



Solas an léinn
Makes a difference



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Dear Colleagues,

The Fulbright Award and Financial year FY17 - October 1st 2016 to September 30th 2017, represented a year of celebrations, outreach and ongoing improvements. The addition of new awards was matched with increases in award numbers, awardee interactions and Commission profile. From December 2016 new award sponsors included the U.S. Smithsonian Institutions, the Harry Ransom Center and the Exploratorium. Along with recently established Awards with the Hugh Lane Gallery, Science Foundation Ireland's INFANT & AMBER centres, and the Health Research Board, they provided a new level of diversity in opportunities. Successful Irish and US applicants covered a broad range of disciplines, coming from a diversity of backgrounds.

My visit to Department of State/ECA in Washington DC in November 2016 cemented the relationship between the Commission and U.S. colleagues and provided a platform for new ideas. We took part in Fulbright 70 celebrations hosted by the U.S. Fulbright Alumni Association and the U.S. Department of State (ECA), and then in New York attended the Fulbright U.S. Students panel selections at the Institute of International Education and met with colleagues from nine Institutions including MoMa, Columbia and the New School.

November was a busy month as we hosted the 2-day Dublin leg of EducationUSA's European LLM roadshow. Representatives from 19 U.S. Law Schools were welcomed to a student fair and reception kindly hosted by William Fry Solicitors. That month, the Commission also hosted an enchanting Fulbright 70 celebration in association with the Irish Alumni Association at the Hugh Lane Gallery. It was a special night for the myriad of Fulbright attendees from the last 60 years. Outgoing U.S. Ambassador, Kevin O'Malley, spoke passionately about the Fulbright program, its impacts and the sense of belonging it has created both in the U.S. and Ireland.

In the new year it became abundantly clear that Irish Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors were having a huge impact on the reach, engagement and knowledge of Fulbright in Irish Institutions. At Award interviews, candidates cited time and again the value of input from their own Institutional Fulbright Ambassadors. We are proud of this success and extremely grateful to the eighteen superb ambassadors who give their time and energy so freely.

In February we launched a special competition focusing on students at Irish Art and Design schools. The winner of the Fulbright Engage Video Competition was IADT undergraduate



student, Gary Boyd. His winning proposal "Across the Water" showcases the heart and soul of Fulbright. Since the video launched, it has received praise from many corners of the world and can now be seen on the Fulbright Ireland website.

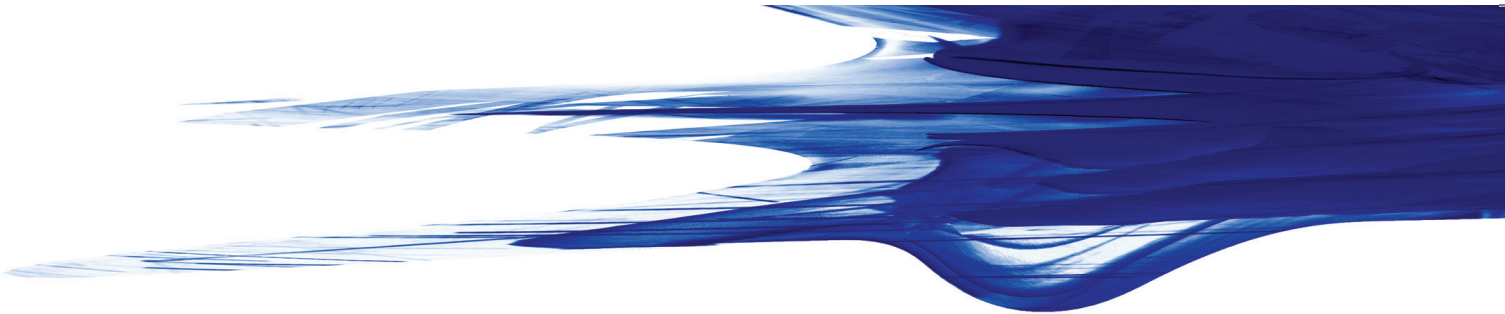
The annual meeting of European Fulbright Commission Executive Directors was held in Rome in April 2017. Representatives from the U.S. Department of State/ECA joined us for innovative macro and micro discussions, each of us headed home with much to consider and implement. This meeting created a wonderful platform to discuss, share and strategise at a European and national level.

Fulbright Irish Awards promotion was augmented during the year through Institution roadshows and webinars. This represented a change in operations to support longer timeframes for applicant uptake, deliberation and engagement. The launch of our new website allowed us to further improve communications enhancing Awardees and Alumni visibility, and making information easier to navigate and more accessible on mobile devices. Feedback to-date has been extremely positive.

In June 2017, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted the Fulbright Irish Awards Ceremony in Iveagh House. For the Team and Board this represented the culmination of a long and fruitful process. For new Fulbrighters, it was a wonderful welcome and glimpse into the beginning of their lives with Fulbright.

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland is a vibrant, complex and highly respected organisation, supported by energetic and dedicated staff and board members. The level of dedication during 2016-2017 has seen achievement of targets and continuation of the Fulbright mission, which will serve to underpin Commission activities in 2017-2018.

Dr Dara Fitzgerald
Executive Director



CONTENTS

Message from the Chair.....	4
Board Members.....	5
Programme Statistics.....	6
2016-2017 Fulbright Irish Awardees.....	8
2016-2017 Fulbright U.S. Awardees.....	9
Fulbright Experiences.....	10
Fulbright Ireland News.....	16
Fulbright Ireland Alumni Ambassadors.....	18
EducationUSA & the Irish Language.....	20
Partners & Friends.....	21
Financials.....	22
Fulbright Ireland Team.....	23



Dr Sarah Ingle

Chair of the Board

"In June 2017, I was honoured to be appointed Chair of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland. It is a privilege to undertake this role in contributing to the successful and highly sought after Fulbright educational exchange programme, now sixty years in Ireland. The concept of a Fulbright award providing the ability to metaphorically open doors; develop relationships; create avenues for mutual understanding; and share ideas; is a powerful image, and one that I can personally attest to.

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 concept of a Fulbright award providing the ability to metaphorically open doors; develop relationships; create avenues for mutual understanding; and share ideas; is a powerful image..."

On my return to Ireland I was invited to join the voluntary Board of the Irish Fulbright Alumni Association which proved to be immensely rewarding and allowed me to contribute in many ways to the Fulbright community in Ireland. Following roles as Membership Secretary and Vice-President it was an honour to be elected IFAA President for a two year period and during my tenure represent the IFAA at national and international fora. In 2014 I then had the honour of being nominated as a Board member of the Fulbright Commission by Tanáiste Eamon Gilmore, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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. The Commission is a bilateral partnership supported by the U.S. Department of State and the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Its funding is derived from Irish and U.S. governments, higher education institutions, public agencies, organisations and donations. The Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht also supports its Irish language awards and related activities.

