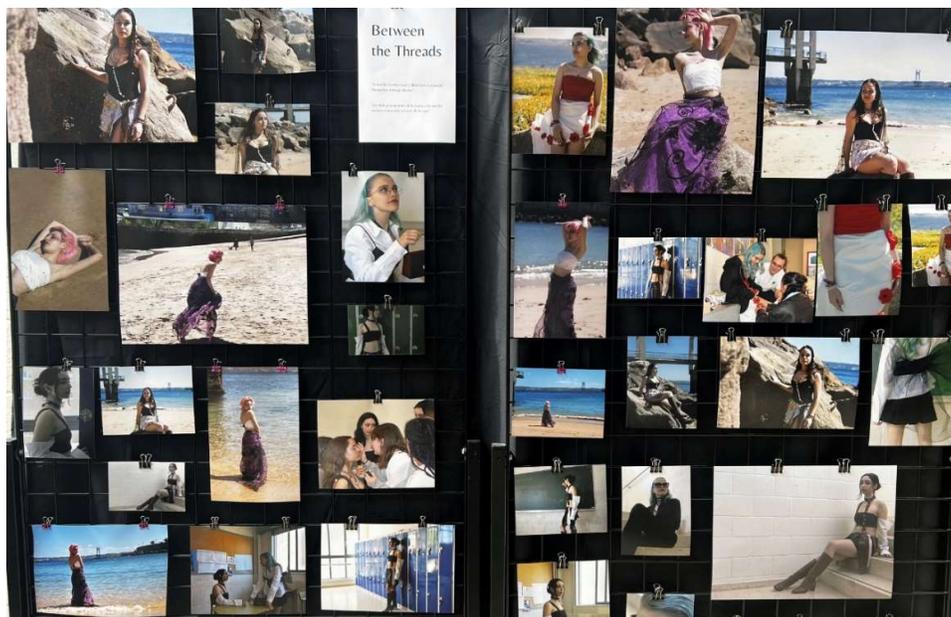
marginalization. She also proposed strategies to increase awareness, challenge stereotypes, and support the preservation of AAE and Asturianu through community engagement and policy improvements.

Vera Arenas, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in Asturias, volunteered with Asociación Galbán, a local organization supporting families affected by childhood cancer. She organized recreational activities like crafts and games for children staying in the pediatric oncology unit of the Central University Hospital of Asturias, providing emotional support and creating spaces for connection during challenging times. This experience deepened Vera's understanding of the importance of holistic care and the role of community in supporting pediatric patients and their loved ones.

Susanna Kemp, 2023-2024 English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, created a book featuring the lived experiences of young trans and gender-nonconforming Galicians. Throughout the year, she formed relationships with queer locals through a web of Galician connections. She held photo sessions and recorded conversations with ten participants and later curated interview excerpts into first-hand narratives that accompany portrait-style photos in the book. Susanna reflects that the project helped her to become more deeply involved with and knowledgeable about local queer culture. Further, Susanna created a translated, English version of the original book that allowed her to share her work with her home community and bridge cultures.



Jasselle Garcia, 2023-2024 English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, led a bilingual student club called "In Between the Threads", where she documented "The Process of a Fashion Show." Conducted in both English and Spanish, the club integrated elements of Spanish and American fashion, encouraging students to explore storytelling through clothing. Jasselle met with students weekly to guide them in developing their fashion designs and ideas, helping them express themselves through fashion. The project culminated in a photoshoot of their designs, which was displayed in an exhibit showcasing the creative process behind the fashion show.



Isabel Torres, 2023-24 English Teaching Assistant in Galicia, organized a story-telling workshop for 3º ESO and 4º ESO students at her secondary school in Negreira. Using her background in journalism, she facilitated lessons on the basics of interviewing, drafting open-ended questions, outlining a story, selecting and translating quotes, and culminating their skills to create a profile feature article of someone in their community. The project aimed to incorporate both the art of translanguaging (as students conducted interviews in Galician and Castellano, and translated them into English) and the art of storytelling (as they crafted the purpose and message of their stories). For Isabel, it was a very special experience to be part of a project that dove into the history and stories of local community members, and encouraged students to develop their trilingual writing, translating, and storytelling skills in the process.



