



FULBRIGHT

Ireland-USA



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

FULBRIGHT COMMISSION IN IRELAND
IRELAND-UNITED STATES COMMISSION
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE



Dear Colleagues,

The Fulbright Financial Year FY19 (1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019) was a year of record numbers of Fulbright awardees, sustained increased funding, increased rigour, great alumni interactions and some fun along the way.

In 2018-2019, we offered 63 U.S. and Irish Fulbright student and scholar awards. This represents a 70% increase since 2010. We also hosted 5 U.S. Fulbright Specialist and 6 U.S. Fulbright Intercountry awardees. In respect to this increase, it is important to recognise our key sponsors, the U.S. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchange, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, our Irish Agency and Institution sponsors, and perhaps most notably Irish Higher Education Institutes.

In October 2018, I acted as discussant at a gender equality conference in the Royal Irish Academy, invited by recent alumni. This was a promising beginning for Commission contemplation, planning and actions around Diversity, Equality, Equity and Inclusion. Indeed much of our energy throughout the year directly or indirectly addressed all of these areas. Our 2019-2022 strategy is underpinned by our wish to embrace and offer a Fulbright programme that is prestigious and inclusive.

Our EducationUSA outreach has been bolstered from January 2019 with office space for the new EducationUSA Advising Centre kindly provided by Boston College in Dublin. Interested parties can book meetings through an online system.

Sara West joined the team as Executive Assistant in May 2019, bringing her own style of American vibrancy and professionalism and making an immediate positive impact.

This summer also saw the long awaited arrival of U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Edward F. Crawford. Shortly after, Ms Barbara Thomas took up the role of

Deputy Chief of Mission. Barbara is notably a Fulbright Alumni. We very much look forward to working with both.

A once in a lifetime (or in five years) opportunity was made available to the Commission in July, when current Fulbright awardees and alumni were invited to attend a very special Fulbright event on the 'The World' residential ship. This was courtesy of U.S. Fulbright Alumni Jack Pinkowski and his wife Monica. The memories and photos from that event will persist for some time.

Throughout the year, we worked closely with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) to capture the value that Fulbright and RCSI Fulbrighters bring. Under the guidance of RCSI Fulbright Ambassador Oran Kennedy, new awards e.g. a 4-year Fulbright & RCSI US PhD fellowship award, along with events, media and promotion were initiated and spanned the year, setting a path for continued future engagement.

The September 2019 launch of 'Fulbrighter', was an exciting development for Fulbright Alumni worldwide. This new networking platform enables the global Fulbright community to connect, network, engage and collaborate online. The full value of this project will be seen over the coming years. The Irish Commission will continue to invite Fulbrighters to register and use regularly.

Commission Chair Dr Sarah Ingle stepped down in September 2019. Her energy, enthusiasm and care for the Fulbright programme were always evident during her tenure. Professor Diane Negra will bring her considerable skills and drive to the Commission as the new Chair. We all look forward to working with her.

After several years of innovation and change, the Commission expects to consolidate and strengthen programmes and systems in the coming year.

Dr Dara Fitzgerald
Executive Director

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BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Mark Bosse

Deputy Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Dublin

Mr Michael Kirby

Senior Partner, Meehan Tully & Associates Ltd.

Professor Diane Negra (Chair)

Fulbright U.S. Alumna, Professor of Film Studies & Screen Culture, Head of Film Studies, UCD

Mr Kirk Wolcott

Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Dublin

Dr Anne Cleary

Fulbright Irish Alumna, Research Fellow in the Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD

Professor John Hegarty

Provost Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Sarah Ingle

Fulbright Irish Alumna, Secretary General of the Association of Consulting Engineers Ireland
Dr Thomas Wright
Fellow, Brookings Institution

Pictured opposite: Board Members, Dr Anne Cleary, Mr Michael Kirby, Professor John Hegarty, Ms Fiona Broderick (Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Observer), Dr Sarah Ingle and Professor Diane Negra at Iveagh House, Dublin



Dr Sarah Ingle

Outgoing Chair (September 2017--2019)

“By way of an introduction, in 1986 I graduated from DIT Bolton Street as the first woman to complete a BSc(Eng) in Production Engineering. I later completed my academic studies with a UCD Masters in Industrial Engineering and a PhD in Strategic Management from DCU. During my time in industry I worked as an industrial engineer with several multi-national companies in Ireland. My current full-time role is as Secretary General in the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI). Previous to this post I was Director of Quality Promotion in DCU, after undertaking lecturing and research in Entrepreneurship and New Enterprise Development at DCU’s Business School.

My Fulbright experience began in 2006, when I was presented with a Fulbright Scholar Award from DCU to Arizona State

University (ASU). In ASU I had a joint appointment between the School of Global Management and Leadership and

the WP Carey School of Business and travelled between two of its campuses to work. My research project was an examination of the funding and facilities available in the Phoenix Metropolitan area for start-up businesses as well as the associated incubation centres and related initiatives. My Fulbright status was a great advantage during my inspiring and productive time in ASU, given the esteem in which the award is held in the US. My husband and four children aged 3 – 13 accompanied me on the Fulbright journey, which was ultimately a transforming experience for us all, one that we still continue to draw from.

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland provides annual awards for Irish citizens to study, research, or teach in the US and for Americans to do the same here. Since its formation, over 2,000 postgraduate students, scholars and professionals have participated in the US/Ireland programme.”

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Pictured page 6: The River Shannon, Limerick - photo by U.S. Scholar Kerry Neville: Downtown Nashville - Fulbright seminar on American Country Music - photo by Fulbright Irish Awardee Sally McHugh; Pictured page 7: Fulbright Irish FLTA John Prendergast with global FLTAs at the University of Notre Dame; ; Ox Mountain Bogs Special Area of Conservation in Co. Sligo - photo by Fulbright U.S. Awardee Emily Toner



Professor Diane Negra

Current Chair (From September 2019)

“Having served as a member of the Board since 2015, I am honoured and delighted to now take up the role of Chair of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland. Following in the recent footsteps of Dr Sarah Ingle and Professor John Hegarty means that I inherit a well-ordered and steadily administered set of structures and policies that will enable smooth continuity in the Board’s oversight role.

This has been a busy and productive year for Fulbright with a slate of new awards, new strategies and new initiatives in tandem with (among others) the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Boston College. We have been pleased to take part in welcoming new U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Edward F. Crawford and Deputy Chief of Mission Barbara M. Thomas.