The Commission is governed by an eight-person Board. Four appointed by the Irish Government, including outgoing Chair, Professor John Hegarty and four by the US Embassy in Ireland. There are also five highly committed staff members including Executive Director, Dara Fitzgerald. As Chair of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland, I engage with the Commission staff and Board members to support and promote the Commission's programmes and outreach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their work on behalf of the Commission. It is an honour to undertake this leadership role, as Chair, to help further the Fulbright mission in Ireland."



BOARD MEMBERS

U.S. Members

Mr Kirk Wolcott

Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Dublin

Mr Mark Bosse

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

Prof. Diane Negra

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

Mr Michael Kirby

Senior Partner, Meehan Tully & Associates Ltd.

Irish Members

Dr Sarah Ingle

Fulbright Irish Alumna, Secretary General of the Association of Consulting Engineers Ireland

Dr Anne Cleary

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

Prof. John Hegarty

Provost Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Thomas Wright

Fellow, Brookings Institution

Professor John Hegarty Outgoing Chair of the Board 2015-2017

“This past summer I stepped down as Chair of the Irish Fulbright Commission but remained a member of the Board. In my two years as Chair, I witnessed the renewed relevance of Senator Fulbright’s vision for the present time when international relations became a hot topic with ominous fracturing forces such as Brexit in the EU, Catalonia in Spain, and reemergence of cold war symptoms.

One of the factors responsible and a consequence is the breakdown of mutual understanding and trust. The Fulbright mission of increasing understanding between the U.S. and other countries by educational exchange is needed now more than ever and other countries could well contemplate a similar initiative.

“The Fulbright mission of increasing understanding between the US and other countries by educational exchange is needed now more than ever...”

There was a great sense of satisfaction for me to see the continued interest by Irish students and scholars spending time in the U.S. and the reverse for US students and scholars. The reality of how these experiences change lives was palpable in each awardee. There was added satisfaction for me as former



Provost/President of Trinity College to witness the power of education in action as an integrative international force. Having spent time ten years earlier carrying out research in the US, involvement with Fulbright brought back very happy memories.

I wish to thank my fellow Board members for the enthusiastic commitment to a great cause. I wish my successor as Chair, Sarah Ingle success and satisfaction during her term and I thank Director Dara Fitzgerald and his predecessor, Colleen Dube, and the Fulbright team for their dedicated work. Finally, the Irish and US Governments contribute generously to the programme and I sincerely hope this continues for a long time.”

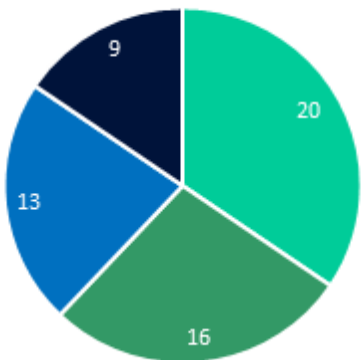
PROGRAMME STATISTICS

Fulbright Awardees



■ Irish ■ US

Fulbright Awards



■ Irish Students ■ Irish Scholars
■ US Students ■ US Scholars

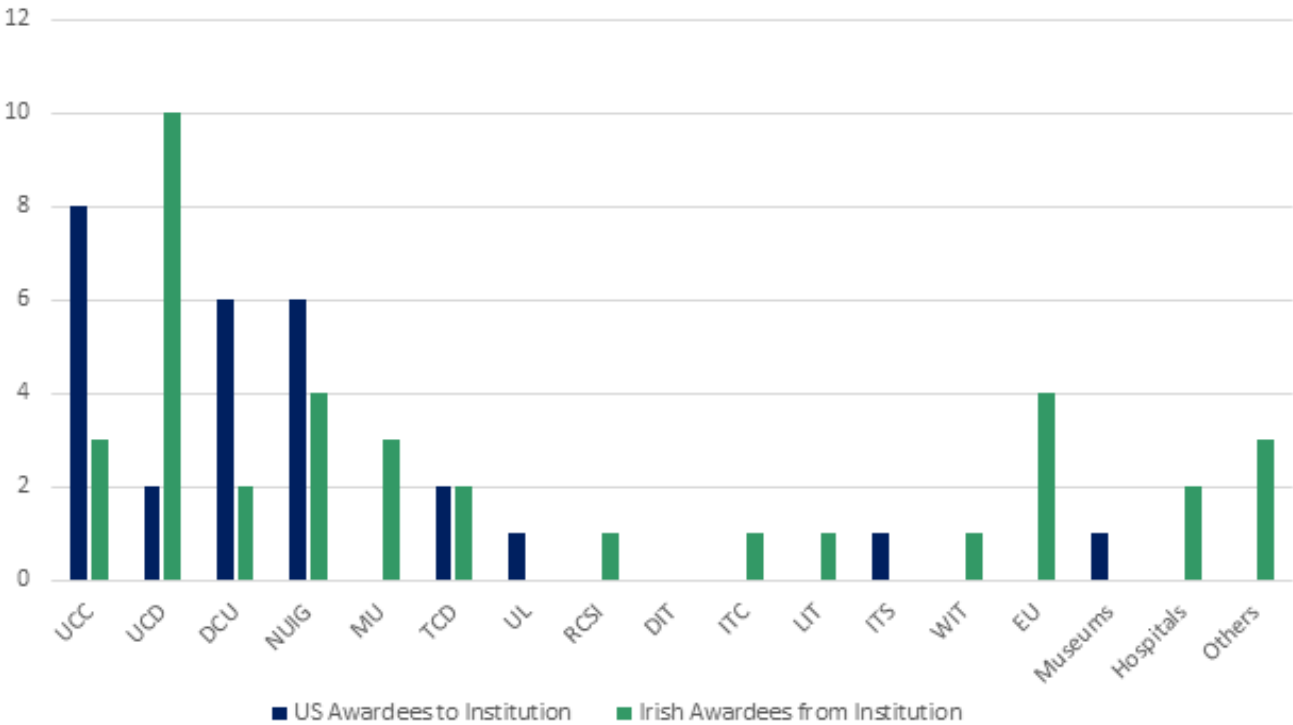
14
U.S. States
represented by U.S.
Awardees

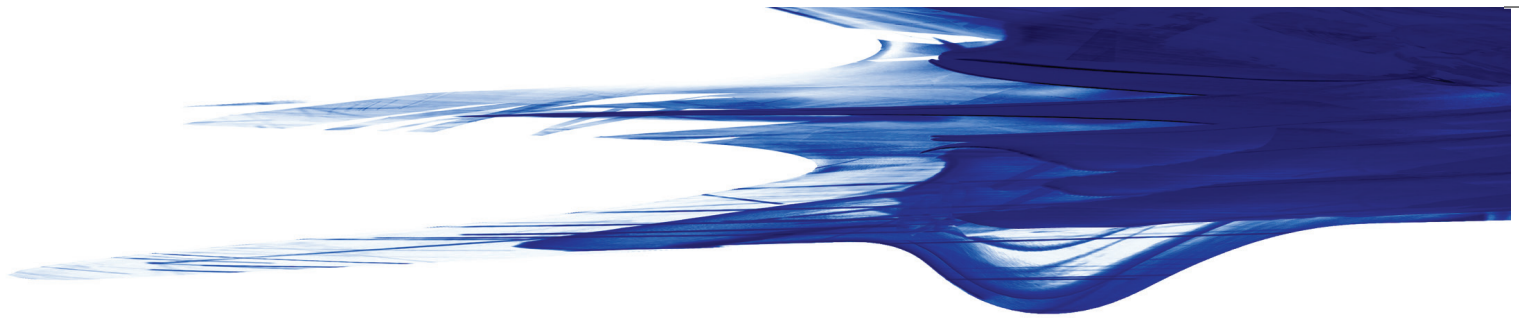
18
U.S. States visited
by Irish Awardees