Tomas Cotik, 2023-24, PostDoctoral researcher at Conservatorio Profesional de Música "Teresa Berganza" presented his new double album of Bach's Six Cello Suites transcribed for violin: <https://tomascotik.com/album/bach-the-six-suites/>.

Dr. Daniel Fernandez Guevara, a 2023-24 US postdoctoral researcher at CSIC in Madrid, has been awarded the prestigious 2024 LASA Cuba Section Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation. His outstanding work has garnered recognition for its significant contributions to the field, underscoring his commitment to advancing knowledge and research on Cuban history.

Several Senior Scholars and Postdoctoral Scholars attended international academic conferences in their respective fields.

Bryan Koronkiewicz, Senior Scholar at the Universidad de Murcia, was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Irish Association of Applied Linguistics Conference in Maynooth, Ireland.

Hayley Dunlop, Predoctoral Researcher at the L'Associació de Drets Sexuals I Reproductius in Barcelona, presented on her Fulbright research project at the 15th FIAPAC Conference: "Building the Case for Reproductive Choice".

Brian Keeling, Predoctoral Researcher at the Universidad de Alcalá, in Alcalá de Henares, was invited to take part in excavations at the Saint Césaire Neandertal site in France and at the Sierra de Atapuerca World Heritage Site in Spain along with other members of his research team at the Universidad de Alcalá.

b. Spanish Program

Dr. Antonio Soria Verdugo was officially appointed as a Full Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. In addition to his exemplary research career, Dr. Soria contributed to the prestigious Ministry of Universities Visiting Scholars Program at MIT in 2021, further enhancing his expertise and impact in his field. His appointment marks a significant milestone, reflecting his dedication to academic excellence and innovation.

Dr. Carlos Palazuelos, a Ministry-funded grantee, was officially appointed as a Full Professor of Mathematics at the Complutense University of Madrid. Dr. Palazuelos participated in the Ministry of Universities Visiting Scholars Program at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign further enhancing his expertise and contributions to his field.

Dr. Nuria Sanchez Coll, Ministry Visiting Scholar for 2023-2024 in the Biology Department at Duke University, was invited to the University of California, Davis. She delivered a seminar and held discussions with over 20 researchers in the Biology Department and Genome Science Program.

Dr. Maria Estibalitz Durand Cartagena, Ministry Visiting Scholar for 2023-2024 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, during her stay presented her lecture, "Old and New Results in First-Order Analysis on Metric Spaces," at the 2024 Spring Eastern Sectional Meeting held by the American Mathematical Society at Howard University in Washington, DC.

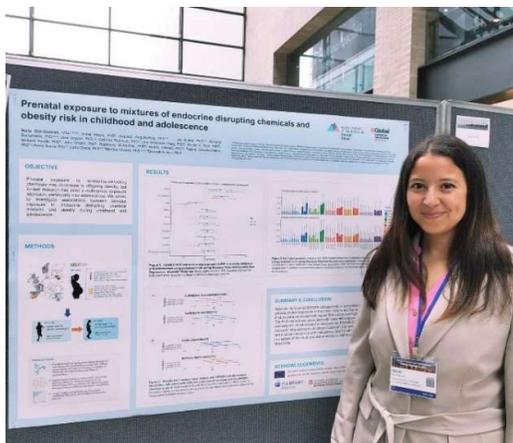
Dr. Alicia Laspra Rodríguez, Fulbright FASS (Summer Institutes for University Professors Development) in 1994 at New York University, was elected as a new full member of the Royal Institute of Asturian Studies (Real Instituto de Estudios Asturianos).



Montserrat Hermosín Álvarez, 2019 Fulbright scholar, was [named to the Technical Cabinet of the Supreme Court in July 2024](#).

Montserrat is a professor of Financial and Tax Law at the Pablo de Olavide University in Sevilla. She will be appointed to lawyer in the Technical Cabinet of the Supreme Court, and assigned to the Contentious-Administrative Chamber. Hermosín has significantly contributed to the field of Law and has established herself as a key figure in the legal world.

Former Fulbrighter, **Álex Lora Arrasa** was given the honor to have his short film *La Gran Obra* ("The Masterpiece") named winner of one of the 2024 Sundance Film Festival Awards. This short film had already caught the attention of many by winning The Grand Jury Prize at the festival. Not only does this cement the film's place as a must-see work, but it also is up for a nomination at the 2024 Oscars. "The Masterpiece" is a short film that explores the complexities of social hierarchy and wealth accumulation through a black comedy narrative.