Fulbright’s global mission since its founding in 1946 has centred on the cultivation and transfer of expertise and knowledge in numerous fields. Its prestige derives from the values of intellectual excellence with which it has come to be associated and its reputation as an international exchange program of the highest calibre. In addition to adhering to this general template, Fulbright in Ireland undertakes its

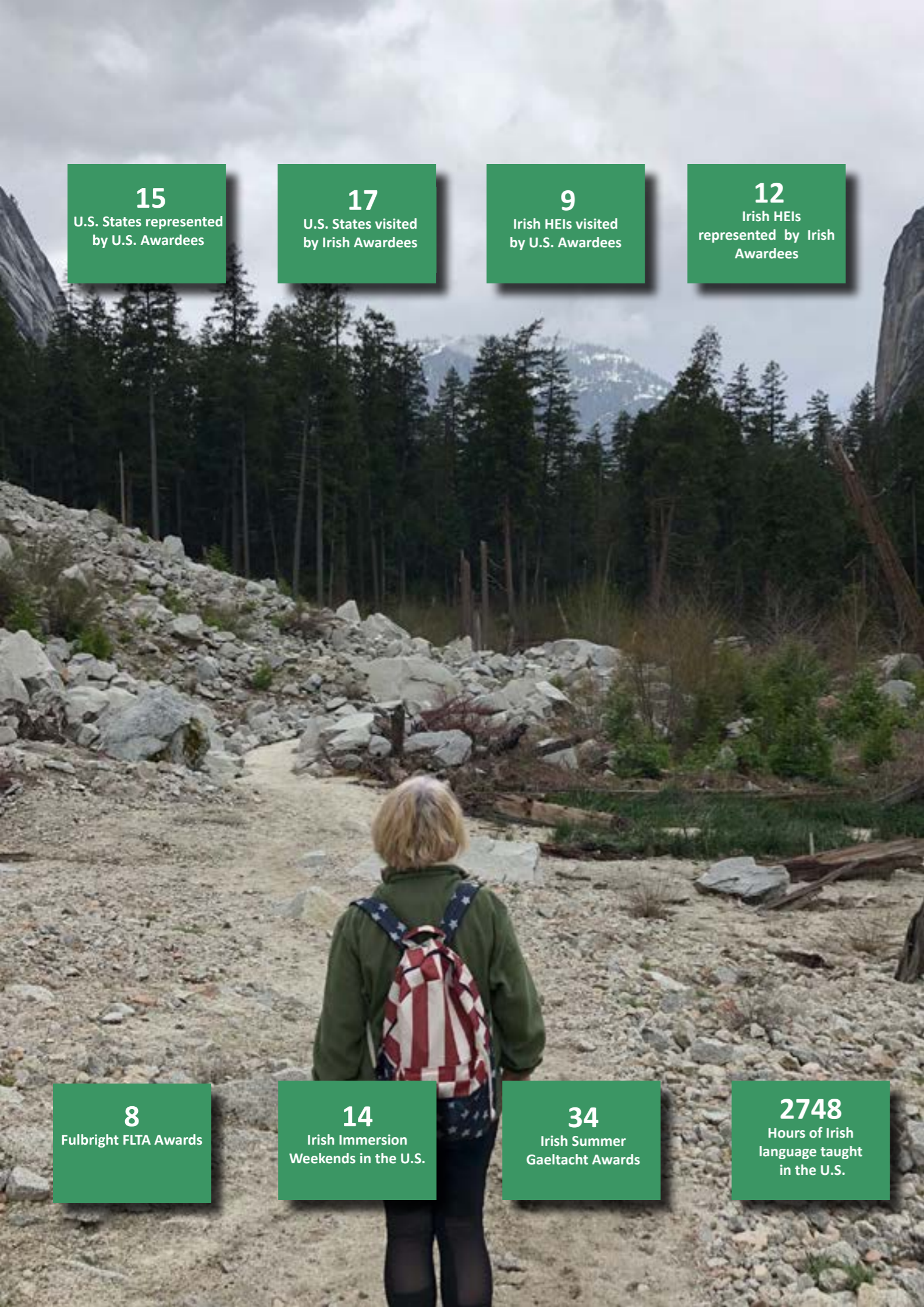
work mindful of the specific features that characterize the relationship between Ireland and the US both historically and in the current era. We note the ways in which Ireland’s place on the world stage and the nature of its relationship to the US is in active flux, as well as the manner in which historical diasporic ties are being revised and the notion of “Irish America” altered and expanded.

The processes of political, economic and cultural change re-writing the relationship between Ireland and the US underscore in a new way the value of deepening cross-cultural understanding and knowledge exchange. The importance of the Fulbright mission is clearly being renewed in such contexts and we look forward to the role Fulbright will continue to play in enhanced cultural comprehension, robust research development and the generation of tools for good governance and successful and socially contributory business ventures.

The Irish scholars whose awards permit them to spend time in the US and the American ones whose awards bring them to Ireland make contributions in numerous specific ways and foster vital new insights across academic disciplines and fields of endeavour. In this sense each of them is unique but as a group their common bond is the contribution they make to cross-fertilizing cultural understandings and affinities, renewing and updating the cherished connections between the two nations.

As we approach the end of this busy and fruitful year for Fulbright I would like to thank all those who have undertaken and supported the Commission’s work in 2019 – the reviewers whose knowledge is so instrumental in the selection process, the dedicated and hard-working Commission staff, the board members who give generously of their time and expertise and the US Department of State, the Irish Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. All are vital to ensuring the program’s continued success in Ireland.”