8
Irish HEIs visited
by U.S. Awardees

11
Irish HEIs
represented by Irish
Awardees

Fulbright Awards by Irish Institution





8
Fulbright FLTA
Awards

15
Irish Immersion
Weekends in the U.S.

43
Irish Summer
Gaeltacht Awards

2020
Hours of Irish
language taught
in the U.S.



1
Fulbright Global
Scholar Award

2
Fulbright
Schuman Awards

3
Fulbright
Intercountry Awards

5
Fulbright U.S.
Specialists



FULBRIGHT IRISH AWARDEES 2016-17

Dr Eva Barrett

Fulbright Schuman Scholar,
Maynooth University to
Columbia University

Vicky Brady

Fulbright FLTA, Mary Immaculate
College to Villanova University,
Philadelphia

John Brown

Fulbright Student, Maynooth
University to Tulane University,
New Orleans

Dr Linda Buckley

Fulbright Scholar, Trinity College
Dublin to New York University

Ian Corless

Fulbright FLTA, National
University of Ireland Galway to
Catholic University of America,
D.C.

Ruth Cormican

Fulbright Student, National
University of Ireland Galway to
University of Notre Dame

Michael Dawson

Fulbright Student, University
of Limerick to University of
Southern California

Ronan Doorley

Fulbright-EPA Scholar, Trinity
College Dublin to MIT

Jason Finnerty

Fulbright FLTA, National
University of Ireland Galway to
Davidson County Community
College, North Carolina

Dr Jennifer Goff

Fulbright Scholar, National
Museum Ireland to Columbia
University & New York School of
Interior Design

Dr Ciara Greene

Fulbright Scholar, University
College Dublin to Harvard
University

Rosemary Hennigan

Fulbright-Penn Law Student,
Trinity College Dublin to
University of Pennsylvania

Dr Andrew Jackson

Fulbright-MI Scholar, Trinity
College Dublin to University of
California San Diego

Eimear Kennedy

Fulbright FLTA, Queen's
University of Belfast to Drew
University & New York University

Dr Helen Lewis

Fulbright-GSI Scholar, University
College Dublin to University of
Washington

Eoin Mac Réamoinn

Fulbright Student,
Queen's University Belfast to
Columbia University

Ciara Mc Grath

Fulbright Schuman Student,
Maynooth University to MIT

Dr Daniel McCrum

Fulbright-CRH Irish Scholar
University of Strathclyde to
University of California, L.A.

Dr Kate McDonnell-Dowling

Fulbright Scholar, National
University of Ireland Galway to
Tufts University, Boston

Dr Conor Meade

Fulbright-EPA Scholar, National
University of Ireland Galway to
University of Colorado

Ruth Melia

Fulbright TechImpact Scholar,
University College Dublin to
Stanford University

Dr Rita Melia

Fulbright-NUI Student, Trinity
College Dublin to Harvard
Graduate School

Nicola Mountford

Fulbright TechImpact Scholar,
University College Dublin to the
New York eHealth Collaborative

Eamonn Mulholland

Fulbright Student, National
University of Ireland Galway to
University College of California,
Davis

Anna Ní Choirbín

Fulbright FLTA, Mary Immaculate
College to Elms College,
Chicopee

Siobhan Ní Mhuimhneacháin

Fulbright FLTA, National
University of Ireland Galway to
University of Notre Dame

Áine Ní Shuilleabháin

Fulbright FLTA, University
of Limerick to Idaho State
University

Niamh Nic Leoid

Fulbright FLTA, Trinity
College Dublin to University of
Connecticut

Dr Catherine O'Rourke

Fulbright Scholar, Ulster
University to University of
Minnesota

Michael Paye

Fulbright-NUI Student, University
College Dublin to Princeton

Dr Anthony Quinn

Fulbright Scholar, Trinity College
Dublin to UC Berkeley

Dr Saskia Ryan

Fulbright-GSI Student, Trinity
College Dublin to Harvard

Tadhg Ryan Charleton

Fulbright-NUI Student, National
University of Ireland Galway to
Virginia Tech

Dr Mark Scanlon

Fulbright TechImpact Scholar,
National University of Ireland
Galway to Purdue University

Patrick John Sheehan

Fulbright FLTA, University College
Dublin to University of Montana

Rosa Shine

Fulbright-NUI Student, National
University of Ireland Galway to
MIT

Sylvia Soldatou

Fulbright-MI Student, National
University of Ireland Galway to
University of South Florida

FULBRIGHT U.S. AWARDEES 2016-17

Elisa Alonzi

Fulbright Student, Arizona State University to University College Cork

Paul Asta

Fulbright Student, Indiana University of Bloomington to University College Cork

Emma Austin

Fulbright-Uversity Student, University of California to University College Cork

Dr Teresa Bramlette Reeves

Fulbright Scholar, Zuckerman Museum of Art to Irish Museum of Modern Art

Cara Cavanaugh

Fulbright Student, Princeton University to Dublin City University

Ben Claeson

Fulbright Student, Bates College to University College Dublin

Anne Curran

Fulbright Student, College William and Mary to University College Cork

Dr Jeffrey Dean

Fulbright Scholar, Indiana University to Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

Maureen Fleming

Fulbright Scholar, to University of Limerick and National University of Galway

Dr Roy Fox

Fulbright Scholar, University of Missouri to University College Cork

Corey Griffin

Fulbright Scholar, Portland State University to National University of Galway

Dr Melissa Hidalgo

Fulbright Scholar, University of California to University of Limerick

Cody Jarman

Fulbright Scholar, University of Tennessee to University College Cork

Dr Frederic Kropp

Fulbright Scholar, Middlebury Institute of International Studies to Dublin City University

