

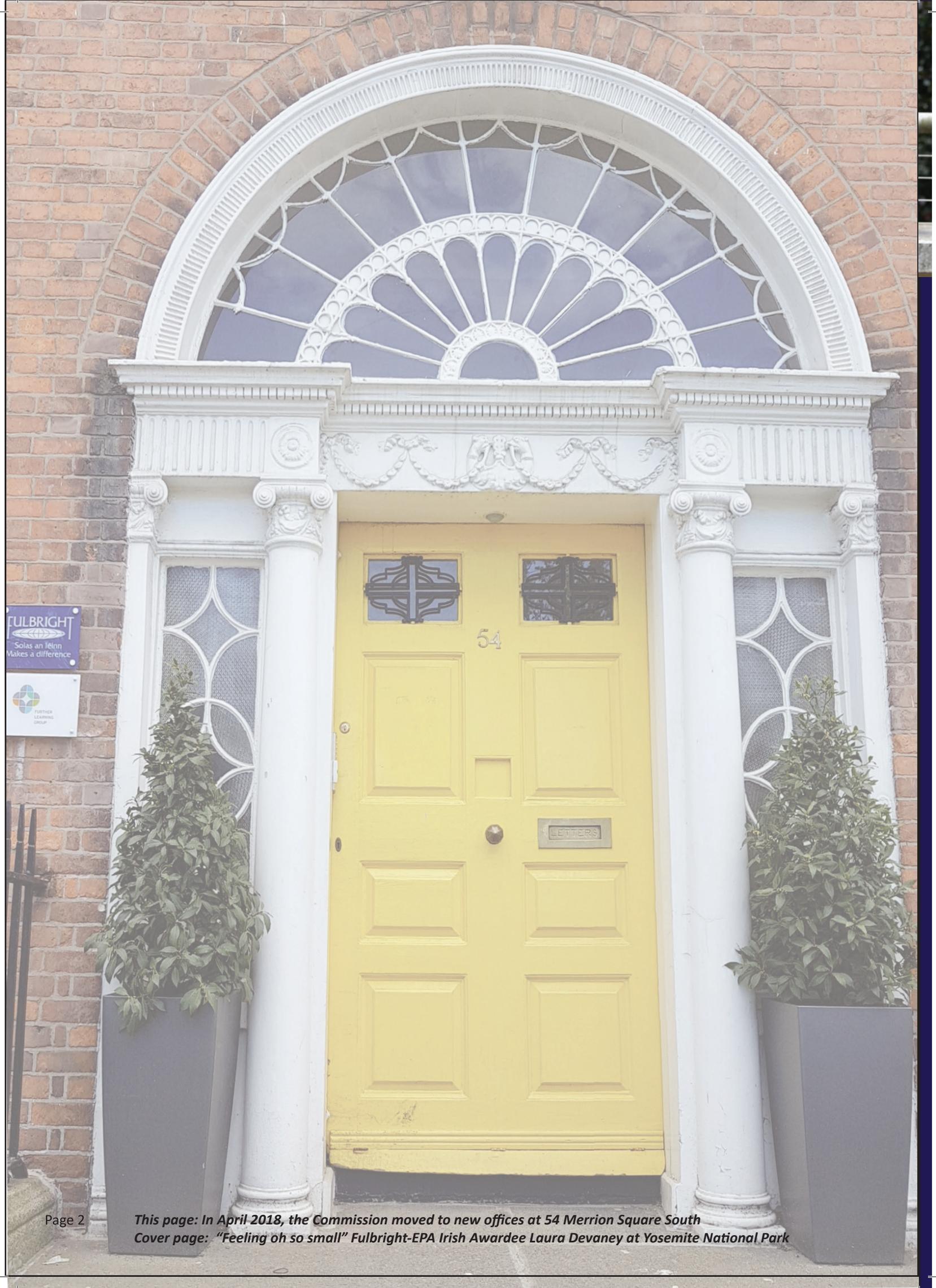


FULBRIGHT

Solas an léinn
Makes a difference

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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



*This page: In April 2018, the Commission moved to new offices at 54 Merrion Square South
Cover page: "Feeling oh so small" Fulbright-EPA Irish Awardee Laura Devaney at Yosemite National Park*



Dear Colleagues,

The Fulbright Award and Financial year FY18 (1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018) represented a year of increased awardees, funding, outreach and ongoing programme improvements. We introduced some new awards, with increases in award recipients, interactions and Commission profile reach.

From February 2018, we partnered with the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies on new Awards, increasing the diversity of opportunities we offer. Successful 2017-2018 Irish and U.S. applicants covered a broad range of disciplines and backgrounds. In 2017, we welcomed the first Fulbright Awardee from Carlow Institute of Technology, and the second ever Awardee from Limerick Institute of Technology. Fulbright Campus Ambassadors had considerable impact on outreach in their individual institutions and at Award interviews, candidates cited time and again the value of input from Alumni representatives at their institution. We are proud of this success and extremely grateful to the eighteen superb ambassadors who give their time and energy so freely.

In March 2018 the Commission offices moved from Shelbourne Road, where they had been located for 14 years. Our relocation to new premises at 54 Merrion Square South provided new challenges and opportunities. This year we also developed a new Awards management and CRM system. This became a de facto Commission-in-a-Box. The value, efficiency and security of the system are evident already, and we look forward to the continued refinement of the system. Both the office relocation and the development of the database system coincided with adoption of GDPR and, in the end, were very beneficial to requirements.