15
U.S. States represented
by U.S. Awardees

17
U.S. States visited
by Irish Awardees

9
Irish HEIs visited
by U.S. Awardees

12
Irish HEIs
represented by Irish
Awardees

8
Fulbright FLTA Awards

14
Irish Immersion
Weekends in the U.S.

34
Irish Summer
Gaeltacht Awards

2748
Hours of Irish
language taught
in the U.S.

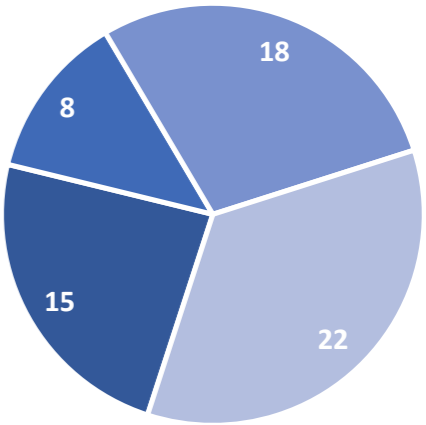
PROGRAMME STATISTICS 2018-2019

Fulbright Awardees



■ Irish Awardees ■ U.S. Awardees

Fulbright Awards



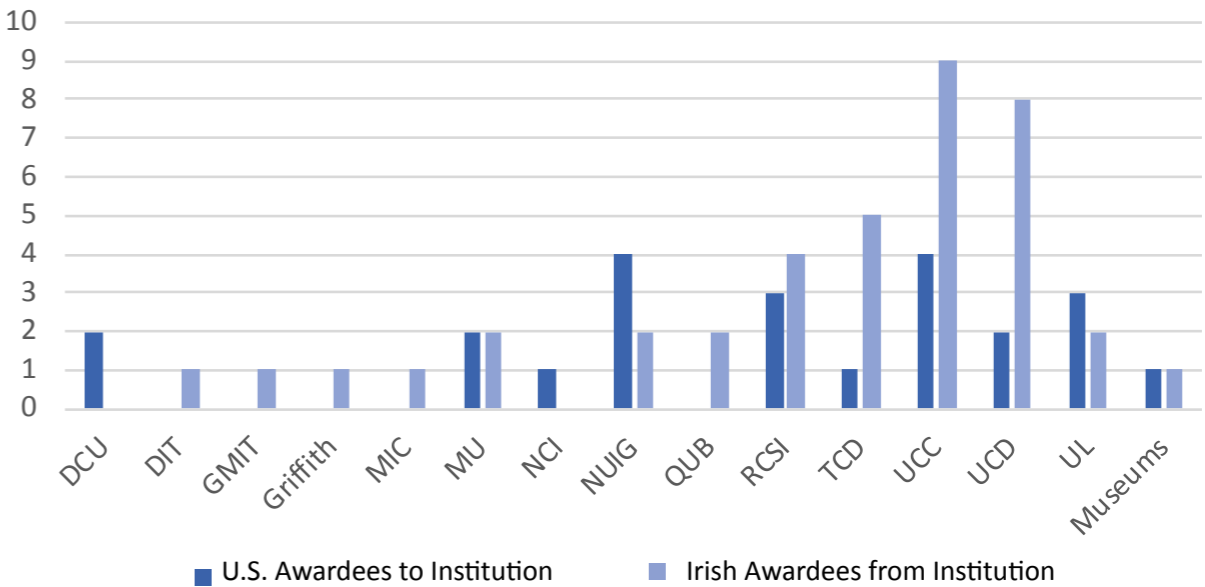
■ U.S. Students ■ Irish Scholars
■ U.S. Scholars ■ Irish Students

6
Fulbright
Intercountry
Awards

5
Fulbright U.S.
Specialists

1
Undergraduate
Summer Institutes
Awards

Fulbright Awards by Institution



Pictured left: Fulbright-Creative Ireland Fellow Sally McHugh Trailing through Yosemite National Park, California



FULBRIGHT IRISH AWARDEES 2018-19

FULBRIGHT IRISH STUDENT AWARDEES

Maurice Casey
Trinity College Dublin to
Stanford University

Patrick Egan
University College Cork (UCC) to
The Library of Congress

Elaine Enright
UCC to Purdue University, Indiana

Jasmine Headlam
National University of Ireland
Galway (NUIG), to University of
Hawaii, Manoa
Sponsor: Marine Institute

Roisin Hyde
Queens University Belfast (QUB)
to the University of North
Carolina Charlotte
Sponsor: EPA

Gavin Kenny
Trinity College Dublin to Boise
State University Idaho
Sponsor: GSI

Laura Lovejoy
University College Cork to New
York University

Sally McHugh
NUIG to The Exploratorium
Sponsor: Creative Ireland

Ben Moore
University College Dublin (UCD)
to Stanford University
Sponsor: Enterprise Ireland

Lisa Murphy
UCC to the University of Illinois
Chicago

Shane O'Donnell
UCC to Harvard University
Sponsor: Teagasc

Fergal O'Shaughnessy
Royal College of Surgeons in
Ireland (RCSI) to Columbia Uni-
versity

David Stone
University College Dublin to The
Smithsonian
Sponsor: Creative Ireland

Alix Whelan
Trinity College Dublin to the
University of Texas at Austin
Sponsor: Enterprise Ireland

FULBRIGHT IRISH FLTAS

Rita Donnellan
Griffith College to Davidson Col-
lege, North Carolina

Pádraig McGongaile
QUB to Drew University

Jill McMahon
Trinity College Dublin to Elms
College, Chicopee

Kerron Ó Luain
QUB to Villanova University

Donncha Ó Murchú
UCD to the University of Mon-
tana

Art Ó Súilleabháin
University of Limerick (UL) to
Catholic University DC

Orla O'Connor
Mary Immaculate College to
Idaho State University

John Prendergast
UCC to the University of Notre
Dame

FULBRIGHT IRISH SCHOLARS

Paul Bolger
UCC to Duke, Cornell, Columbia
and Arizona State universities
Sponsor: EPA

Tanya Cassidy
Maynooth University (MU) to
MIT
Sponsor: HRB

Mary Corcoran
MU to Quinnipiac University
Sponsor: EPA

Michelle Cronin
UCC to UC Santa Cruz
Sponsor: Marine Institute

Aoife DeBrun
UCD to Northwestern University
Sponsor: HRB

Michelle Flood
RCSI to University of Texas
Sponsor: HRB
Judith Harford
UCD to Boston College
Cormac O'Brien
UCD to the University of South
Carolina in Columbia

Cian O'Leary
RCSI to UC San Diego
Sponsor: NUI

Olga Piskareva
RCSI to John Hopkins University
Sponsor: HRB

Michel Schellekens
UCC to Stanford University

TECHIMPACT SCHOLARS

Emer Gilmartin
Trinity College Dublin to Carnegie
Mellon University

Patrick Mannion
Galway Mayo Insitute of
Technology to Oregon State
University

Maria Moloney
UCD to Maryland University

Rachel O'Dwyer
Trinity College Dublin to UC Irvine

FULBRIGHT U.S. AWARDEES 2018-19

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT AWARDEES

Madeleine Breshears
Bard College, New York to Trinity College
Dublin

Julia Brose
University of Missouri to University College
Dublin (UCD)

Derek Gaylon
University of Tennessee, Knoxville to Dublin
City University (DCU)

Kimberly Griffith
University in Southern California to Dublin
City Gallery, The Hugh Lane