Dr Christopher Seitz

Fulbright Scholar, Liberty University to University College Cork

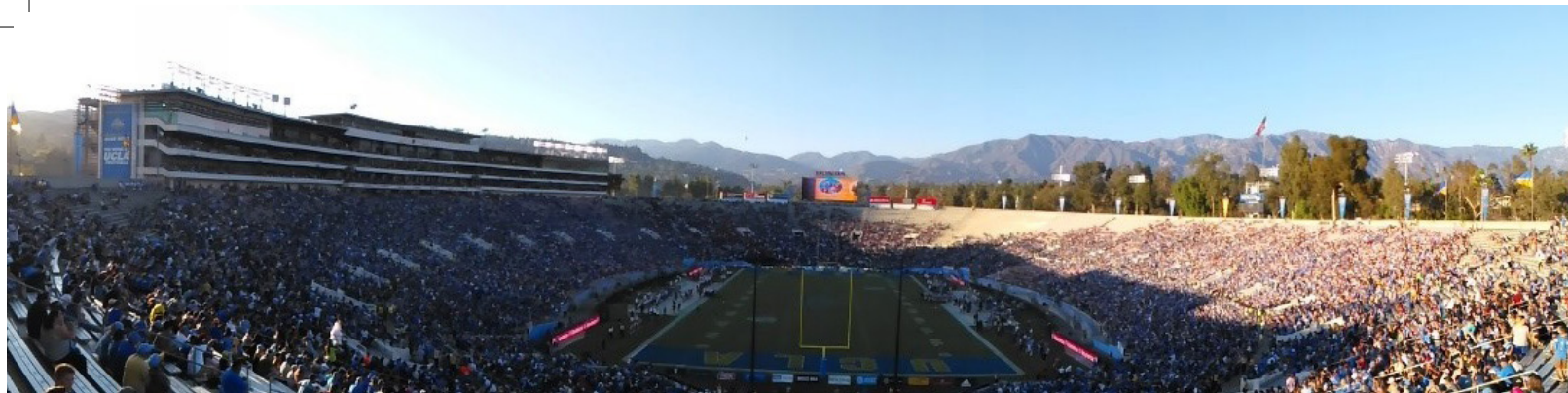
Professor Scott Sundby

Fulbright Scholar, University of Miami to Trinity College Dublin

Dr Tener Veenema

Fulbright Scholar, John Hopkins to Royal College of Surgeons Ireland





DR DANIEL MCCRUM

2016-2017 Fulbright-CRH Irish Scholar

University of Strathclyde to University of California, Los Angeles

"On my Fulbright-CRH Award I went to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UCLA to investigate the resilience of tall buildings in earthquake prone areas, namely downtown Los Angeles. Researchers in California are at the forefront of earthquake engineering science and understanding how to minimise the impact of earthquake events on people's lives.

I worked with Professor Henry Burton and his research team in the Burton Research Group. Using advanced structural engineering computer modelling, I investigated ways to improve the overall resilience of tall buildings (greater than 20 stories) to future earthquake events. The results from the computer simulations will identify if tall buildings are safe during an earthquake and how quickly they can be safely reoccupied after an event. Understanding how tall buildings in downtown Los Angeles respond in earthquakes will help us improve their performance and make the city more resilient in the future as people can return to their homes and businesses more quickly after large earthquake events.

There are many things I would not have learned if I hadn't been lucky enough to be on the Fulbright scholarship. I learned new numerical techniques for quantifying risk in tall buildings and working with Henry and his research team has opened up a new potential stream of funding.

"The connections I have made are a big part of what the Fulbright experience has meant to me."

Out of the numerous academics I met whilst at UCLA, I made several important connections; namely Professor Gilberto Mosqueda in UC San Diego at the Jacob School of Engineering and Professor Khalid Mosalam, the Director of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Center at UC Berkeley. They both have world class research facilities for physically testing structures under earthquake conditions. I also met with a fellow Fulbrighter, Andrew Jackson in San Diego showed me around the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The connections I have made are a big part of what the Fulbright experience has meant to me. I also made time to see a college football game in the Rose Bowl, it was as fun and unusual as the movies suggest!

The Fulbright award has meant a lot to me personally and professionally. I feel privileged to be part of the Fulbright family and promote the Fulbright outlook on life whenever possible. There is a positivity associated with Fulbright and the connection served me very well from the start of my experience in California. Aside from the recognition when being introduced to people, it has also been great socially. I arrived in LA late on a Friday and the following day I contacted Ann Kerr, the Fulbright Co-ordinator at the International Institute at UCLA, to see if there were any upcoming Fulbright events. I was in luck! Ann was holding a 4th of July party for friends and Fulbrighters at her home. We had a barbeque and watched the fireworks over LA. I met several Fulbrighters from different parts of the world; Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Spain and England. It was fascinating to hear everyone's stories as to why they were there. In particular, the people from Libya and Egypt were essentially escaping civil wars.

I recently moved from Queen's University Belfast to University College Dublin and having Fulbright on my CV helped make a difference. I have already been in discussions with other staff members encouraging them to apply for Fulbright scholarships. Future collaborations resulting from my Fulbright experience will have a positive impact on the department." (Left: Daniel is pictured with CRH Director Jack Golden)





RUTH CORMICAN

**2016-2017 Fulbright Irish Student Awardee
National University of Ireland Galway to University
of Notre Dame Law School**

"In the year I spent at Notre Dame, I never ceased to find it slightly surreal to see shamrocks, leprechauns, and "Go Irish!" emblazoned everywhere. And yet I was actually the first Irish student to be admitted to the LL.M. programme in International Human Rights Law at Notre Dame's Center for Civil and Human Rights (CCHR), an opportunity made possible thanks to Fulbright's support. There were 22 of us altogether, from a total of 19 different countries. Many of my classmates had already practised human rights law in their home countries for several years, and the breadth of experience and variety of perspectives they brought to the programme was just one of its many strengths.

The CCHR offers one of the longest-running and best-respected LL.M. programs in human rights law. It has an alumni network of over 300 lawyers in more than 85 countries all over the world. The curriculum encompassed mandatory modules on

core areas of human rights law and practice, along with elective modules in our particular interest areas. Mandatory courses included International Law, Foundations of International Human Rights Law and Regional Human Rights Protection, while I took electives on subjects such as Transnational Corporations and Human Rights and International Environmental Law. I wrote my thesis on the implications of Brexit for human rights protection, under the supervision of a professor based at Notre Dame's London Gateway.

My professors were all at the top of their respective fields: one was a former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, another played a central role in negotiating the peace agreement in Colombia. US law schools tend to emphasise student engagement and interaction, so we were encouraged to talk to our professors one-on-one about their experiences and expertise. Interdisciplinary work is also prioritized, and we had many opportunities to engage with other faculties over the course of the year. Particularly memorable was the seminar with President Obama's former chief of staff, Denis McDonough, which I was invited to attend in the spring semester.

The learning opportunities were not limited to the classroom. I and three classmates participated in a moot court competition addressing issues of freedom of expression and the media. We won first prize at the regional round, and went on to compete at the international round in London. In an optional module on trial advocacy, I had the opportunity to argue a full court case before a mock jury at the local court house. In the week leading up to graduation, I served as rapporteur for an expert panel on the negotiation of an international treaty on transnational corporations and human rights, organised by Notre Dame at its London Gateway. As I am particularly interested in the area of business and human rights, this was a unique opportunity to meet some of the foremost experts in the field.