In April 2015, I attended the annual meeting of European Fulbright Commission Executive Directors in Budapest. Representatives from the U.S. Department of State/ECA and specialists in areas such as GDPR joined

us, and we identified issues that could be addressed to improve the Program. I left Budapest with a group mandate to collate, assess and address such issues in a concerted way. This cast light on Program progression over the previous 18 months and opportunities for timely updates and improvements were identified as a result.

During the Spring months, Fulbright Irish Award promotion was driven by a myriad of institution visits and webinars. These activities were welcomed by applicants, allowing ample time to engage with academic peers in the U.S. and the Fulbright Program. Webinar presenters from U.S. institutions in Maurer, Notre Dame and Penn Law schools provided excellent motivation.

In June, the U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires hosted the Fulbright Irish Awards Ceremony at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. On a balmy June evening this was the ideal place to be for awardees, their family and friends. For the Commission team and Board this annual event represents the culmination of a long and rewarding process. For new Fulbrighters it is a wonderful foretaste of the Fulbright experience. In September, we also had the pleasure of welcoming U.S. Awardees at our orientation which included visits to Dail Éireann, in the environs of Merrion Square.

The 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 2017-18 has seen achievement of targets and continuation of the Fulbright mission. The potential within the new CRM bespoke system is expected to yield even greater benefit in terms of programme management, awardee support and sponsor interactions. All of which will serve to fortify Commission activities in 2018-19.

Dr Dara Fitzgerald
Executive Director

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Dr Sarah Ingle

Chair of the Board

“It is a privilege to undertake the role as Chair of the Fulbright Commission in Ireland, to assist in contributing to such a successful and highly sought after international educational exchange programme, now sixty one years in Ireland. The Commission is governed by an eight-person Board, four of these are appointed by the Irish Government and four by the U.S. Embassy in Ireland. There are also five highly effective staff members including Executive Director, Dara Fitzgerald.

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 concept of a Fulbright award providing the ability to metaphorically open doors; develop relationships; create avenues for mutual understanding; and share ideas, continues to be powerful. The Fulbright Commission in Ireland provides annual awards for Irish citizens to study, research, or teach in the U.S. and for Americans to do the same here. Since its formation, over 2,000 students, scholars, professionals and teachers have participated in the U.S./Ireland programme. In relation to the awards management process, the Commission continues to be extremely reliant on external reviewers and interview panels to undertake an objective and fair selection process to a very high standard. We sincerely thank those who

took on this work in 2018, and thank in advance those already engaged in the process for 2019.

There have been a number of new initiatives undertaken recently which have led to improvements in a variety of areas. Over the past few years the Commission has sought to underpin diversity in its operations including home and host institutions and awardees and these efforts have certainly been successful to date. The Commission is keen to develop its commitment to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in 2019 and beyond. In relation to privacy and data management, the Commission has developed a bespoke system to manage all aspects of activities including awards management, governance and communications with Alumni and HEI stakeholders nationally and internationally.

As Chair, I engage with Commission staff and other Board members to assist in supporting and promoting the Commission’s programmes and outreach. As well as the benefits of a committed staff and Board working on behalf of the Commission, there is an excellent relationship with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the ECA, providing additional funding as well as political support and guidance which is very welcome. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their dedicated 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. I look forward to the coming year and beginning work with the staff and the Board on the new 2019–2021 strategic plan for the Commission.”

(Pictured: Dr Sarah Ingle at the Fulbright Awards Ceremony)



BOARD MEMBERS

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland 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, organizations and donations.

The Commission is governed by an eight-person Board and has five staff members. The Board is appointed by the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, with members from both Ireland and the U.S.

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

Professor 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

Professor John Hegarty

Provost Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin

Dr Thomas Wright

Fellow, Brookings Institution

(Pictured: Fulbright Irish Awardee David Azcona exploring Sedona, Arizona with an American friend on St Patrick's Day)

15

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

18

U.S. States visited
by Irish Awardees

7

Irish HEIs visited
by U.S. Awardees

14

Irish HEIs
represented by Irish
Awardees

8

Fulbright FLTA
Awards

12

Irish Immersion
Weekends in the U.S.

43

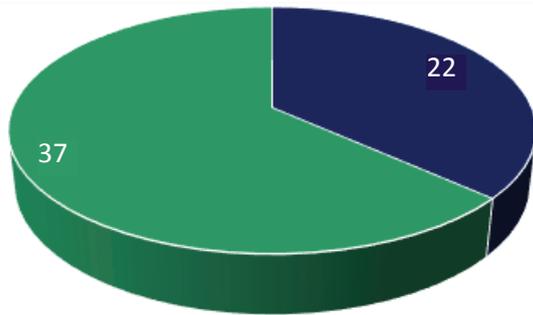
Irish Summer
Gaeltacht Awards

2800

Hours of Irish
language taught
in the U.S.

