



FULBRIGHT Ireland-USA



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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



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Cover Image: 2020-2021 Fulbright Irish Awardee and Artist, Brian Maguire, is pictured in his Dublin studio on a virtual call with his U.S. Host Institution contact Brandon Reintjes, Curator at the Missoula Art Museum, Montana. Photo by Conor McCabe



DR DARA FITZGERALD

Executive Director, Fulbright Commission in Ireland

“The Fulbright Award and Financial year FY21, from October 1st 2020 to September 30th 2021 represented a year of Fulbright 75 and Fulbright Ireland 64 celebrations, outreach and ongoing improvements. The addition of new awards was matched with increases in terms of U.S. awardee numbers, awardee online interactions and Commission profile.

The Fulbright-Frederick and Anna Douglass Awards provided new impetus in terms of the Commission’s outreach strategy and underpinned the focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Sponsored awards with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Letterkenny Institute of Technology also added to the diversity of award opportunities. Successful Irish and U.S. applicants covered a broad range of disciplines, coming from a diversity of backgrounds.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to play a major part in the Commission’s activities, with many successfully carried out online, yet it also provided a platform for new outreach ideas and mechanisms that were subsequently implemented by the Irish Commission. An example included online interviews of U.S. students for the very first time. Whilst awardee travel continued during the pandemic, scheduling of such travel was challenging at times with significant credit to be given to Fulbright Award Managers for rising to such challenge.

In February 2021, the Board considered the ethos of Fulbright exchange and what the post-pandemic outcomes, sustainability and environmental concerns might mean for the program and related international travel.

Despite pandemic related constraints, sponsorship support from Government stakeholders, agency sponsors, and in particular Higher Education Institutions, remained strong during the period. Indeed, some new HEIs also joined this support base.

From March 2021, twenty-two virtual roadshow events were aimed at specific HEIs or disciplines. The roadshow highlighted award supports for creative artists, showcased Commission all-discipline awards and those for scholars, professionals and students, supported by Creative Ireland. Attendee numbers overall were greater than any other year.

In June 2021, an online awards ceremony was once again required due to pandemic restrictions. Video messages at the event were delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chargé d’affaires at the U.S. Embassy, the Irish Ambassador to the USA, and the husband of the late Mary McPartlan announced two bursaries given in her name. This represented a warm and sumptuous welcome to the U.S. and to the Fulbright family and network.

The Irish Executive Director continued to lead the group of EDs for 23 European Commissions hosting fortnightly meetings and spearheading interactions across 12 different functions across Commissions.

The Fulbright Commission in Ireland is a vibrant, complex and highly respected organisation supported by energetic and dedicated staff and board members. The management of activities and dedication by both Executive Director and staff in 2020-2021 have seen the over-achievement of targets and continuation of the Fulbright mission for the period and will underpin and benefit activities in 2021-2022.”



PROFESSOR DIANE NEGRA

Chair, Fulbright Commission in Ireland Board

“In a year in which the availability of vaccines significantly diminished (though of course did not end) the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report that Fulbright in Ireland has been continuing its work at a high level and resuming some of the in-person activities so vital to our mission.

While Fulbrighters continue to contend with pragmatic challenges to the mobility and collaboration salient to exchange, they are doing so with a determined spirit and a renewed sense of the necessity and value of the work we undertake.

Although it has been necessary for the Fulbright Board to continue to undertake its work remotely, this is a challenge we have been well able to meet. We were pleased this year to welcome new Board member, Ms. Marianne Doyle, whose expertise will undoubtedly enrich our work.

Fulbright’s global mission centres on the cultivation and transfer of expertise and knowledge in numerous fields. Its prestige derives from the values of intellectual excellence with which it has come to be associated and its reputation as an international exchange program of the highest calibre.