Mary Hartong
Dartmouth College to University College
Cork (UCC)

Hailey Hughes
Marshall University in Huntington, WV to
to UCC

FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLARS

Brian Cross
East Tennessee State University to Royal
College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI)

Craig Crossley
University of Central Florida to DCU

Sally Decker
Saginaw Valley State University to RCSI

Anne Driscoll
To the National University of Ireland Gal-
way (NUIG)

Mark Ebell
University of Georgia to RCSI

David Fisher
Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN to
University of Limerick (UL)

Gary Gimmestad
Georgia Tech to the NUIG

Iris Junglas
Florida State University to Maynooth Uni-
versity (MU)

Miriam Leeser
Northeastern University to MU

Carolann Madden
Boston College to the NUIG

Meghan E. Marrero
Mercy College to National College of
Ireland

Georganne Nordstrom
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to the NUIG

Kerry Neville
Georgia College and State University to UL

Patrick A. Parenteau
Vermont Law School to UCC

Carlos Siqueira
University of Massachusetts Boston to UL

Beth Sundstrom
College of Charleston, South Carolina to
UCC

FULBRIGHT-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIGITAL STORYTELLING FELLOW

Emily Toner
University of Wisconsin to Ireland

FULBRIGHT U.S. SPECIALISTS

Larry Malone
Hartwick College to UCC

Stephen Morreale
Worcester State University to UL

Ed O'Shea
SUNY Oswego to Trinity College Dublin

Mark Weaver
University of South Alabama to
Technological University Dublin

Keith Williams
Penn State Hershey Childrens Hospital to
NUIG

FULBRIGHT U.S. INTER-COUNTRY AWARDEES



DR CARLOS SIQUEIRA

Dr Carlos Siqueira is an Associate Professor at the School for the Environment in the University of Massachusetts Boston. As a 2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Scholar he visited the University of Limerick.

“My Fulbright Award to the University of Limerick (UL) aimed at collaborating with Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf, a senior lecturer at the Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS), to research immigrant health in Ireland and create a new Master of Science in Public Health degree there. Dr Elmusharaf and I convened a series of meetings between April and June 2019 to discuss the format and the curriculum of the Master Program, which culminated with a curriculum design workshop, held in June. The workshop included representatives from UL, the Limerick Health Department, the Health Service Executive and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, among others.

“Thanks to the Fulbright Award, a new set of international activities and partnerships were set in motion”

Dr Elmusharaf and I established a solid partnership with Fulbright Ireland by collaborating with Dr Jean McCarthy, Lecturer at the Kemmy Business School and Fulbright Ambassador at UL. We discussed the creation of a Fulbright Scholar position at GEMS in 2020, new joint efforts between GEMS and the Kemmy School, and

new collaborative research on Brazilian immigration to Limerick. Thanks to the Fulbright Award, a new set of international activities and partnerships between faculty at UL, UMass Boston and colleagues from ABC Medical School, located in São Paulo were set in motion. This is a good example of how faculty exchanges contribute to the internationalization of all institutions involved.

“The Fulbright Award allowed me to develop new networks in Europe...”

My stay in Ireland taught me important cultural, political, historical, and social aspects of Ireland that I would not have learned in Massachusetts, despite the large presence of Irish descendants in the state. For example, I would not have known the long history of Irish civilization, the beautiful sites all over the country, the multi-ethnic mix of current Irish society, nor the large recent Brazilian immigration to Ireland.

The Fulbright Award allowed me to develop new networks in Europe and expand my horizons to take into account Irish and European public health research perspectives. I will continue to strengthen my relationships with UL by teaching in the Master program after September 2020 and conducting joint research with colleagues in Ireland, England, and Germany.

Last, but not least, I acquired a new taste for Irish gin, Irish Single Malt, and the landmark Guinness. See you soon Ireland!!!” (Pictured: Carlos with Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf at Dublin Castle Fulbright Awards Ceremony)



JOHN PRENDERGAST

John Prendergast is from Tra Li, Co. Chiarrai. He travelled to the University of Notre Dame to teach Irish and takes classes as a 2018-2019 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA).

“Being a Fulbright FLTA is so much more than simply instructing university classes in Gaeilge. It is to connect with communities, to enrich peoples’ lives, to act as a conduit between the exchange of cultures, traditions, languages and ideas, and to foster mutual understandings and inter-dialogue, while allowing yourself the freedom to absorb the culture you are in.

I instructed the Irish language at the University of Notre Dame. I also travelled to teach in Milwaukee, Madison, Kansas, Washington State and Indiana, and attended an enrichment conference in Washington DC. Furthermore, I took the opportunity to see places like New Orléans, Boston, Miami, Chicago and travel to México and Jamaica!

Is ionann tíortha difriúla, daoine difriúla, agus ansan cultúir difriúla. With different countries come different people and different cultures. Every state in America is like its own country: no two regions are the same. I feel like I am now much better equipped to adapt to different environments and situations. My confidence in lecturing and dealing with different styles of learners certainly improved too. New situations now seem more malleable, this is certainly due, in no small part, to my interactions with my cohort of Fulbright FLTAs from every conceivable

country worldwide.

One of the most rewarding personal achievements of my Fulbright award was founding Cumann Lúthcleas Gael Notre Dame. Growing from a simple puck around with 5 people, NDGAA became a fully fledged University-recognised Gaelic football and hurling team of men and women from all over the world. Acting as an Amabasadóir Cultúrtha and strengthening the growing Irish Language communities all over the Midwest and, indeed, the US, was immeasurably satisfying. The standard of Irish in Notre Dame blew me away. I am immensely proud to have taught in an institution where Irish is delivered as a natural, spoken and accessible language.

“Looking back, the year feels like exciting snapshots of a highlights reel that I have to remind myself is mine!”

When I applied for the Award, I certainly did not anticipate getting to listen to President Jimmy Carter speak, to shake hands with Superbowl winner and Manager of the San Francisco Niners John Lynch, to hear Senator Frances Black sing or even to get invited to a Kerry GAA Gala Dinner.

Looking back, the year feels like exciting snapshots of a highlights reel that I have to remind myself is mine! Naturally, the friends I’ve made, the experiences I’ve had and the doors Fulbright have opened for me have made my FLTA year one to remember.” (Pictured: John - bottom right - with the Cumann Lúthcleas Gael Notre Dame Team)



DR MICHELLE FLOOD

Dr Michelle Flood is a Lecturer in Pharmacy at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Her 2018-2019 Fulbright-HRB Irish Award to the University of Texas at Austin focused on human-centred design, medical education and health services research.