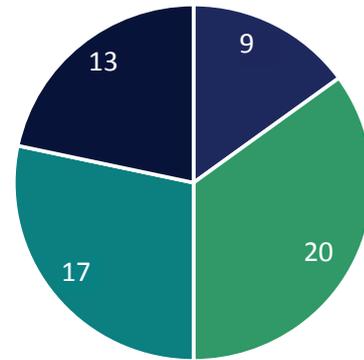
PROGRAMME STATISTICS 2017-2018

Fulbright Awardees



■ Irish Awardees ■ U.S. Awardees

Fulbright Awards



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

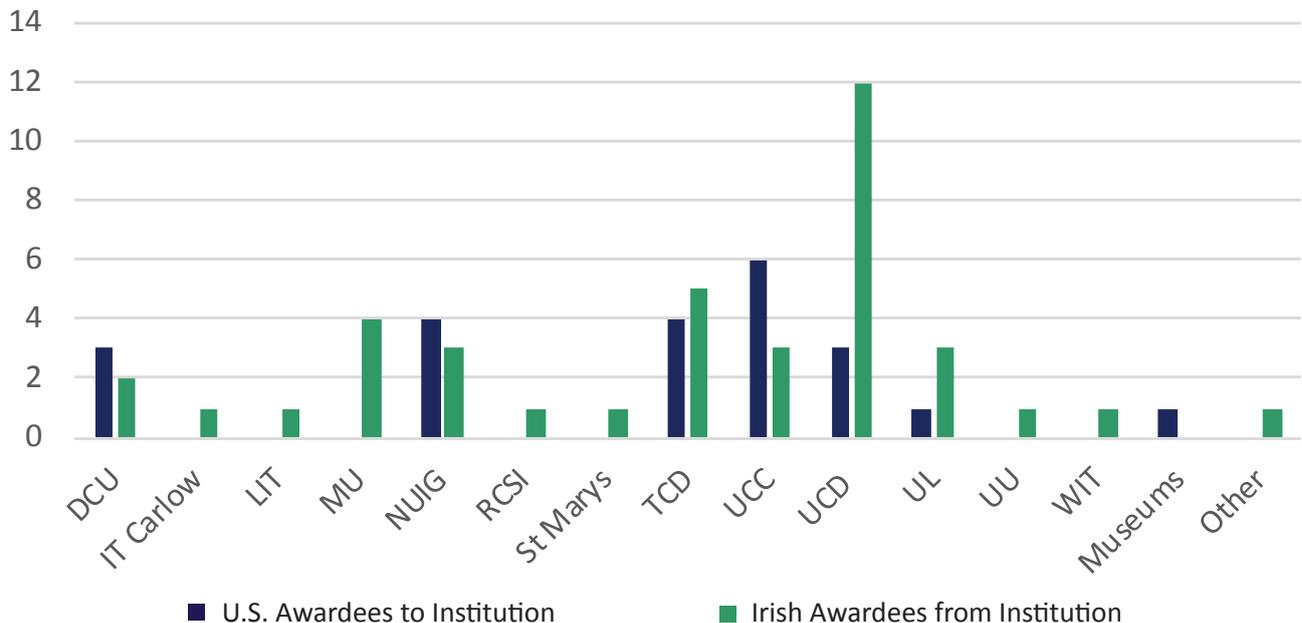
1
 Fulbright Global
 Scholar Award

2
 Fulbright
 Schuman Awards

3
 Fulbright
 Intercountry Awards

5
 Fulbright U.S.
 Specialists

Fulbright Awards by Institution



■ U.S. Awardees to Institution ■ Irish Awardees from Institution



FULBRIGHT IRISH AWARDEES 2017-18

David Azcona
Fulbright Student, Dublin City
University to Arizona State
University

Aaron Barker
Fulbright-Marine Institute
Student, University College Cork
to Oregon State University

Lola Boorman
Fulbright Student, University of
York to Stanford University

Charlotte Blease
Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact
Scholar, University College Dublin
to Harvard Medical School

Colin Bradley
Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact
Scholar, University College Cork
to University of Oklahoma

Lorcán Burns
Fulbright FLTA, St Mary's
University College Belfast to
Drew University and New York
University

Aoife Cartwright
Fulbright-NUI Student,
Maynooth University to Indiana
University

David Collings
Fulbright Scholar, Dublin City
University to Cornell University

Jan Cosgrave
Fulbright Student, University
of Glasgow to University of
Pennsylvania

Marian Crowley-Henry
Fulbright-EI Scholar, Maynooth
University to Northern Illinois
University

Thomas Patrick Curran
Fulbright-Techimpact Scholar,
University College Dublin to
North Carolina State University

Aoife Delaney
Fulbright-NUI Student,
Maynooth University to
University of Massachusetts,
Boston

Laura Devaney
Fulbright-EPA Scholar, Trinity
College Dublin to University of
California Berkeley

Martha Finnegan
Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact
Scholar, Trinity College Dublin
to Yale University

Matthew Flood
Fulbright-NUI Student, University
College Dublin to Spaulding
Rehabilitation Hospital, Boston

Shane Fox
Fulbright FLTA, University of
Limerick to University of Notre
Dame

Helen French
Fulbright Scholar, Royal College
of Surgeons in Ireland to Boston
University

Aggeliki Georgiopolou
Fulbright-GSI Scholar, UCD to
USGS Woods Hole Coastal and
Marine Science Center

Ciara Heneghan
Fulbright FLTA, University College
Dublin to Villanova University

Jaswinder Kaur
Fulbright-Teagasc Student,
Limerick Institute of Technology
to Michigan State University

Jacek Kibilda
Fulbright-Techimpact Scholar,
Trinity College Dublin to
University of Texas

Dayna Killian
Fulbright Student, Waterford
Institute of Technology to
University of Notre Dame

David Lillis
Fulbright-Techimpact Scholar,
University College Dublin to
University of New Haven

Christina Mackey
Fulbright Scholar to University of
New Mexico

Órla McCague
Fulbright FLTA, NUI Galway to
University of Montana

Fiona McDermott
Fulbright-EPA Student, TCD to
New School, New York

Jamie McGarrigle
Fulbright FLTA, University College
Dublin to Davidson College

Sheena McHugh
Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact
Scholar, UCC to University of
North Carolina

Maedhbh Moriarity
Fulbright-MI Student, University
of Ulster to Alaska Pacific
University and Cornell University