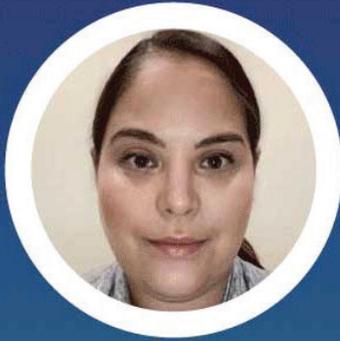
Fulbright in Ireland undertakes its work mindful of the specific features that characterize the relationship between Ireland and the U.S. both historically and in the current era. As we look out at a world facing numerous

diplomatic, foreign policy, public health and climate challenges, we anticipate that Fulbright scholars will play a significant role in devising responses to these most pressing concerns.

I thank all those who have undertaken and supported the Commission’s work this year – the reviewers whose knowledge is so instrumental in the selection process, the board members who give generously of their time and expertise, and the U.S. Department of State, the Irish Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. We are especially grateful to Julie Connell, the DFA’s Director of the US/Canada Unit for her contributions to Fulbright this year. We are delighted by the appointment of Claire Cronin as the new U.S. Ambassador to Ireland and look forward to working with her.

I want to express my deep appreciation to every member of the Fulbright team for their continued resilience and professionalism in shifting to a blended work schedule and ensuring minimal disruption to ongoing operations. Dr. Dara Fitzgerald continues to lead the team with unflagging dedication and skill.

I hope that everyone associated with Fulbright in Ireland is keeping safe and well, and want to take this opportunity to send my personal good wishes as we continue to recover from the worst impacts of the pandemic. We are looking ahead to a new year full of exciting Fulbright events and more opportunities to see you in person.”



BOARD MEMBERS

U.S. MEMBERS

Professor Diane Negra (Chair)

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

Ms Thea Gilien

Director, Programmes and Experiential Learning Abroad, Boston College Ireland

Ms Angie Gjertson

Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Dublin

Mr Christopher Wurst

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

IRISH MEMBERS

Professor Paul Donnelly (Deputy Chair)

Fulbright Irish Alumnus, Professor of Management and Organisation Studies, TU Dublin

Dr Anne Cleary

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

Ms Marianne Doyle

Senior Strategic Transformation Manager with An Garda Síochána

Dr Sarah Ingle

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

Board Members pictured (L-R): Professor Diane Negra, Ms Angie Gjertson, Ms Thea Gilien, Mr Christopher Wurst, Dr Sarah Ingle, Dr Anne Cleary, Professor Paul Donnelly and Ms Marianne Doyle