“My Fulbright brought me to the Design Institute for Health at Dell Medical School. There they use design to provoke every aspect of health systems to work better for people. Their unique approach harnesses the strength of design to solve complex problems in healthcare and improve the community’s health. They have embedded design into undergraduate medical education, offering a unique MA in Design dual-degree. As my interests in health services research and medical education overlapped, I was keenly aware of this pioneering work and delighted when they agreed to host me.

I was warmly by the team of health design specialists from diverse backgrounds including engineers, artists, developers and social scientists. My primary goal was to establish a longitudinal study to follow the first two cohorts of design-track medical students through their degree and into their intern year, ultimately aiming to understand the impact of design on their practice. I participated in other projects, including the Design Institute’s work on the Austin State Hospital Brain Health System Redesign. I met law enforcement officers, teachers, clinicians, advocates, policy-makers, funders, and others as the team sought to understand the priorities of stakeholders and map the existing ecosystem of care. This part of the

project provided me with an invaluable opportunity to understand the impact design-based approaches can have on large-scale health services reform.

Before my Fulbright, I had never been to Austin. I was delighted to meet Consul General Adrian Farrell and became good friends with him and Vice Consul Paul Breen during my time in Austin. I attended several events in the Consulate and brought Design Institute colleagues along to experience Irish culture. One of my favourite memories is carrying the Irish flag in the 2018 Austin Pride Parade where the Irish joined the Mexican Consulate staff and guests to march together. Many new friends hosted me in their homes and I took every opportunity to learn as much about the city, visiting museums, attending film screenings, public talks, football games and chatting with people as I walked around the beautiful city.

Since returning home, I have built on this experience in many ways. I developed a new module for pharmacy and interaction design students with the National College of Art and Design that won the inaugural RCSI Education Innovation Award in 2019. I received funding from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning to host a National Seminar Series event on the role of design in health and health professions education. I was awarded significant funding from Sláintecare for a design-based health services project aiming to improve community health. My Fulbright experience was invaluable from a personal and professional perspective, and I am grateful for the opportunity given to me by Fulbright and the Design Institute for Health, and for the support from RCSI. *(Pictured: Michelle working with students at a workshop in Dell Medical School)*



HAILEY HUGHES

2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Student Awardee Hailey Hughes is an essayist and disability rights activist. While in Ireland, she completed the MA in Creative Writing at UCC and engaged with disability communities in Cork to promote mutual understanding and self-advocacy skills.

“In the months leading up to my departure to live in Ireland, daydreams of green hills and standing on my ancestors’ land for the first time clouded my head. I had no real concept of Ireland other than what I gleaned from film, photographs, and clichéd stereotypes. My goal was to foster a sense of community with a wide variety of people, to understand the country and its people with more nuance. I set out to use my love of literature and storytelling to bring people together, to acknowledge and celebrate, not transcend, differences.

“These nights exposed me to beautiful, winding narrative poems and quaint haikus.”

I wish I could list all of what I learned, but there are several things that particularly enriched my experience. I joined a wonderful church, Cork Baptist, whose congregation embraced me from me from the beginning. During our Bible study meetings, we ate around a large kitchen table and joked with each other about cultural differences: they taught me about chicken fillet rolls, slang, and growing up in Cork. I found a spiritual home there: the congregation prayed with me, brought me medicine when I was sick, and a family brought me to their home during bank holiday

Mondays. I remember hiking out to a cliff overlooking the sea and eating a meal together with this family, earlier that day we played dominos and chopped ingredients for the meal. Every Monday night, I walked to the Long Valley pub to participate in *O Bheal*, a night of poetry led by local Cork poets. It was there that I read my poetry in front of an audience for the first time. These nights exposed me to beautiful, winding narrative poems and quaint haikus. I had never thought my poetry was worthy of reading in public until those Mondays when I read about growing up in Appalachia, or the pink flower on my windowsill in Cork.

“I fulfilled a life-long dream of experiencing Irish culture and promoting international relationships”

I traveled to different parts of the country with friends or solo: learned Irish history in a myriad of museums and art galleries. My roommates carved a turnip at Halloween (which led to me learn the Irish origins of the holiday) and taught me how to make a proper Tayto sandwich, among other important skills.

I reflect on my Fulbright experience and continue returning to the words peace and community. Through Fulbright, I earned a master’s degree, attended international conferences and learned so much about Ireland and myself, but that’s just a slice of my experience. Still, every day, I wake up knowing that I fulfilled a life-long dream to experience Irish culture and promote international relationships. My gratitude to Fulbright Ireland, for affording me this opportunity, knows no limits.” *(Pictured: Hailey at Blarney Gardens in Cork)*



DR PAUL BOLGER

Dr Paul Bolger is Manager of the Environmental Research Institute at UCC. His 2018-2019 Fulbright-EPA Irish Scholar Award investigated how interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research is being utilised at four sustainability research institutes.

“Our natural environment and earth systems face multiple unprecedented challenges including, but not limited to, the degradation of ecosystems, over exploitation of natural resources, and climate change. The complex nature of climate change in particular, and sustainability in general, presents a challenge for a university research system which is organised along the lines of traditional disciplines and knowledge, whilst the challenges of sustainability transcend sectors, boundaries, and disciplines.

My Fulbright scholarship investigated how collaborative and interdisciplinary research is being utilised at four U.S. environmental research institutes to achieve more impactful research outcomes addressing urgent and real challenges. I visited the Nicholas Institute at Duke University, the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the Julie Anne Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. These institutes encompass many academic disciplines and are strongly engaged with using inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches. The organisation of academic institutions into sophisticated academic disciplines system has led to remarkable scientific, technical, cultural, and societal progress. However, as both depth and breadth are

important for the progression of knowledge, the increasing compartmentalisation of science has become, in certain situations, an obstacle to the production of robust knowledge. Mainstream scientific methodologies can be poorly equipped to deal with complex sustainability problems. Steering society towards a more sustainable path requires a more transdisciplinary research approach where academics collaborate with practitioners and others outside of academia along with society at large to build legitimacy for proposed transition pathways.

“This scholarship was a transformative experience for me.”

I enjoyed meeting researchers at my host institutes and discussing the opportunities and challenges arising from the establishment and existence of research institutes within universities and how institutes can bring added-value to the academic mission of the university.