Giollaíosa Ní Mhaoínigh
Fulbright FLTA, NUI Galway to
University of Montana

Katherine Nolan
Fulbright Student, UCD to
University of California Berkeley

Alanna O'Malley
Fulbright Scholar, Leiden
University to George Washington
Univers

Pól Sneé
Fulbright FLTA, NUI Galway to
Elms College

Tomás Ó Ceallaigh
Fulbright FLTA, University College
Dublin to Idaho State University

Katherine Rea
Fulbright-Techimpact Scholar,
Institute of Technology Carlow to
New York University

Elizabeth Shotton
Fulbright-Techimpact Scholar,
University College Dublin to
UCLA

Ruan O'Donnell
Fulbright Scholar in Residence,
University of Limerick to
University of Montana

FULBRIGHT U.S. AWARDEES 2017-18

Christopher Barton

Fulbright Scholar, University of Memphis to
National University of Ireland Galway

Carlos Castro

Fulbright Scholar, Ohio State University to
AMBER Trinity College Dublin

Erin Grogan

Fulbright Student, Texas Tech University to
National University of Ireland Galway

Bruce Lamont

Fulbright Scholar, Florida State University to
Dublin City University

Eric Levin

Fulbright Scholar, Southern Oregon University
to National University of Ireland Galway

William Lyons

Fulbright-GSI Scholar, Ohio State University to
National University of Ireland Galway

Kathleen Manning

Fulbright Scholar, University of Vermont to
University College Cork

Lesley McBride

Fulbright Student, UCLA to Hugh Lane Gallery

Emily Mickus

Fulbright Student, Kalamazoo College in
Michigan to University of Limerick

Kevin O'Hare

Fulbright Student, University of Oregon to
University College Dublin

Seán O'Rourke

Fulbright Student, College of Holy Cross MA
to University College Cork

Tricia Richards

Fulbright-Schuman Student, Marywood
University to Trinity College Dublin

Nancy Riggs

Fulbright-GSI Scholar, North Arizona
University to Trinity College Dublin

Susan Sharfstein

Fulbright Global Scholar, State University of
New York to Dublin City University

Jason Smith

Fulbright Scholar, University of New Mexico
to University College Dublin

Edward St John

Fulbright Scholar, University of Michigan
to Trinity College Dublin

Kimberly Thomas

Fulbright Scholar, University of Michigan
to University College Cork

Jasmine Throckmorton

Fulbright Student, Princeton University
to University College Cork

Jonathan Todres

Fulbright Scholar, Georgia State University
to University College Cork

Vidya Venkatesh

Fulbright Student, Williams College
to University College Dublin

Amy Williams

Fulbright Scholar, University of Pittsburgh
to University College Cork

Brian Williams

Fulbright Student, Rochester Institute
of Technology to Dublin City University





“My personal research advanced significantly during my trip.”

DR DAVID COLLINGS

**2017-2018 Fulbright Irish Scholar Awardee
Dublin City University to Cornell University**

Dr Collings is Professor of HR Management and Associate Dean for Research at DCU's Business School. At Cornell, his research focused on global talent management and human capital flows within and between organisations.

“My Fulbright Award took me to Ithaca, New York where I spent over four months at the Industrial and Labor Relations School at Cornell University. The ILR School at Cornell has had a defining influence on my field of human resource management (HRM) over the past 50 years or more and many of the world's leading scholars are, or have been, faculty there over the years. Thus, selecting Cornell for my Fulbright was an easy choice.

The faculty in Cornell could not have been more welcoming. I was truly at the centre of activity in the school with an office on the main faculty corridor of the Strategic HR Department. I was also integrated through events and meetings, which provided a great opportunity to meet faculty beyond my core Department. From an intellectual point of view, the conversations I had with faculty across the school combined with attending the faculty seminar series was a great opportunity to expand my understanding of some of the cutting-edge themes emerging in my research field.

My personal research advanced significantly during my trip. It provided me with the time and space to close out a number of important projects and initiate some new ones. While I was there, Professor JR Keller and I worked on a project on boomerang employees - people who leave an organisation and return at a

future date, which had been hatched before I arrived. The paper is a collaboration with Professors Rebecca Kehoe at Rutgers and Matthew Bidwell at Wharton. The paper was presented at this year's Strategic Management Society conference in Paris. Working with these fantastic colleagues was a tremendous learning opportunity for me.

While in the U.S., I also had the opportunity to visit colleagues at other institutions. I presented research seminars at University of Colorado, Denver, Rutgers University and Villanova University and also travelled to Houston, Texas for meetings.

For me, what made the Fulbright experience one of the most memorable was the opportunity for my family to travel with me and to experience the joys of living in the U.S. for almost five months. The opportunity for my two daughters (aged 7 and 3 at the time) to see a different culture and way of life was amazing. They joined gymnastics, my younger daughter took swimming lessons, my elder daughter joined a weekly forest school where she learned about the great outdoors in the beautiful Ithaca countryside. Given the number of waterfalls in Ithaca they took great interest in learning about them and a highlight of the trip was our visit to Niagara Falls. They also learned about different wildlife with blue jays, chipmunks and deer being regular visitors to our back garden. Getting to spend a week in NYC in before Christmas was an amazing way to close out our Fulbright adventure.

I am truly grateful to the Fulbright Commission, Cornell University and Dublin City University for their support of my Award and the personal and intellectual journey which we all enjoyed in Ithaca.”