***"Thanks to Fulbright, I can finally
call myself an international
human rights lawyer!"***

The long hours spent in the library paid off better than I could ever have imagined: last May I graduated summa cum laude and top of my class. The LL.M. program allowed me to develop the skills necessary to become an effective human rights practitioner, and to forge valuable academic and professional contacts for the future. I am now working for the Department of Foreign Affairs, on the human rights team at the Irish Mission to the UN in Geneva, and I know that this would not have been possible without the knowledge and experience I gained during my year at Notre Dame. Thanks to Fulbright, I can finally call myself an international human rights lawyer!"



DR SASKIA E. RYAN

2016-2017 Fulbright-GSI Irish Student Awardee
Trinity College Dublin to Harvard University

"For my GSI-Fulbright sojourn, I spent 6 months living in Boston, which was an incredible academic and cultural experience, so much so that I have since returned to Harvard to take up a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the lab group which welcomed me initially as a Fulbrighter in 2016. My office is located in the building which was also familiar to some of the greats, including Darwin and Agassiz. The Harvard environs exude a sense of academic ambition and optimism. I have been given invaluable advice and guidance, and learned so much; enough to last me a lifetime. Having been a little intimidated moving to a new country and to such a prestigious institution, I now realise how enlightening it is to break down any prejudices I once had.

I have been collaborating with scientific archaeologists at the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, carrying out research with my supervisor Prof. Noreen Tuross, Landon T. Clay Professor of Scientific Archaeology, whom I met initially at a Stable Isotopes in Archaeology conference in Kiel, Germany. This collaborative relationship with Prof. Tuross and colleagues, being influential experts in the field of isotopes in archaeology, has allowed me to refine my research methodology, and through their enthusiasm and interest in my research, they have been thoroughly affirming, freely exchanging thoughts and ideas on how best to approach the application of isotopes to migration studies in complex environments.

This scholarship gave me access to the Biogeochemistry facilities of Harvard and multiple laboratory techniques, plus invaluable international collaborations and friendship. It gave a timely and significant contribution to my Ph.D. project which used a geochemical approach to study ancient mobility in Ireland by comparing baseline environmental signatures to those preserved in archaeological human teeth and bone.

Ultimately, my Fulbright visit to the U.S. resulted in my current employment as a Harvard staff member.

In addition to the academic fulfilment, I have found the Fulbright experience to be incredibly rewarding on a personal level. Three seasons in beautiful Boston and Harvard with the fellowship of the other Fulbrighters, a warm welcome everywhere, especially the spending of Thanksgiving with an American family in New Hampshire. There was a visit to Washington D.C. to attend an Isotope Meeting in the Carnegie Geophysical Institute, where I managed to squeeze in a quick trip to the National Mall and Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Also, the all-American cultural experience of going to Celtic's basketball games in the TD Garden and for contrast, Brahms Requiem at the Symphony Hall. Not to forget, I was also given the amazing opportunity to travel to a seminar on Civil Rights in Atlanta, Georgia.

Living in Boston during the U.S. Presidential Election was a fascinating experience, which has given me a new perspective on politics and policy making - or unmaking - an unsettling time to be working in the Earth Sciences. This is particularly so at a

time when academic mobility and the sharing of knowledge may be curtailed. The Fulbright scholarship encourages mutual understanding and the flow of innovative ideas that are not bound by borders. I think it is an exciting challenge to stand for these values, having been their beneficiary. In the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". I have been allowed to connect with other cultures whilst embracing my own.

The Fulbright experience can be summed up as developmental, at times challenging but overall truly inspirational. I am grateful for the support provided to me by the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Fulbright Commission and my hosts at Harvard who afforded me this exceptional experience. I thoroughly encourage others to apply for the Fulbright-GSI Geoscience Award."



PA SHEEHAN

**2016-2017 Fulbright Irish FLTA
National University of Ireland Galway to University
of Montana**

"I believe that the purpose of my Fulbright award was to share the Irish culture with the community in which I was based, Missoula, Montana. Although one of my primary responsibilities was to teach the Irish language at beginner's level, I feel that sharing culture in the community and developing different elements of that culture, was the main aim of my Fulbright award.

***"I thought I knew a lot about the culture
of the US from my observation of its
portrayal in the media and the arts..."***

A culture of hurling already existed within the city and I made it my aim to develop this to such an extent that it could exist without the presence of an Irish hurler in the future. The university team has been quite strong and competitive, and this trend continued to develop as we won our third National championship in four years. However, it was the increase in recruiting and fundraising throughout the year that really benefited the club. The city hurling team, the Thomas Meagher's, also witnessed a surge in terms of recruitment of players and raising of funds throughout the year. The establishment of a Missoula Hurling board which catered for both these teams as well as the youth team was possibly the greatest achievement during the year. Hurling now has a strong platform from which it can continue to grow and attract new players going forward.

I thought I knew a lot about the culture of the US, from my observation of its portrayal in the media and in the arts. However, I must admit that I was able to massively broaden my understanding of the diverse aspects that make up the US culture. I think that I initially failed to comprehend the sheer size of the US before I lived in the country. Each state, and area within each state, has its own individual culture that is extremely difficult to understand unless one lives and engages with the people there. The linguistic nuances, the impact of geography, the influence demography has; all these aspects contributed to my deeper understanding of what it means to be both American, and Montanan. My passion for American sports allowed me the opportunity to befriend many diverse groups of Americans. Having these friendships enabled me to truly learn about the mindset of the average Montanan and



by the end of the year, I did not always feel like the one Irish guy in the room, I became just another member of the group...until I decided to go on another rant about hurling or the Irish language anyway!

***"The Fulbright Award has defined possibly
the most significant period of my life. Not
a day goes by where I don't think about my
life in Montana..."***

The Fulbright award has defined possibly the most significant period of my life. Not a day goes by where I don't think about my life in Montana or tell someone about it. Upon returning home, I initially thought that that part of my life was now closed but I eventually began to realise that it will never be closed. From a professional point of view, the way in which I teach languages has been heavily influenced by the way I taught beginners in the US. Furthermore, my outlook on hurling and Gaelic games in general has been massively altered and I am now a much more well-rounded coach with a better understanding of how Gaelic games and the Irish language can open doors for people outside of Ireland and create communities and friendships that will last a lifetime."



MAUREEN FLEMING

2016-2017 Fulbright U.S. Awardee
National University of Ireland Galway &
University of Limerick

"The nature of my Fulbright involved an experiential study of the Irish Cailleach and the Grail (caldron of plenty) mysteries originating in the ancient divine feminine that underlie the dance, music, literature and art of contemporary Ireland. This involved collaborations with Irish artists and scholars Louis de Paor, Colm Mac Con Iomaire and producer Marianne Ní Chinnéide. I also taught 'Fleming Technique' to a wide range of Irish citizens from community members through Irish Studies at NUIG to professional dancers at the Irish World Academy. Finally, my Fulbright culminated in a photography installation capturing my interactions in the mysterious sacred sites of the ancient feminine.

"...Each Irish person I encountered approached their work from the perspective of 'a quest', either of a new idea or an awareness that was for the perceived collective 'good' of humankind."