This scholarship was a transformative experience and learning opportunity for me. It has given me a renewed vision and wider perspective on how research institutes can act as catalysts for converting scientific knowledge to impactful actions for addressing environmental challenges. The capacity of institutes to integrate knowledge from different academic disciplines for solving complex problems has been underexploited and I hope to leverage these insights in my own role at UCC. It has also been a wonderful opportunity to hear and see first-hand what it is like for different socioeconomic groups to live in the U.S. in 2019.” (Pictured: Paul at Chimney Rock State Park in North Carolina)



EMER GILMARTIN

Emer Gilmartin is a Researcher at the ADAPT Centre, Trinity College Dublin. As a Fulbright-TechImpact Irish Scholar to Carnegie Mellon University, she developed language technology for refugees and migrants.

“I heard about the TechImpact programme thanks to the ADAPT Centre’s Sinéad Gorham. I was finishing my PhD on spoken dialog, after spending several years in language education and refugee language and integration support. With the Speech Communications Lab at Trinity, I’d been developing CARAMILLA, a language learning agent based on speech synthesis and recognition, to provide accessible online language and integration exercises for migrants.

Working with refugees and asylum seekers had made me very aware of the challenges faced in learning an unfamiliar language, while trying to adapt to life in a new country in very difficult financial circumstances. These language learners need resources available based on the language and cultural knowledge needed to live and work in a new country, which allow independent learning on computer, tablet, mobile phone, or ideally across several platforms.

Learning about speech technology reinforced my belief in the value of online resources, but these needed to be efficient, well designed, and suitable for the target learner group. Our lab was new to this area, and we needed expert help. Research into the use of such technology for language learning, and indeed speech technology in general, is well established in the US, and the Language Technologies Institute (LTI) at CMU Pittsburgh has been a

global leader in the field since the early days of speech synthesis and recognition. LTI’s Maxine Eskenazi kindly invited me to work with her group in Pittsburgh.

So, from September to December 2018, I was a very lucky migrant, adapting to my short term home, integrating our prototype with LTI’s DialCrowd system, to allow testing with real users worldwide. I worked with a team of academics, Post-Docs and PhD students, had discussions with people whose work I’d been following from afar on aspects of language technology I would never have considered, which sparked new ideas. I took classes in specialized areas of machine learning and statistical language processing and in distance education design and participated in the academic and social life of the lab. The work ethic and can-do attitude impressed me greatly

“The Fulbright TechImpact Award has been incredibly helpful in my research and development work..”

After coming home, the enthusiasm and refreshed thinking the Fulbright experience gave me has not diminished. I’m now working on systems for use by migrants, confidently applying for funding, and on a spin-out company to develop language learning applications. I’m also collaborating with a number of researchers in Pittsburgh on related projects.

The Fulbright TechImpact Award has been incredibly helpful in my research and development work, and I would encourage anybody to try it!” (Pictured: Emer (middle) with fellow Awardees Jasmine Headlam & Maurice Casey at the U.S. Ambassadors Residence in Dublin)



EMILY TONER

As a 2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellow, Emily Toner examine how policies to preserve peat bogs are impacting people and the soil in Ireland

“Rich, dark peat soil covers one-fifth of Ireland. Peat supports important wetland ecosystems and when drained, yields turf, a traditional source of fuel. As an energy source, peat has generated controversy in recent years because of the carbon released when bog soil is drained and burned. Globally, peatlands store twice the carbon of all forests and are a major concern for climate warming. With climate action becoming more urgent, bogs are a squishy meeting place where traditional Irish culture and contemporary environmental concerns swirl together. Within that swirl, I spent my Fulbright year looking for stories.

I combined my training as a geographer and journalist to research the significance of peat bogs. I spent my year finding people whose professional and personal lives intersect strongly with this subject and asked them to discuss their connection. People surprised me by generously giving me hours of their time. No matter how strange my questions seemed, they were up for a conversation. Among the 100+ people I interviewed were turf cutters, conservationists, artists, scientists, politicians, community members, and youth. I sat down with families to talk about turf stoves and met mothers whose sense of home is completed by a whiff of peat smoke. In contrast, I walked with restoration ecologists concerned about the

carbon cycle and a bog’s potential contribution to climate warming. I listened to artists explain how peatlands inspire their sculptures, baskets, poetry, and plays. I watched turf cutters slice peat from the bog and foot it with pride. I befriended community organizers passionate about saving their bit of peatland. From all this listening and observing, I published stories, photographs, and multimedia in a National Geographic blog and on social media. I published longer pieces about the significance of Irish bogs for climate change and cultural identity in The New York Times, Atlas Obscura, and Science Magazine.

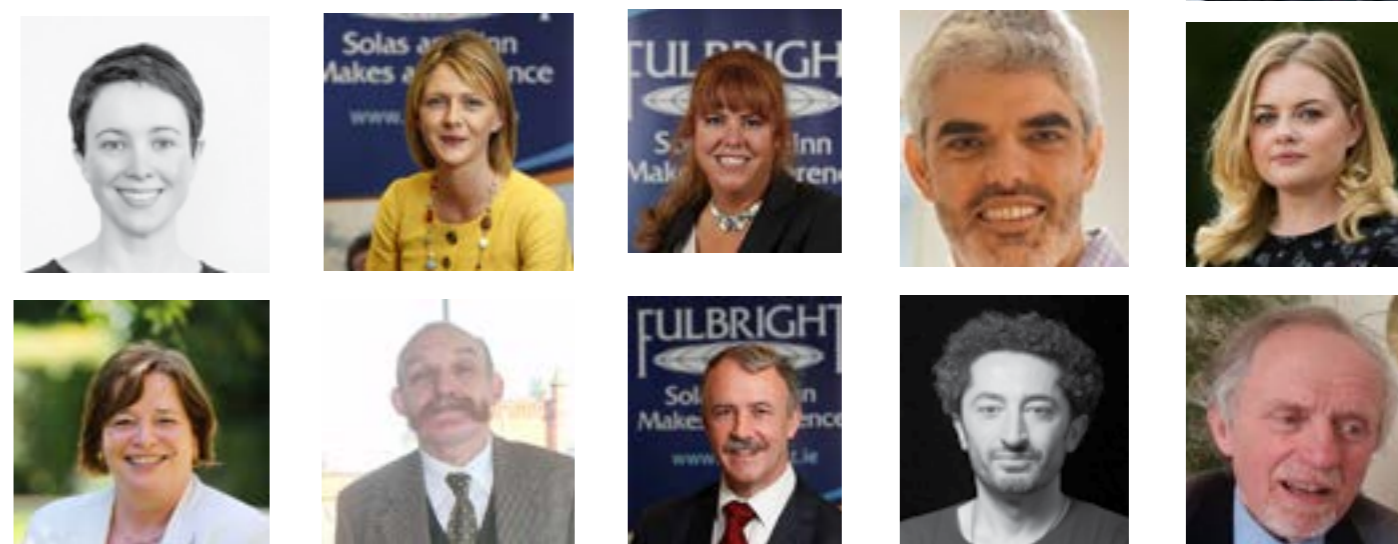
“My Fulbright experience was an opportunity to connect to a unique culture and landscape.”