(Pictured L-R: David with Fulbright Awardee David Azcona & DCU President Brian MacCraith at Fulbright Awards Ceremony)



JASWINDER KAUR

**2017-2018 Fulbright-Teagasc Irish Student Awardee
Limerick Institute of Technology to Michigan State
University**

Ms Kaur is a PhD candidate with the Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre, LIT. At Michigan State, her research focused on investigating the use of genome sequences of fungi and identifying crucial genes responsible for the production of putative enzymes for industrial applications.

"I set out to use this Fulbright platform not just to excel in science and further my skills as an individual driving my research, but as an opportunity to embrace the cultural diversity that makes America the nation of immigrants. As an expat from India living in Ireland, I have a unique perspective on how a positive immigration experience can benefit an individual as well as the community.

"This a new life skill that I wouldn't have acquired were it not for this opportunity."

My time as a Fulbright student in America gave me the chance to be completely independent and self-reliant. This platform gave me the opportunity to meet with a diversity of immigrants. I was able to absorb and learn from a diaspora of individuals with varied backgrounds who, like me, were using education as a discourse to further professional and personal growth.

I learned how to represent myself more effectively and efficiently to an audience that is of a new country and a new

culture, and moreover of a global nature. This is a life skill I wouldn't have acquired were it not for this opportunity.

To me, this Fulbright experience would always resonate with a sense of achievement - the achievement of being rewarded for hard work and perseverance. It means that an individual can be greater than just "I". I am able to represent my adoptive country; I am able to communicate the values, culture, education and technologies of Ireland to a diversity of people."

(Pictured above: Jaswinder at the Fulbright Awards Ceremony & below: at Michigan State University)





TOMÁS Ó CEALLAIGH

**2017-2018 Fulbright Irish FLTA Awardee
University College Dublin to Idaho State University**

Mr Ó Ceallaigh is a graduate of Nua-Ghaeilge at UCD and previously worked as a journalist and television producer with Ireland's National Broadcaster, RTÉ. As a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA), he taught the Irish language and took courses at Idaho State University.

"Like most of my friends, I spent a good chunk of the eighties working in bars in Manhattan. With two jobs on the go, I made crazy money and had the life of Reilly. I came back home and paid off my UCD debts and for a good number of years I laboured under the illusion that Manhattan was the typical American environment. Of course it's not - nowhere in America is like Manhattan, in fact nowhere anywhere, is like Manhattan. It's a one-off and it took me a good few years and several trips to other parts of the U.S. to figure that out.

"It's not a bad idea to have your well-embedded notions about the world challenged and interrogated..."

This time round, courtesy of Fulbright, I was looking for something different. And boy, did I get it. I spent nearly a year in a good old god-fearing, Trump-supporting, Mormon town - Pocatello. Or, Poky, as the locals call it. In American terms, just down the road from the capital of the Mormon universe, Salt Lake City. The

landscape is beautiful with lava rock formations and proper kickass mountains, not hills like we have at home. Four hours by car to Salt Lake - a short hop in the view of my Pocatello friends.

It is not a bad idea to have your well-embedded notions about the world challenged and interrogated, and I got that in spades. Most, but by no means all, of my Pocatello friends have a world view that is radically different from my own. Mormons usually marry in their early twenties and tend to have large families. As one of my Mormon students put it, a woman's role is to be "nurturing". Pretty lively class discussions around that one, I can tell you. Us guys can do a bit of "nurturing" too, says myself. Shooting all kinds of animals is a big pastime in Idaho - bears, elk, buffalo and bison are all fair game. It was disconcerting seeing pictures in the local papers of ten-year-old boys proudly posing beside their first elk or first buffalo, all dead I'm afraid; that took a bit of getting used to. More lively but usually polite exchanges of views on that one too.

Most people I met had a negative view of the native-American tribe, the Shoshone, who were in Idaho long before any Europeans. Coming from a colonised country myself, it was easy to be on the side of the Shoshone and I was blue in the face defending them in the face of the casual disparagement that was part and parcel of everyday Pocatello banter.

So I wasn't on Lexington avenue ordering lattes with hipsters and wondering how it has all gone wrong with the Democrats - I was in a very different place with lovely, interesting people who just don't agree with me on pretty much anything. And, that is just grand."

(Pictured: Tomás with his friend Danny in Pocatello, Idaho)



“...Go, change your view of the world.”

NANCY RIGGS

2017-2018 Fulbright-GSI U.S. Scholar Awardee
Northern Arizona University to TCD

Dr Riggs is Professor of Geology at Northern Arizona University. Her research in Ireland focused on ancient volcanism and the amalgamation of geologic terranes.

“Travel to another country and another culture - even those as familiar as Ireland and the Irish, must open one’s world view. I came to Ireland to work with colleagues in the Geological Survey Ireland and in TCD. I left with new scientific collaborations, new ideas about my work, and a chance to bring Irish and American students together to learn.

Ireland is a geological jigsaw puzzle, and my on-going scientific goal is to understand how small fragments of continents joined together to form ancient Ireland as the proto-Atlantic (Iapetus) Ocean closed. Together with Dr Quentin Crowley from TCD, I had a chance to work on rocks on the beautiful north shore of Galway Bay, to work out when and how an ancient volcanic island chain collided with a continent. Farther north in Mayo, as far as Clare Island, together with Dr Brian McConnell, my GSI colleague, and TCD emeritus professor John Graham, I sampled rocks to understand when fragments collided and the ocean basins that formed on top of these co-joined pieces of land. Back in the lab at TCD, I extracted tiny zircon crystals that can be dated to give us an idea of when all these land masses moved and how the ancient Iapetus Ocean closed. I had the best

of two worlds – the excitement and energy of students and interactions in Trinity College, and the collegiality and chance to meet a wide range of geoscientists in GSI.