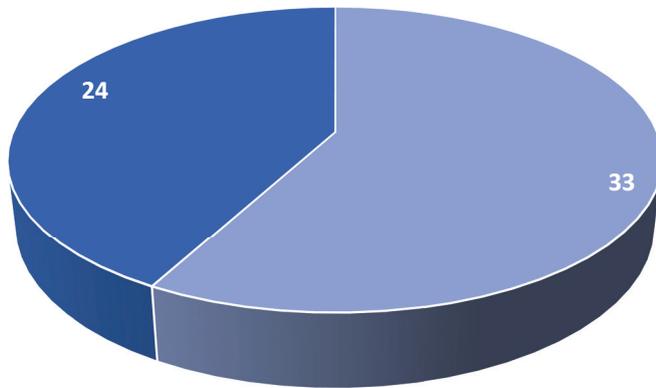
1819
Hours of Irish
taught by FLTAs

764
Students studied the
Irish Language

308
Students sat Irish
language exams

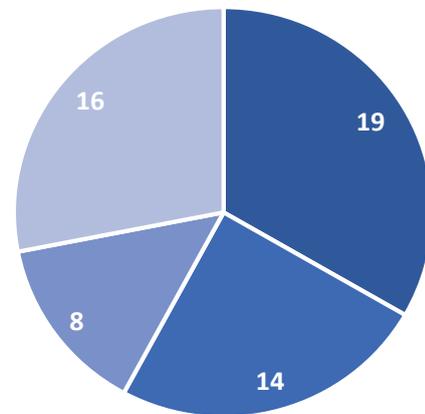
PROGRAMME STATISTICS 2020-2021

Fulbright Awardees



■ U.S. Awardees ■ Irish Awardees

Fulbright Awards



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

18

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

10

U.S. States visited
by Irish Awardees

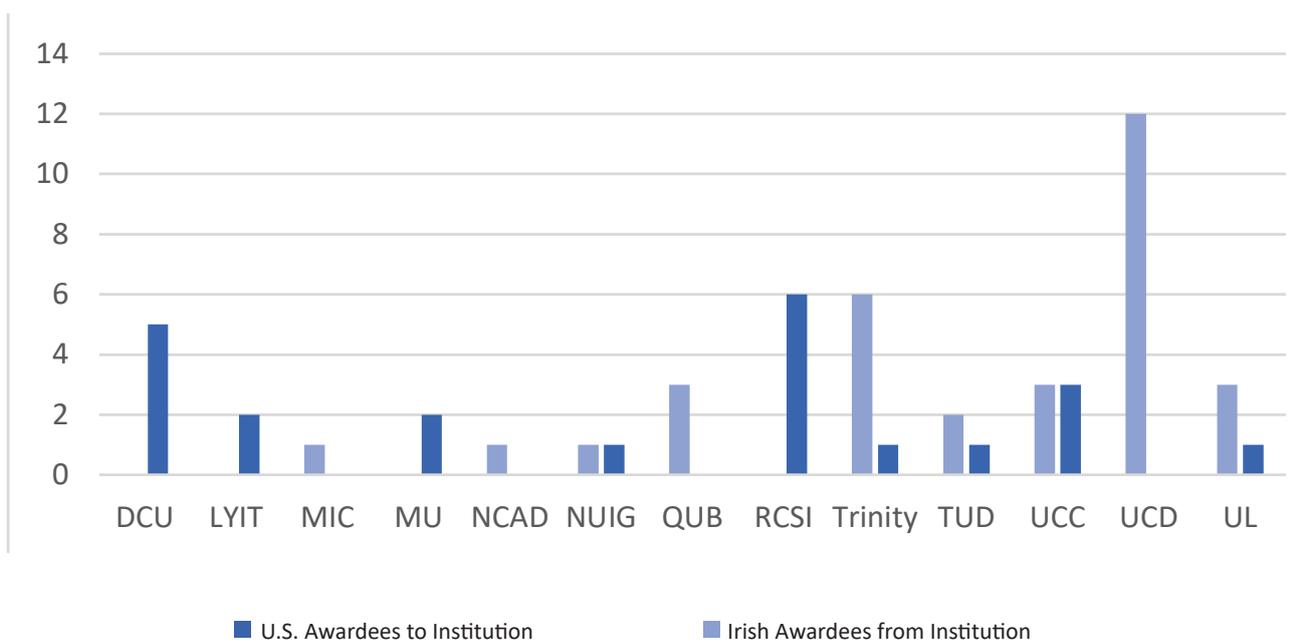
9

Irish HEIs visited
by U.S. Awardees

9

Irish HEIs
represented by Irish
Awardees

Fulbright Awards by Institution



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

Left: 2019-2020 Fulbright-HRB Scholar Dr Suja Somanadhan had to postpone her Award due to the pandemic, but travelled to Pittsburgh to take up her scholarship at a later date; Page 7: 2020-2021 Fulbright-Teagasc Irish Student Awardee Conor Holohan at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; 2020-2021 U.S. Awardee Hannah Flowers; Page 8: Picture by 2020-2021 U.S. Awardee Carmen Jeanette Stepek in Dublin; 'Claddagh Sails on St Patrick's Day' photo by 2020-2021 U.S. Scholar Eric Sandweiss