With all the Irish artists I met, I began to notice one unifying factor. Be it a student, a recognized artist or a cultural worker, each Irish person I encountered approached their work from the perspective of 'a quest' either of a new idea or an awareness that was for the perceived collective 'good' of humankind.

I began to reflect on this in relation to how I have defined my art and realized that this is a shared motivation. The very idea of committing oneself to 'a quest' may be connected to a universal sense of what I shared with all of the students and artists I

encountered in Ireland. Although the 'values' within this sense varied greatly, this passion for making a difference through a (perceived) truth was present in each of my encounters. I also noted that this same sense was not consistently present in cultural exchanges that I have encountered in other settings where the values were more focused on the intricacies of perfection within a defined set of aesthetic principles or a strategy for gaining a working opportunity. Rather, in my experience in Ireland there was a questioning, for example, of the value of perfection or how an artistic passion or 'socially conscious performance' can create a new awareness or an avenue toward 'a quest' for some form of global alchemy. I offer this as an observation of what may constitute an Irish sensibility within the arts both in America and Ireland, relating back to the mythology surrounding the Irish Cailleach.

On another note, one of my quests as a dance artist is to pave the way for committed artists in the field of dance to own the intellectual property in the photographs and videos documenting their creative work. This avenue of creative expression for a dance artist is both a tool for engaging audiences in a dance artist's creative process and is also a sustainable way of creating opportunities for the presentation of live performance in conjunction with a dance artist's photography in an art gallery setting.

Owning the documentation of one's intellectual property in the art of dance in the form of a photograph or video, is an avenue for dance artists to attain the ability to mature and develop as in other art forms where the arts practitioners have the opportunity to be both the creators of the art and are also the beneficiaries of the media that embodies the creation and freezes it in time. This avenue for sustainability in the art of dance can be the beginning of both a new creative dimension within our artistic practice and open a sustainable vista, often closed too early. Until the art of dance maintains the copyright of its documentation, our art will not achieve the maturity afforded to other art forms."



PAUL ASTA

**2016-2017 Fulbright U.S. Student Awardee
Indiana University Bloomington to University
College Cork**

Now I could tell my story. / It was different / from the story told about me. Eavan Boland - Mother Ireland

"When I received the email that I'd been selected for a Fulbright Student Award to Study Creative Writing at UCC, I had a lot of mixed emotions. I felt excited that I'd been given this opportunity to continue working on my craft; being selected gave me a sense of validation. But I also felt great anxiety. Anxiety to commit so much time to a place I'd never been to before, a place far away from my friends and family. Anxiety about being a minority living in a country where I had no ties. Anxiety about all the unknowns I was sure I'd come across.

But during the Fulbright orientation, we were all given a small piece of advice: say yes. It was a small moment, but something I took to heart. It gave me confidence and calmed my anxiety. I realized I needed to make the most of my experience, and what I ended up with was an experience that changed my life; an experience that means everything to me.

As I began to settle in Cork, I took comfort in knowing that what was being asked of me in terms of my program was familiar. I'd been in academia for the past three years finishing my Masters of Fine Arts at Indiana University Bloomington. I knew this opportunity would give me time to work on my poetry and hopefully finish working on a manuscript to send out for publication. These are the things I knew how to do.

"I began to unfold myself. I learned that I needed to leave the comfort of myself, my identity, and my community —the safety nets I've always had, in order to grow."

But over the course of the year, I found that I learned so much more outside of the classroom. I said yes to **almost** every opportunity that was presented to me, even when I was tired. Because I said yes, I got to do poetry readings at the Ó Bhéal Reading Series in Cork, and the West Cork Literary Festival in Bantry. I climbed mountains. Stared off cliffs. Walked miles in the rain just to go to the chipper. I attended numerous festivals around the city. Festivals on: Jazz, Trad Music, Whiskey, Film, etc. It was inspiring to say the least.

More than this I learned how to travel alone. I took a lot of day trips around the country. Occasionally, I'd travel with other students from my program and people from my Fulbright cohort. And it was during these trips as I watched the country unfold before me, I began to unfold myself. I learned that I needed to leave the comfort of myself, my identity, and my community — the safety nets I've always had, in order to grow. The Fulbright gave me the opportunity to displace myself, to learn what I'm capable of in the face of uncertainty and the unknown.

Often I'd come back from these weekend excursions exhausted—my notebook filled with new notes—and as the bus would pull into Parnell Place, I'd look out across the River Lee and have this feeling like I was home. I didn't know this experience would affect me like that. That I'd find comfort in a place I'd never been before. I miss Cork in ways I'd never imagined. I miss sitting in the pubs near the fireplace and having my clothes smell like peat. (I miss stout that actually tastes good!) I feel like so much of this experience is hard to put into words, which is ironic considering I am a writer. But alas, here I am out of space. Let me say this though: Thank you Fulbright. Thank you Ireland. I hope to see you again soon. I think of you often, and am forever grateful."





VIDEO COMPETITION

In 2017, the Commission invited students in Ireland to develop a promotional video for the Fulbright Irish Awards through the Fulbright Engage Video Competition. A high standard of applications were received from Ballyfermot College, DIT, IADT, LIT, TCD, and UCC.

Gary Boyd, a third year student of Film & Television at IADT, was the winner. He travelled to New York as part of his prize, visiting MoMA and The New School. His video is now showcased on the Commission's website and social media channels. The video was very well received, and shared by both the flagship Fulbright Program and CIES.

FULBRIGHT IRELAND NEWS

NEW WEBSITE

The Commission launched its new website in August 2017 to coincide with the opening of the Fulbright Irish Awards application period.

The new site aims to engage and facilitate easy navigation. It also provides a renewed platform to promote Fulbright Awardees through the Alumni database and 'Featured Alumni' section, as well as highlighting Fulbright events through the new calendar section. Fulbright Alumni are encouraged to contact the Commission if they would like to update their profile, contribute a story, or list an event.

Fulbright Ireland
Ireland-United States Commission for Educational Exchange

GOING TO THE USA

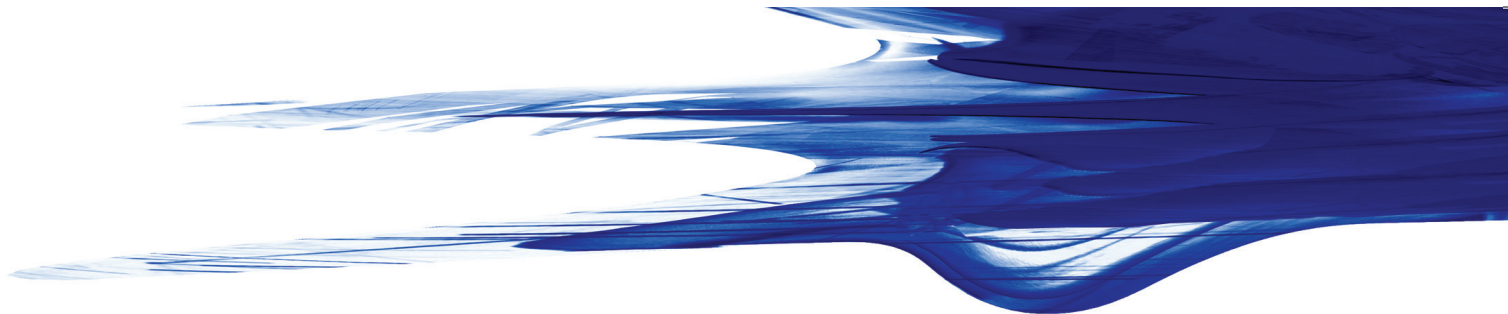
COMING TO IRELAND

I AM FULBRIGHT

THE IRISH COMMISSION

NEWS STORIES

SUBSCRIBE TO MAILING LIST



NEW AWARDS

Executive Director of the Commission, Dr Dara FitzGerald and Health Research Board Interim CEO, Dr Mairead O'Driscoll (pictured left) launched the Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact Awards in 2016.