I learned about how a strong but small nation views its closest neighbors and the civility with which it conducts politics. Being in Ireland during the “Repeal the 8th!” campaign was eye-opening and inspiring – people talked and argued and disagreed from their hearts, but participated, and without overflow of disinformation that can characterize politics in the U.S. I truly enjoyed many hours learning about rugby. I learned new techniques for understanding the age data that I generate, and was able to interrogate the tiny zircon crystals in ways I cannot at my home university.

One of the highlights of my Fulbright was arranging for 10 students from my home university to join 11 students from TCD on a nine-day field trip to southeast Spain. Students worked, played, and developed friendships that will last well beyond the time there. I hope to be able to continue taking students to Spain in shared classes with TCD over the next several years.

My tie to Ireland remains strong. I am very grateful to Fulbright and GSI for making it possible to cement friendships and collaborations and begin new ones. I am grateful for the evening event in which I listened to a Fulbright U.S. Student read her poem about the formation of the universe, and for how a young poet’s words resonated with this physical scientist. I am grateful for the chance to encourage young scientists and artists and humanitarians and medical practitioners – look at the Fulbright website, apply, go, change your view of the world.”

(Pictured: Nancy & Dr Crowley at work in Lettermullen, Galway)



*“I was submersed in a new world,
both culturally and professionally. “*

LESLEY MCBRIDE

**2017-2018 Fulbright U.S. Student Awardee
University of North Carolina to the Hugh Lane Gallery**

Ms McBride is an arts administrator in creative youth development. At the Hugh Lane Gallery, she worked to expand outreach to young people in the locality

“My Fulbright experience was a provocative journey, and during my ten months in Ireland I was submersed in a new world, both culturally and professionally.

Previously, I had been working in New Orleans at a community arts youth organization, but I was curious about working in a museum, and keen to work abroad. In the U.S., not having a graduate degree related to museum studies or never having worked in a museum typically precludes you from entering the museum sector; I had neither, and the opportunity to work within an internationally recognized institution through Fulbright was a remarkable opportunity. At The Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, my personal research focused on youth organizations in Dublin, and how to activate engagement opportunities with youth through the Gallery. Through the nature of the program and the supportive team, I was able to craft a project with a lot of autonomy, as well as take time to think and deliberately process my goals for the present, and for the future. During this self-reflection, I solidly reaffirmed my professional commitment and passion to advocate for equitable access to the arts

Traveling around Ireland and soaking up the green and the mist was one of the highlights of my experience. I like to think about the small size of the country - you can drive from Dublin to Galway in under three hours - and yet an astounding

level of diversity is observed in the landscape, the accents, and the people. To me, Ireland encapsulates the beautiful concept that one person contains multitudes, and can't be singularly defined. Along the same vein, one of the tenets of Fulbright is that supporting international exchange for individuals from diverse geo-demographics, cultural backgrounds, and professions nurtures a layered and dimensional understanding between people as individuals from their country of origin, rather than mere archetypes. Over time, this process encourages the rejection of assumptive understandings of the other, and draws ties of appreciation between cultures. Being away from the U.S. made me appreciate my home country even more, and surprisingly, I felt more proud to be an American, in spite of the current political climate. While in Ireland, I personally recognized the need to be a positive representative of one's country, to promote a consciousness of the plurality of voices that make up a country, and to affirm that the loudest are not always synonymous with everyone else.

To me, Fulbright is an opportunity to embark on a challenge and expand oneself, while serving as a unique representative of your home. This entails growing and advancing within your individual field, but you are also afforded time for reflection and self-discovery, which makes a greater impact on your future positioning, rather than the usual hindsight approach. For me, the Fulbright was an opportunity to gain confidence to aspire to more, and confidence in myself to achieve those goals.

While the first few months in Ireland were a little tough, I believe those experiences make you stronger. The Irish winter does a soul good by thickening your skin, and when the glorious reward of spring finally comes, one can know no greater satisfaction. Truly, lamb season in Glencullen on a sunny weekend is a special kind of heaven.”

(Pictured: Lesley summiting Carrauntoohil in Co. Kerry)



“The real gift of Fulbright is the opportunity to explore new ground, to make connections, and to reimagine one’s work.”

JONATHAN TODRES

**2017-2018 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awardee
Georgia State University to University College
Cork**

Professor Todres is Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law. His research focuses on children’s rights. At University College Cork, he conducted research on rights education for children, focusing on rights discourses in children’s literature and other spaces children inhabit.

“In this data driven world, there is a tendency to want to quantify everything. Since returning from serving as a Fulbright scholar at University College Cork for the Spring 2018 semester, I’ve been asked countless times, “So what did you accomplish?”

Sometimes I answer by discussing my research on children’s rights, human rights education, and human rights in children’s literature, or by talking about the International Children’s Rights course I co-taught with University College Cork Law Dean and Professor Ursula Kilkelly. Other times, I mention having had the opportunity to present my research on more than ten occasions to interdisciplinary audiences at University College Cork, Queen’s University Belfast, Leiden University Law School in the Netherlands, the Cork Bar and Southern Law Association, and the Cork Life Centre, a nonprofit organization serving youth outside the mainstream education system. Or that I was honored to deliver the keynote address, “Integrating Children’s Rights Education in the Spaces Children Inhabit” at the Advancing Children’s Rights through Education: From Innovation to Realisation symposium in Dublin.