FULBRIGHT IRISH AWARDEES 2020-21

FULBRIGHT IRISH STUDENTS

Mark Berney

Trinity College Dublin to the University of Chicago

Susan Boyle

Technological University Dublin Tallaght to the Smithsonian Museum of American History
Sponsor: Creative Ireland

Holly English

University College Dublin to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Washington D.C.
Sponsor: EPA

Hugh Fitzgibbon

Trinity College Dublin to the University of Pennsylvania

Muiríosa Guinan

University College Dublin to the Exploratorium
Sponsor: Creative Ireland

Richard Hogan

Trinity College Dublin to Antioch University Seattle

Conor Holohan

University College Dublin to University of Wisconsin Madison
Sponsor: Teagasc

Helen Jennings

Cambridge University to New York University

Joshua Kieran-Glennon

University College Dublin to Harvard Law School

Pietro Marchese

National University of Ireland Galway to University of South Florida in Tampa
Sponsor: Marine Institute

Henry Martin

National College of Art and Design to the Smithsonian Archives of American Art
Sponsor: Creative Ireland

Aleksandra Serafin

University of Limerick to University of California San Diego

Anne Marie Shier

Technological University Dublin to The Rudd Adoption Research Program

Dylan Storan

University of Limerick to University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

FULBRIGHT IRISH FLTAS

Brian Devlin

Queens University Belfast to University of Notre Dame

Brigita Gallagher

University College Cork to Elms College, Chicopee

Jane Lucey

Mary Immaculate College to University of Montana

Róisín Ní Chinnéide

University College Cork to Catholic University of America, Washington DC

Caolán Ó Coisneacháin

Queens University Belfast to Davidson Community College, North Carolina

FULBRIGHT IRISH SCHOLARS

Tara Cusack

University College Dublin to George Mason University
Sponsor: HRB

Amanda Drury

Trinity College Dublin to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York
Sponsor: HRB

Henry Duncan

Trinity College Dublin to Rutgers University, New Jersey
Sponsor: HRB

Margaret Flood

National Council of Curriculum and Assessment to Boston College

Cheryl Lawther

Queens University to University of California Berkeley

Brian Maguire

To The Missoula Art Museum

Jack Quin

Trinity College Dublin to New York University

Leanne Waters

University College Dublin to DePaul University Chicago
Sponsor: NUI

Astrid Wingler

University College Cork to University of California Davis
Sponsor: EPA

FULBRIGHT TECHIMPACT SCHOLARS

David Kelleghan

University College Dublin to Iowa State University

Amelia Kelly

Soapbox Labs to University of Colorado, Boulder

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

All State Northern Ireland to Boston College

Fionnuala Murphy

University College Dublin to University of California, Santa Barbara

Joseph Stephens

National Cyber Security Centre to Boston College



FULBRIGHT U.S. AWARDEES 2020-21

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENTS

Maya Bauer

Mercyhurst University to Dublin City University

Brandy Boden

Syracuse University to Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane

Julia Boyce

Tufts University Boston to Trinity College Dublin

Elizabeth Coy

SUNY Geneseo to Dublin City University

Sorcha Federico-O'Murchu

To the University of Limerick

Celina Flocks

Monaghan University of South Florida to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Hannah Flowers

To Maynooth University

Carmen-Jeanette Stepek

California State University Channel Islands to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLARS

David Baker

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to Maynooth University

John Burkhardt

University of Michigan to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Michael Caslin

GCSEN Foundation to Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Laura Marshall Clark

Institute of American Indian Arts, Sante Fe to University College Cork

Christine Davis

University of North Carolina at Charlotte to University College Cork

Jennifer Jones

East Carolina University to Geological Survey of Ireland

Elizabeth Keating

University of Texas at Austin to Technological University Dublin

Precious McKenzie

Rocky Mountain College to University College Cork

Donald Neumann

Marquette University, Milwaukee to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Anthony Nyberg