In September 2018, my freshly purchased Wellies sunk into a bog for the first time. Over 12 months, I clocked more than 15,000 miles in a silver Golf that amassed bog souvenirs from 24 counties. Deep purple heather from Donegal, a ball of white shell marl from Offaly, a rainbow of sphagnum moss samples from Mayo. Along the way, I learned that everyone in Ireland has a bog story to tell, no matter the county.

My Fulbright experience was an opportunity to connect to a unique culture and landscape. I am indebted to the people who took time to answer my questions and thankful for their gracious acceptance of my infatuation with their beautiful bogs. The stories they told me will continue to influence my work as a geographer and writer far into the future.” (Pictured: Emily at Killaranny Bog in County Offaly, photo by Catherine Wilkie)



FULBRIGHT IRELAND ALUMNI AMBASSADORS



The Fulbright Ireland Alumni Ambassador Program was established in 2016 with the aim of providing on-campus support for Fulbright applicants across the country and giving the Fulbright programme wider visibility. There are currently 21 Ambassadors across Higher Education Institutions in Ireland. Pictured above from left to right:

Athlone Institute of Technology:

Dr Luke Geever

Carlow Institute of Technology:

Trina Rea

Cork Institute of Technology:

Nicholas O’Halloran

Dublin City University:

Dr Donal Fitzpatrick

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology:

Catherine West

Institute of Technology Sligo

Martin Roper

Limerick Institute of Technology:

Dr Daragh Naughton

Marino Institute of Education:

Madeleine Ní Ghallchobair

Mary Immaculate College:

Vicky Brady

Maynooth University:

Catherine Leen

National College of Art and Design

Dr Rachel O’Dwyer

National University of Ireland Galway:

Rita Melia / Mary McPartlan

Queen’s University Belfast:

Roisin Hyde

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland:

Dr Oran Kennedy

Trinity College Dublin:

Áine Ní Shúilleabháin

Technological University Dublin:

Dr Liz O’Sullivan

Ulster University:

Art Hughes

University College Cork:

Professor Colin Bradley

University College Dublin:

Francesco Pilla

University of Limerick:

Dr Jean McCarthy

Waterford Institute of Technology:

Dr Anne Graham Cagney

At Large - Creative Writing:

Kevin Kiely



PHOTO COMPETITION

Each year, the Fulbright Commission in Ireland encourages current Fulbright Awardees to enter its Photo Competition. Open annually from February to July, high resolution photos of Awardees engaging with their Fulbright work or enjoying cultural activities in their host country are particularly welcomed.

The 2019 Photo Competition Winner was Dr Michelle Flood. Dozens of spectacular photos from other Irish and US. Awardees were submitted, many of the shortlisted shots have been included in this Report. (Left: San Fran, photo by Sally McHugh)

NEW FULBRIGHT RCSI AWARDS

In May 2019, the Fulbright Commission in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) announced two four-year, fully funded scholarships for U.S. candidates to complete PhDs at RCSI in Dublin.

The Awards aim to advance early research careers, foster transAtlantic connections and encourage innovative research project. (Right: Dr Dara Fitzgerald and Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at RCSI)



Pictured page 22: Sunny Day in San Fran - photo by Fulbr Irish FLTA Jill McMahon; Fulbright Irish Student Awardee Andrew Mooney at his Fulbright host organisation, San Diego Zoo

THE WORLD ALUMNI EVENT

In July, 'The World' docked in Dublin Port and lent its spectacular surrounds to a special event for Fulbright Awardees. World Resident, Jack Pinkowski undertook a Fulbright Scholarship from the U.S. to Dublin in 2012. He and his wife Monica generously hosted a reception for Fulbright Awardees aboard the yacht.

This was followed by a recital from accomplished cellist and Fulbright Irish Alumnus Gerald Peregrine, accompanied by pianist Antony Ingham. The programme featured pieces from Peregrine's first international solo debut recording "Folk Tales", a collection of Irish and British composers from the early 20th century.



FULBRIGHT REBRAND

Fulbright rebranded globally in 2019. The motivation behind this, was to visually represent international educational and cultural exchange, a global network, lasting connections and a complex and changing world.

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland has adapted the global logo to reflect this message, while differentiating the Irish Commission to appeal to Irish and U.S. audiences. The Commission now has a number of new branded products.



Pictured page 23: 2018-2019 Fulbright Irish Awardees at The U.S. Ambassador's Reception; by Fulbright US Scholar Kerry Neville)

DIVERSITY TRAINING

The European Fulbright Diversity Initiative (EFDI) was founded in May 2018 to address the complex dimensions of diversity within the Fulbright realm.

In the Autumn 2019, the Commission in Ireland welcomed EFDI colleagues Susanne Hamscha (Diversity Coordinator) and Courtney Moffett-Bateau (Diversity Liaison) to Dublin to discuss how diversity, inclusion and equity can be enhanced within the Fulbright lifecycle. (Pictured: Susanne & Courtney with the Fulbright Ireland Team)





SUSI AWARDS

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for European Student Leaders are highly competitive, short-term, academic programs that provide undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the U.S. and enhance leadership skills.

Matthew McCarthy from Crawford College was the successful Irish SUSI Awardee in 2019. He undertook a 5-week Institute on Civic Engagement at the University of South Carolina. (Pictured: 2019 SUSIs Awardees)

EDUCATIONUSA

EducationUSA is Ireland's only official information source on studying in the U.S. Supported by the U.S. Department of State and managed by the Commission, EducationUSA aims to provide accurate and unbiased information about accredited higher education institutions in the U.S.

In January 2019, the EducationUSA Advising Centre in Boston College, St Stephen's Green opened. This Centre provides an opportunity for students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors in Ireland to meet with the EducationUSA Advisor in person.



GAELTACHT AWARDS

The Commission manages the Summer Gaeltacht Awards, providing grants for U.S. citizens who are Irish Language learners or teachers. Recipients spend 2-6 weeks studying the Irish language in the Gaeltacht regions of Ireland.