But that is just a list of what kept me busy in Ireland; it does not begin to capture the Fulbright experience. The real gift of Fulbright is the opportunity to explore new ground, to make connections, and to reimagine one’s work and all its possible paths. As a child rights advocate / scholar, I was able to connect with partners in children’s rights, family law, human rights, social science, child development, public health, literature, and the arts, not to mention extraordinary individuals who work directly with children and youth in the community.

I also was privileged to be able to sit with young people and hear from them about their interests and hopes. All of this has inspired me to pursue more innovative approaches to my own work. It has me excited about the potential for collaboration with many of the partners I met in Ireland. In other words, the real answer is that the Fulbright experience has already shaped and will continue to shape my professional agenda for years to come.

As much of a gift as Fulbright was professionally, it meant even more on a personal level. I was fortunate that my wife and two young sons could accompany me. Together, we immersed ourselves in the Cork community and had the opportunity to explore parts of Ireland. We did cliff walks (occasionally wondering whether it’s possible for the wind to blow us into the sea), enjoyed the warmth of a pub on some cold winter days, survived a rare snowstorm, and benefitted countless times from the warmth and kindness of the people of Ireland. In short, we developed a connection to Ireland that will last a lifetime. Those connections—both professional and personal—are the true value of a Fulbright.”

(Pictured: Jonathan with his family at Blarney Castle, Cork)



Pictured above: Fulbright U.S. Awardee, Jasmine Throckmorton walking the 135 mile Kerry Way - photo by Sophie Stein; below: Fulbright Irish Awardee Alanna O'Malley discussing US politics with George Washington in D.C.- photo by Joris Larik





*Pictured above: Fulbright-EPA Irish Awardee Laura Devaney with friends at Golden Gate Fields, California;
below: Fulbright U.S. Awardee Lesley McBride exploring the Rock of Cashel with friends*





FULBRIGHT IRELAND AMBASSADORS

The Fulbright Ireland Alumni Ambassador Programme 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 Ambassadors at 19 Higher Education Institutions in Ireland. Pictured above from left to right:

Athlone Institute of Technology:

Dr Luke Geever

Cork Institute of Technology:

Noel Barry (retired)

Nicholas O'Halloran

Dublin City University:

Dr Karen Devine

Dublin Institute of Technology:

Professor Paul Donnelly

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology:

Dr Ian McLoughlin

Limerick Institute of Technology:

Dr Daragh Naughton

Marino Institute of Education:

Seán Delaney

Mary Immaculate College:

Vicky Brady

Maynooth University:

Sinéad Murnane

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:

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

FULBRIGHT IRELAND NEWS

SUPPORTING ALUMNI PROJECTS

Following an open call, the Commission supported five Fulbright Alumni projects in 2018. In April, Rita Melia hosted the conference 'Advancing Children's Rights Through Education: From imagination to realisation' (speakers and organisers pictured left). That same month, Nerys Williams coordinated the 2018 Irish Association for American Studies (IAAS) Annual Conference 'Foreign Bodies and Native Sons' at UCD. In August, Aileen Dillane travelled to Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week Chicago to teach music, curate performances, and present a lecture. Marian Crowley-Henry's ongoing project aims to compare skilled migrants living and working in the USA and those in Ireland, with regard to their perceived career challenges. While Susan Crawford is collaborating with the University of San Francisco and San Jose State University, California to roll out the GetAutismActive programme, which enhances the movement skills and quality of life of people with autism.



BLIAIN NA GAEILGE EVENT

In April, the Commission hosted a bilingual Irish-English event to highlight the popularity of the Irish language in the United States.

The event took place in Dublin's Mansion House and included a Panel Discussion on the widespread presence of Irish Language in the U.S., Fulbright's transatlantic Irish language exchange activities, and the valuable work that Fulbright Alumni are doing to promote the Irish language in the USA. Panel Speakers (pictured) included Mr Reece Smyth, Chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy, and Fulbright Alum Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Dr Teresa Lynn and Ms Síne Nic an Ailí. The Panel was chaired by Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin.

TEDXFULBRIGHTDUBLIN 2018

In September, an audience of 460 attended TEDxFulbrightDublin 2018 at the Tivoli Theatre, Dublin. TED's mission is to deepen people's understanding of the world, and TEDx brings this mission to local communities around the globe.

Supported by the U.S. Embassy, the Fulbright Commission in Ireland, GSI and the IFAA, TEDxFulbrightDublin 2018 featured 10 speakers and performers who highlighted Fulbright Ireland-U.S. achievements and the diversity of research being undertaken by Fulbright Alumni and others in Ireland. Social enterprises and innovators were invited to provide lunchtime catering and entertainment, and to create an art installation. 24 volunteers took part in the organisation of the event; this reflects TEDx's support of local communities and the core Fulbright ethos. Videos are online on the Fulbright Ireland YouTube Channel. (Pictured: Fulbright Alum Dr Emilie Pine)





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 September 2017 and June 2018, the EducationUSA Advisor attended training in Barcelona and Lisbon respectively. In March, The Team hosted the annual EducationUSA Seminar at IBAT College for students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors.

2018 SUSI AWARDS

The Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for European Student Leaders are highly competitive, short-term, academic programs, providing undergraduates with a deeper understanding of the U.S. while enhancing their leadership skills.

Liam O'Driscoll from UCC and Niall O'Shaughnessy from UCD (pictured with fellow Awardees) were the successful Irish SUSI recipients. They undertook a 5-week Institute on Civic Engagement at the University of South Carolina.



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 2018, over forty Awardees were welcomed to Ireland.