In March 2017, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy and the Irish Government's Creative Ireland initiative, the Commission announced the new Fulbright-Creative Ireland Museum Fellowships to the Smithsonian, the Harry Ransom Center, and The Exploratorium. These Awards are funded for three years from 2018-2021.

FULBRIGHT 70

In November 2016, the Commission celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Global Fulbright Program, by hosting a Reception and Panel Discussion featuring accomplished Fulbright Ireland-U.S. Alumni.

The panel included Historian Dr Thomas Bartlett, Marine Researcher Dr Liam M. Carr, Choreographer Maureen Fleming, CEO of Barnardos Ireland Fergus Finlay, Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Computational Linguist Dr Teresa Lynn, and Artist Alice Maher.

2017 marked 60 years of educational and cultural exchange between Ireland and the U.S. During these 60 years, over 2500 individuals have travelled between Ireland and the U.S. on Fulbright Awards.





FULBRIGHT IRELAND AMBASSADORS

The Commission initiated the Fulbright Ireland Alumni Ambassador Program in summer 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 Fulbright Ireland Alumni Ambassadors at 18 Higher Education Institutions in Ireland. Pictured above from left to right:

Athlone Institute of Technology:

Dr Luke Geever

Cork Institute of Technology:

Noel Barry

Dublin City University:

Dr Karen Devine

Dublin Institute of Technology:

Professor Paul Donnelly

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology:

Dr Ian McLoughlin

IADT (Dún Laoghaire):

Dr Michael Paye

Limerick Institute of Technology:

Dr Daragh Naughton

Marino Institute of Education:

Seán Delaney

Mary Immaculate College:

Vicky Brady

Maynooth University:

Sinéad Murnane

National University of Ireland Galway:

Rita Melia / Mary McPartlan

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland:

Dr Oran Kennedy

Trinity College Dublin:

Dr John Ahern

Ulster University:

Ailbhe Greaney

University College Cork:

Dr Mary C. Murphy

University College Dublin:

Dr Amanda Kelly

University of Limerick:

Dr Finbarr Murphy

Waterford Institute of Technology:

Dr Felicity Kelliher

AMBASSADOR EXPERIENCE

Dr Amanda Kelly

Fulbright Alumni Ambassador UCD

"I was awarded a Fulbright in 2004-2005 when I spent a year in the Department of the Classics at Harvard. My personal experience as a Fulbright was so overwhelmingly positive that on learning of the ambassadorial role for UCD, I immediately applied. I had only recently been appointed Assistant Professor at UCD's School of Archaeology when I took up the ambassadorial role in 2016. I immediately launched a very active campaign for the promotion of the Fulbright programme in UCD that September, hosting information events and organising follow-on informal meetings with anyone who expressed any interest in applying. It was a busy start and I was very lucky to have the full support of Fulbright Ireland staff, notably Emma Loughney, and the backing of everyone I met in UCD, including the International Office and Career Development and Skills, UCD. The goodwill I met at every turn within the university was a very promising introduction to the institution as a new employee.

"Their vibrancy and excitement about their research was very infectious and I found that I returned to my own research with a renewed energy..."

While I was delighted that 12 UCD members (both staff and students - pictured above with Amanda) were awarded Fulbrights for 2017-2018, I also personally benefitted in ways that I had not foreseen from this engagement. My role introduced me to UCD's wider community and made me realise the full extent of the cutting-edge research conducted throughout the university. I entered buildings I had never been in, drank coffee (and better coffee at that) in locations I had never known and whole new swathes of the campus opened up before me. I also fully realised the extent of UCD's reach in terms of research across all disciplines and this awareness instilled in me a real sense of pride in the broader university community.

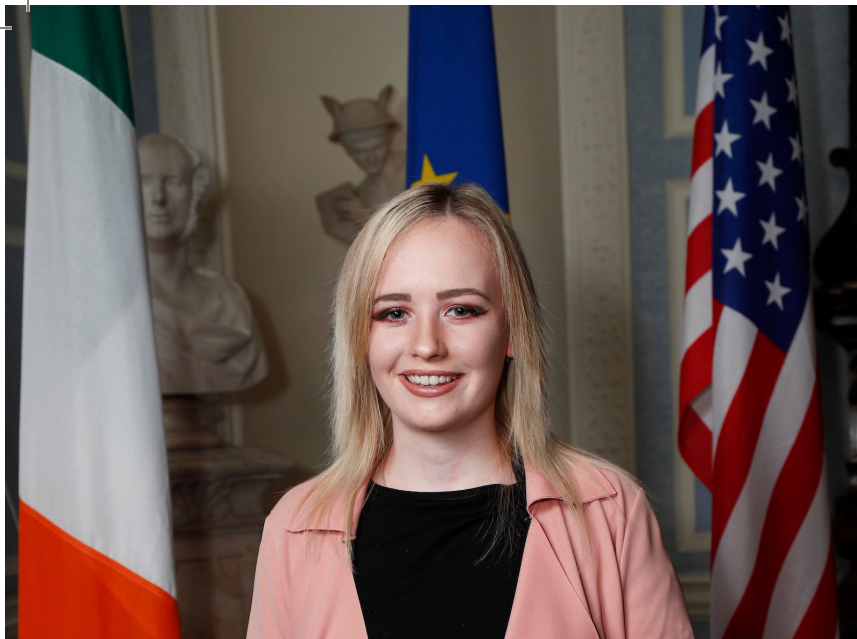
Above all, I made a lot of new friends. I was really struck by the easy nature of all the scholars I met and sat down with, their



ability and drive was underscored by a warmth and affability that, I'll admit here, took me a little by surprise. Their vibrancy and excitement about their research was very infectious and I found that I returned to my own research with a renewed energy. Perhaps the overarching quality that I noted in all candidates was their ability to communicate - they did have to explain their work to me and I usually opened our meetings with "tell me about your project in a nutshell, three sentences please - and be warned I am not an engineer/mathematician/computer scientist/philosopher/economist/biologist [insert discipline here]".