2023-2024 Fulbright predoctoral researcher **Nuria Güil-Oumrait** undertook investigation at Mount Sinai, New York. Her research employs new statistical methods to study how early exposure to chemical mixtures affects obesity and health outcomes in children and teenagers from the Spanish INMA study and other European birth cohorts in the HELIX and ATHLETE projects. These efforts did not go unnoticed by big news companies like CNN, [who recently just published her study on how toxic chemical exposure during pregnancy can lead to health issues](#).

María Sánchez Díez, a journalist for The York Times, and former Fulbrighter, was invited to write for the [90th Anniversary edition of Hoy](#) to share her ideas and vision regarding the changes in journalism that Artificial Intelligence has caused.

María shares her experience in the transition from traditional to digital media and highlights the importance of up-and-coming sources of information such as podcasts and newsletters to reconnect with audiences and regain faith in journalism.



Among the winners of the [2023 National Research Awards](#), there were 5 Spanish Fulbrighters: **Francisco Javier Llorca Martínez**, in the category of Engineering and Architecture; **Ángel Rubio Secades** in the category of Physics and Earth Science; **Javier García Martínez**, in the category of Transfer of Technology; **José López Barneo**, in the category of Biology; and **Marta Martínez Sanz**, in the category of Natural Resource Sciences.

2022 Fulbright predoctoral researcher, **Luis Lopez Carrasco** was given the prestigious [Herralde Award for his debut novel *The White Desert \(El Desierto Blanco\)*](#). This award made him the 41st person to win this prize in history.





Núria Gendrau Sanclemente, a 2023 predoctoral researcher, was included in this year's (2024) Spain Nova 111 list in the category of Research and Academia. The Nova 111 list includes the 111 professionals under 35 years of age with the most potential from all over the country, from all disciplines. She was given the award in the "Research and Academia" category for her research on high-grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) and its particular mode of spread via tumorspheres.

IV. SOCIAL / PROFESSIONAL MEDIA



V. EDUCATIONAL ADVISING

According to Open Doors, in the 2022-2023 academic year a record number of 8,548 students from Spain were studying in the United States a 4.7% increase from the previous academic year, demonstrating the continuing growing interest in the U.S. as a study destination. Spain is the number 21 place of origin worldwide, and number 5 place of origin for among European countries, for students studying in the United States.

1. OUTREACH

EducationUSA Spain held two recruitment fairs: a U.S. LL.M. Fair in November and a U.S. College & University Fair in September. The LL.M. Fair, part of the EducationUSA Europe LL.M. Tour, was held at the Madrid Bar Association and saw the participation of 21 U.S. Law Schools. The annual U.S. College & University Fair, part of the Western Europe Fall Fair Circuit, saw the participation of 20 U.S. H.E.I.s (2 of which were community colleges) and a record number of 450 attendees.



EducationUSA College & University Fair
September 2024

Advisers also conducted numerous virtual and in-person presentations to public and private high schools throughout Spain and participated in their school fairs where there they spoke to students, personnel and families about studying in the U.S. and the Competitive College Club program, as well as to Spanish universities regarding U.S. study. They also worked with high school counselors to provide them with knowledge on the U.S. higher education system and filling out U.S. university applications. Finally, advisers participated in numerous educational fairs across Spain, promoting and providing information on U.S. study and EducationUSA services.

2. IN-CENTER ADVISING

EducationUSA Spain continued to run its two-year cohort advising program: Competitive College Club (CCC) with its high school members gaining admission to top universities around the U.S. and 7 students enrolling for the fall.

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 U.S. H.E.I.s, to the public. Requests for information are met by email, phone and video-calls. Individual advising takes place regularly. In June, EducationUSA Spain, collaborated with U.S. Consular Services to participate in their Student Day at the Embassy and organized a virtual Pre-departure Orientation for students from Spain.

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 3,652 followers [Facebook](#), 2,452 followers on [X \(Twitter\)](#) and 444 followers on [LinkedIn](#) and 2,399 followers on [Instagram](#) and 434 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. Targeted email campaigns are also sent to contacts in the EducationUSA database which includes information on upcoming programming, scholarships and other relevant updates or opportunities.