Emory University to Dublin City University

Linda Rochford

University of Minnesota-Duluth to Letterkenny Institute of Technology

Marcy Rosenbaum

University of Iowa to Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Eric Sandweiss

Indiana University to National University of Ireland Galway

David Sklar

Arizona State University to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Paul (Stefan) Ward

Central Washington University to Dublin City University

FULBRIGHT-GLOBAL SCHOLAR

Sarah Gendron

Marquette University, Milwaukee to Dublin City University

Top left: The 2020-2021 Fulbright Irish Awards online Celebration took place in June 2020

Above: The 2020-2021 Fulbright U.S. Award Orientation took place online in September 2020



DYLAN STORAN

As a PhD student in the Department of Chemical Sciences, based in the Bernal Institute at the University of Limerick, Dylan Storan visited the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill on his Fulbright Irish Student Award.

“I was lucky enough to be invited to UNC Chapel Hill by Professor James Cahoon, a leading expert in the field of nanomaterial synthesis and characterization.

I visited Professor Cahoon’s lab to electrically characterize single nanowires for transistor applications. While I initially came to the Cahoon Lab for this project, we soon realised that the potential for collaboration was much greater than we first thought. The Nanotechnology Research Lab, based in the Bernal Institute at the University of Limerick, has particular expertise in studying materials for next generation energy storage technologies, so more collaborative projects emerged in the form of studying Professor Cahoon’s materials in batteries.

Though my home group (lead by Professor Kevin M Ryan), and the Cahoon group had collaborated remotely previously, Fulbright strengthened this collaboration by enabling me to come and conduct research at UNC in person. I found that being a Fulbrighter helped in making connections. I made many professional connections from engineers in local semiconductor companies to the CEO of a new battery start-up in the area.

Professionally, making such connections has been incredibly valuable for life after my studies. Personally, my Fulbright was one of the most enjoyable and defining experiences of my life. Before my Fulbright Award, I had never lived outside of Limerick. I remember my first day exploring Chapel Hill and the UNC campus, and taking in how the architecture and layout of everything was so different to home. I experienced the famous “southern hospitality” in North Carolina. Everywhere I went people were extremely welcoming and couldn’t help me enough in getting set up. Due to their welcoming nature, I quickly integrated into the local community forming friends who I plan on staying in contact with, and whose kindness I hope someday to repay when I show them around Ireland.

“My Fulbright experience has truly changed my life both personally and professionally.”

Due to the success of our collaboration, I have been invited back to the University of North Carolina by Professor Cahoon to continue our work. I am currently enjoying my second placement there, which would not have happened at all if not for my Fulbright Award. My Fulbright experience has truly changed my life personally and professionally. I will sincerely always be an advocate for the Fulbright Program.”



DR TARA CUSACK

Tara Cusack is an Associate Professor of Physiotherapy at University College Dublin. She went to George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax Virginia on a Fulbright-HRB HealthImpact Award.

“My Scholarship took me to the School of Education and Human Development at GMU to work with Professor Erin Peters Burton, who is Donna R. and David E. Sterling Endowed Professor in Science Education and Director of the Centre for Social Equity Through Science Education. Her interdisciplinary research led me to contact her as I am a physiotherapist and my research area of interest is in interdisciplinary doctoral education, specifically connected health, education. I believed I would benefit greatly from her experience, which proved to be the case.

When I applied for a Fulbright Award, I really wanted to expand my horizons both in terms of my research and my network. I was keen to broaden my research perspective and gain new insights. I really wanted to experience academic life in the USA and to have an opportunity to learn from U.S. academics and understand their perspectives.

I chose GMU because it is a young but very ambitious university which is classified as “R1: Doctoral University, very high research activity”. Professor Peters Burton advised in relation to my research and supported my Research Ethics Application. She recommended my appointment as Affiliate Faculty which enabled me to use the facilities of the university,

including the excellent library facilities and amazing health and fitness facilities. She also raised awareness of my work among her colleagues, which facilitated recruitment to my research study.