These grants are sponsored by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the National Lottery of Ireland. (Pictured: Summer Gaeltacht Awardee Neil Clayton)

Partners & Friends



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



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

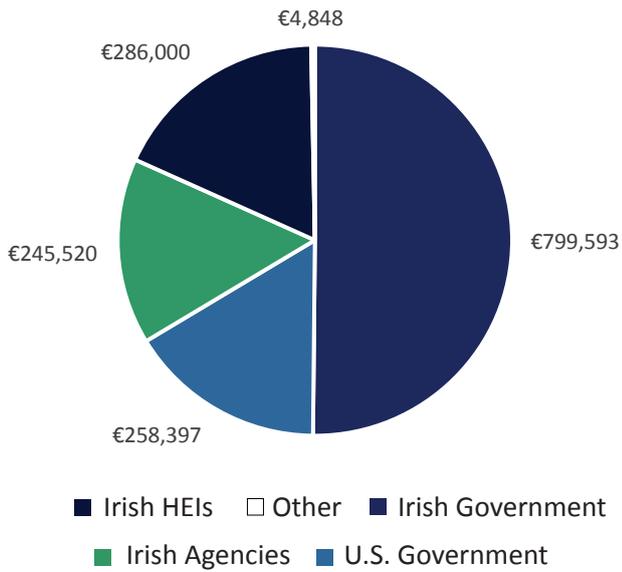


Irish Fulbright Alumni Association

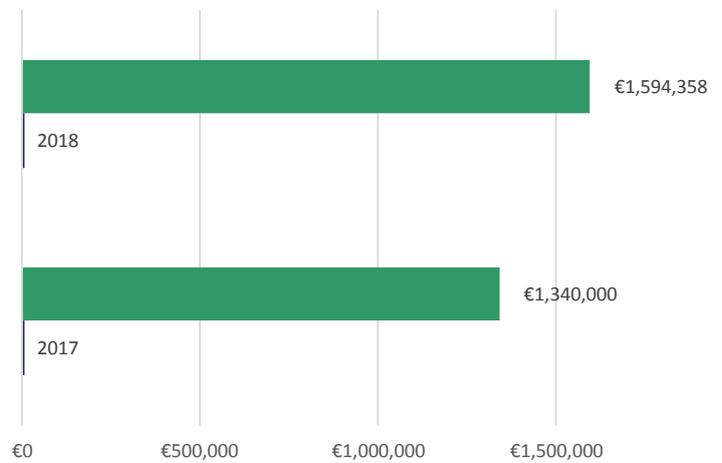


FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-2018

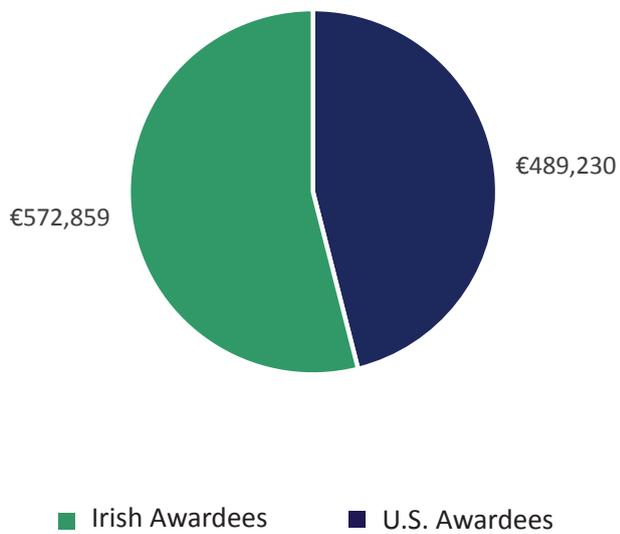
Annual Income



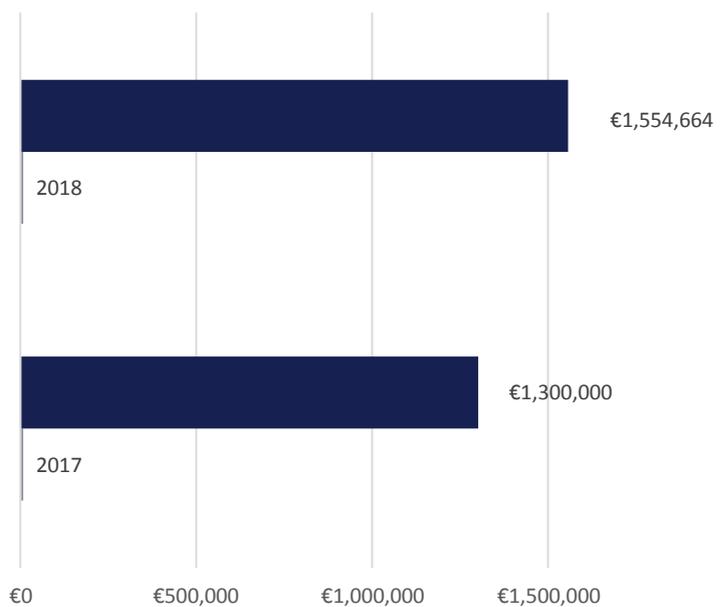
Annual Income



Scholarships



Annual Expenditure





FULBRIGHT IRELAND TEAM

Dr Dara Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Angela Hoey-Reilly, Executive Assistant
Emma Loughney, Communications Manager
Sonya McGuinness, Awards Manager
Paula Melvin, Awards Administrator

Pictured (L-R):
Sonya McGuinness
Angela Hoey-Reilly
Dr Dara Fitzgerald
Paula Melvin
Emma Loughney

FULBRIGHT

Solas an léinn
Makes a difference

“The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy - the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately..”

SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

[From The Price of Empire, 1967]