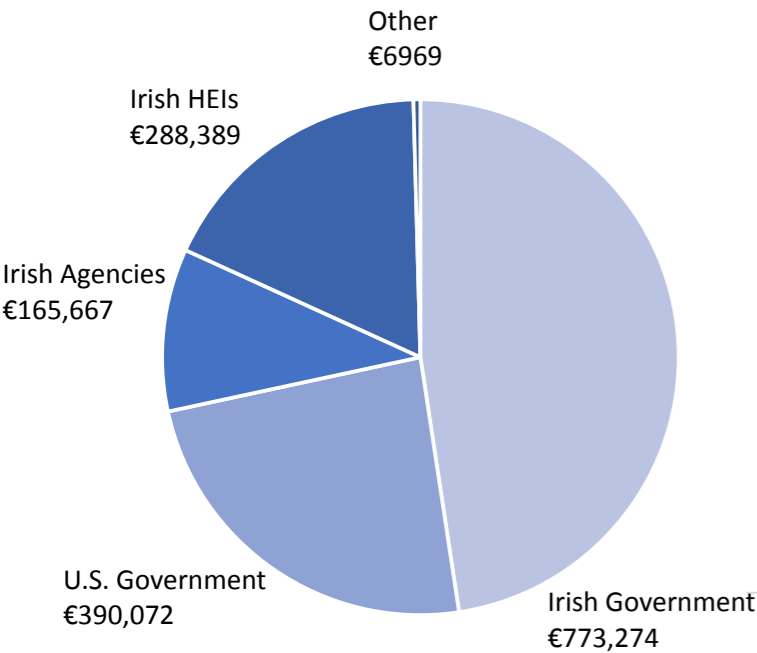
In 2019, thirty-five Awardees were welcomed to Ireland. These grants are sponsored by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Lottery of Ireland, and the Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange.

Partners & Friends

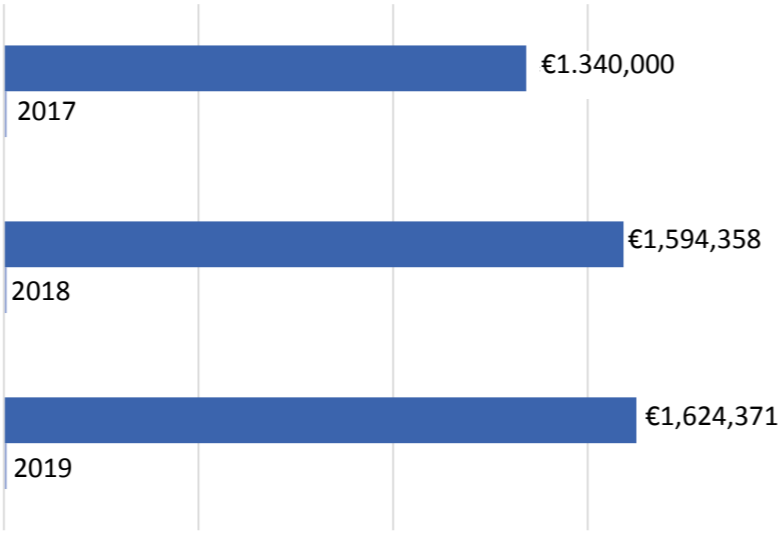


FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-2019

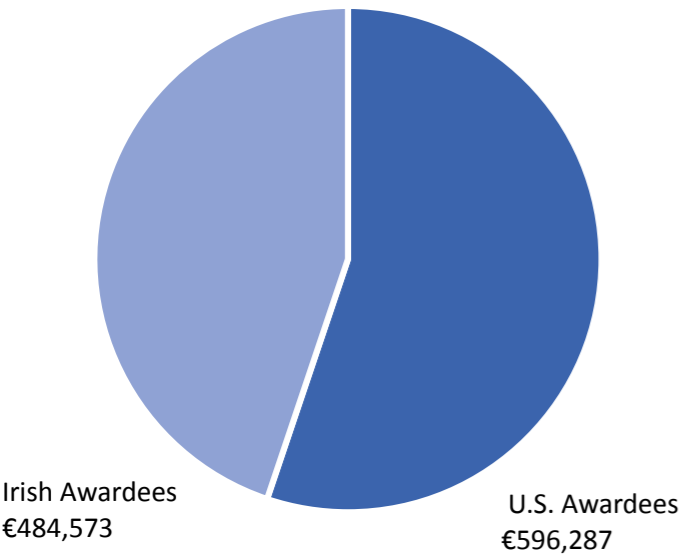
Annual Income



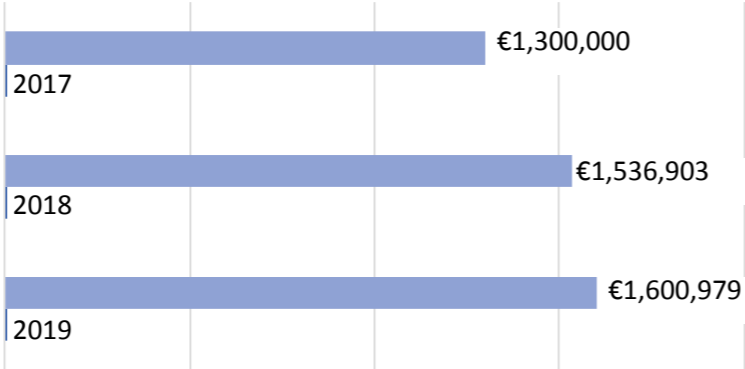
Annual Income



Scholarships



Annual Expenditure 2019



FULBRIGHT IRELAND TEAM

Paula Melvin, Awards Manager
Emma Loughney, Communications Manager
Dr Dara Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Sonya McGuinness, Senior Awards Manager
Sara West, Executive Assistant

Pictured (L-R):
Paula Melvin
Emma Loughney
Dr Dara Fitzgerald
Sonya McGuinness
Sara West



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FULBRIGHT

Ireland-USA

“Of all the joint ventures in which we might engage, the most productive, in my view, is educational exchange. I have always had great difficulty-since the initiation of the Fulbright scholarships in 1946-in trying to find the words that would persuasively explain that educational exchange is not merely one of those nice but marginal activities in which we engage in international affairs, but rather, from the standpoint of future world peace and order, probably the most important and potentially rewarding of our foreign-policy activities.”

SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

[From From The Price of Empire, 1967]