Undertaking my Scholarship in 2020-2021 was not without its challenges. My initial intention was to be in the USA from September 2020 - February 2021. However, the pandemic intervened, but with much support from the Fulbright Team in Ireland we travelled to the U.S. on the 2nd April 2021. There was no one in Dublin Airport, and we were questioned twice by the Irish authorities as to the purpose of our journey. In contrast to Dublin, Homeland Security in the U.S. were very welcoming, it took no more than 5 minutes with the officials wishing us well as we embarked on our adventure. It was an amazing journey.

I was very privileged to be able to take my family with me. My sixteen-year-old sons attended WT Woodson High School in Fairfax for three months. The U.S. education system offered them an amazing opportunity to take subjects not offered in Ireland, to make friends from a broad range of different communities and to experience American life in way few young people ever get an opportunity to do at their age. They have continued to maintain these friendships. I have continued to maintain links with my GMU colleagues. I applied for Horizon Europe funding in the past year and one of my GMU colleagues agreed to be an expert advisor for the project.

My Fulbright experience has enhanced my academic and personal life, it has given me a new perspective, fresh vision and new purpose and so has enabled me to broaden my horizons.”



DR MARGARET FLOOD

Dr Margaret Flood is the Education Officer for Inclusive Education and Diversity at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. She visited CAST in Boston to conduct research on Universal Design Learning (UDL).

“My Fulbright Award brought me to the epicentre of UDL thinking and practice in Boston. With the spark of an idea to explore the system requirement to enact UDL as an inclusive education framework in the Irish context, I emailed CAST about the possibility of a Fulbright Award. I asked them to recommend a university professor who might be willing to host me, and from there an amazing relationship with CAST and Boston College began.

Arriving in August 2021, I quickly became ‘a member of the family’ in both institutions. My time in Boston College involved engaging conversations and learning with my host, Dr Richard Jackson and his colleagues; auditing courses; delivering lectures; and of course attending a college pep rally or two.

My thinking was challenged, questions and contradictions were put forward, and through constructive dialogues and guided reading, I gained a much more global perspective of my research. This global perspective also gave me a new lens through which to look at inclusion in my own Irish system. My work in CAST focused on their own review of the UDL Guidelines through an equity lens. My time with them gave me a seat at the table that would not

have happened if I did not have this time in Boston. Trusting me to audit the UDL checkpoints as part of their equity review gave me an indepth understanding of the UDL design process, the research that informed earlier designs, but more importantly the gaps and what is needed moving forward in a redesign. I was warmly welcomed by the CAST team showing their dedication to improving on what is already there.

My Fulbright experience enabled me to contextualise UDL and equity and inclusion in the Irish context and develop my thinking for future work in this area. Collaborations and work have continued since I returned home. One wonderful outcome is that CAST invited me to sit on their UDL Stakeholder Committee and I am the first non-American member.

A part of the Fulbright Award that I hadn’t really thought of before travelling was the amazing cultural experience. Making American and international friends, learning about different cultures and religions, and opportunities to travel were on par with my academic experiences. I got to celebrate Thanksgiving and Hanukah, visit the loveliest New England towns, and ended my time in the U.S. with a Civil Rights road trip, all with American friends. I look forward to welcoming two of them to Ireland this summer.

The Fulbright Award has given me lasting memories, new friendships, and new opportunities. It is an experience of a lifetime that doesn’t end once you get home.”(Margaret is pictured second left with U.S. colleagues)



RICHARD HOGAN

Richard Hogan is a Family Psychotherapist, schoolteacher and lecturer. He was a Fulbright Irish Awardee to Antioch University in Seattle, Washington.

“My Fulbright journey started many years ago in primary school, where a young boy felt left out of the educational process because he didn’t learn like all the other students.