The role also came with some sense of occasion which I enjoyed immensely, I attended award ceremonies graciously hosted by the then American Ambassador, Kevin O'Malley, and then there was the wonderful celebration of Fulbright Ireland's 70th anniversary in the Hugh Lane, when, amongst many other delights of the evening, I finally got to see those Harry Clarkes. There were dinners, lectures, art and musical events, all organised by staff and alumni of Fulbright Ireland. Fulbright Ireland proved an energetic community and an endlessly engaging one at that.

For UCD, there was a huge success rate last year, and I hope this year too, which was personally very gratifying, as I felt I may have done something right - and because I cannot fully suppress my unFulbright-worthy competitive streak. I might add that (awards aside) the candidates I met were all highly impressive and, to my mind, wholly worthy of recognition ... and, if not specifically marked here and now, then, no doubt, they will be in some other future capacity."



2017 SUSI UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) Awards are short-term, academic programs that provide undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the U.S., while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills.

Within Ireland, these Awards are managed by the Commission, with support from the U.S. Embassy in Dublin. The 2017 SUSI Awardee was Lauren Lehane (pictured left), a BSc Government student at University College Cork. Lauren attended the university of Tennessee in Chattanooga in Summer 2017 as part of that year's SUSI Program focusing on social entrepreneurship.

SUMMER GAELTACHT AWARDS

The Commission manages the Summer Gaeltacht Awards which provide 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 2017 over seventy 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.



EDUCATIONUSA ACTIVITIES

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 November 2016, the Commission hosted the Irish leg of the EducationUSA LL.M. European Tour. 19 representatives from Higher Institutions in the USA, and students from across Ireland attended. The Commission also hosted the annual EducationUSA Undergraduate Seminar for students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors in March 2017.

Partners & Friends



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

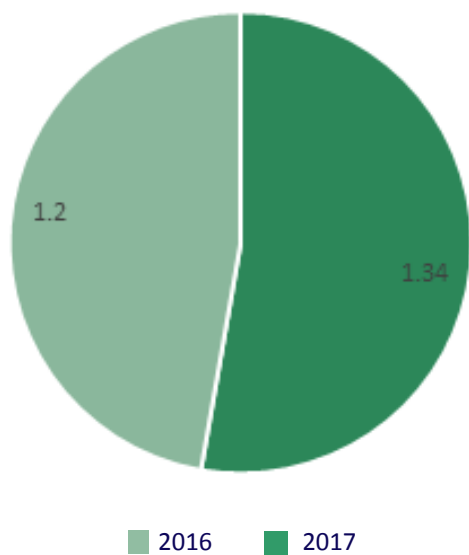


An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

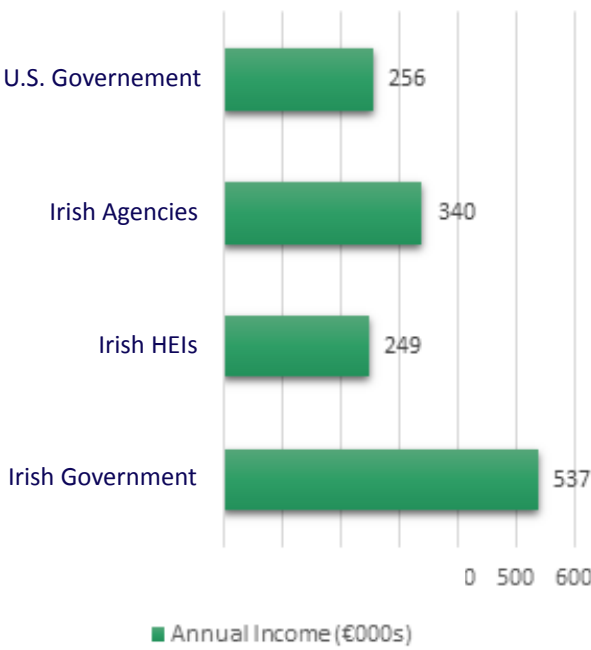


FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-2017

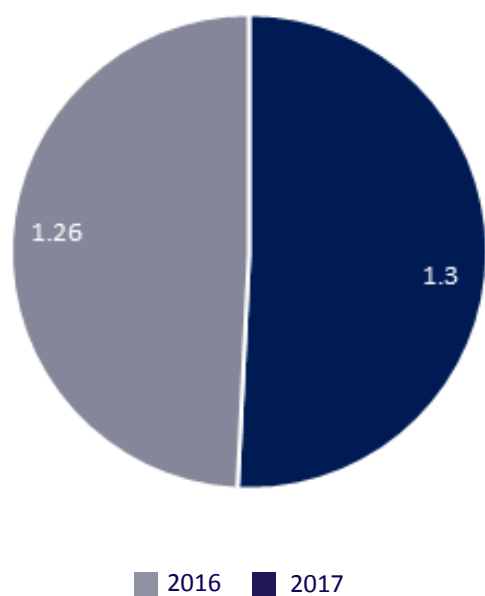
Annual Income €M



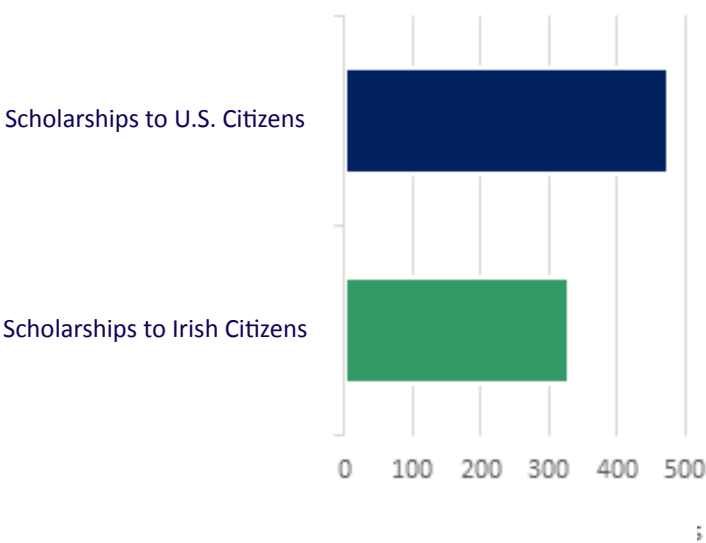
Annual Income €000s



Annual Expenditure €M



Scholarships €000s





FULBRIGHT IRELAND TEAM

Dr Dara Fitzgerald, Executive Director
 Emma Loughney, Communications Manager
 Sonya McGuinness, Awards Manager
 Paula Melvin, Awards Administrator

Pictured (L-R):
 Paula Melvin
 Emma Loughney
 Dr Dara Fitzgerald
 Kat Shelley (Executive Assistant 2016-2017)
 Sonya McGuinness

FULBRIGHT

 Solas an léinn
 Makes a difference



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Fulbright Commission in Ireland

TEL: 0035316607670

WEB: www.fulbright.ie

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We must try to expand
the boundaries of human
wisdom, empathy and
perception, and there is no
way of doing that except
through education.”

SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

[From remarks on the occasion of the 30th
anniversary of the Fulbright Program, 1976]