That experience motivated me to go into education and help other students. My working life as a teacher was incredibly fulfilling but I always felt there was something missing from my training and at times I felt I didn’t have the skills to help students who were struggling with difficult family dynamics. So, I up-skilled by undertaking a Masters in systemic family psychotherapy. It was in these profound lectures that I began to think that all teachers should be taught this theory to enrich their teaching experience and impact positively on the world of the student. I started to research how to intersect teacher training with systemic theory and found a university in Seattle, Washington that had both of these departments on campus.

I sent my first email to Antioch University back in 2015. Within a day Colin Ward, a senior lecturer in post-modern narrative therapy, contacted me and a friendship was born. We have been close friends since that initial email all those years ago. That is the real gift of this Fulbright experience, not only did I attend lectures, give talks, and broaden my research, I also made wonderful lifelong friends along the way.

I travelled this summer with my family to Seattle. My wife and three daughters stayed with me for four weeks. They will never forget the summer their dad went on a Fulbright Scholarship. My eldest daughter Hannah vowed she will be a Fulbrighter someday, too!

The pandemic didn’t prevent Antioch from developing a very comprehensive integrated study plan. In fact, my presence there brought the faculty together for the first time in 15 months. Every day I was lecturing, joining research groups, supervising PhD candidates and carrying out research. I was even invited to speak with faculty about my book ‘Parenting the Screenager’. It was such a diverse experience.

I am still in contact with many lecturers from Antioch and they are hoping that when I finish my research and have developed a teacher training programme I will return and implement it into their programme at the four Antioch universities across America.

This experience has been, without doubt, the most rewarding academic experience of my life. I have made life-long friends and shared knowledge with academics I would never have had the opportunity to meet without Fulbright Ireland. I feel very privileged to be a member of the Fulbright community and want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone involved in my scholarship for working to bring a dream to life during a global health crisis. You guys are awesome!”



PROFESSOR ERIC SANDWEISS

Eric Sandweiss is Professor of History, and Adjunct Professor of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, at Indiana University (IU). His Fulbright was devoted to teaching U.S. history at NUI Galway, where he also undertook research.

“My wife and I landed in Ireland on an Airbus jet (seating capacity c. 250) with fifteen other passengers. The Dublin arrivals area—where doors from customs typically open onto a crush of expectant family members and tour guides—was empty but for a janitor and one man in a suit. “You must be Brendan,” I said to the latter. Ireland is that kind of place, but 2021 was also that kind of year. In January, as Brendan helped us haul our bags to his van, the nation’s intensive-care units were filled. Ireland’s post-Christmas COVID-19 surge had brought medical supply shortages, fears, and, of course thousands of new cases each day. You needed good reasons to be in the Dublin Airport.

Fulbright had offered me the opportunity to delay my semester teaching U.S. history at NUI Galway. But I decided to forge ahead. Seeing the country—even in crisis—would serve me well, and my adopted campus deserved a chance to deliver courses in which students had already enrolled. The months ahead tested that decision, but it proved right.

Ireland remained under Level Five lockdown for most of our Galway stay. No restaurants served food, no pubs poured drinks, non-essential stores were closed, and visitors—like all residents—

were restricted to a five-kilometer radius of their home address. (I joked to friends that I could have taught my classes from my bedroom in Indiana.) But I came to enjoy the daily discipline of setting up my laptop for the morning’s classes, heading out for a wind-blown walk along the Salthill Prom or through the hushed streets of the city center, and finally returning to prepare the next day’s classes before my wife’s home-cooked meal, served at a kitchen table overlooking the dome of Galway Cathedral.

Working virtually with NUI Galway colleagues proved frustrating at first, rewarding at last. Students zoomed into class from remote farmhouses in Meath or Donegal. Faculty conducted business from home offices visible in the backgrounds of our now-familiar Hollywood Squares display screens. The campus, where I walked almost daily, remained largely empty, its buildings dark.

Yet through it all, a tough, good-humored Irish spirit prevailed. Fulbright arranged a series of virtual nights-on-the-town for me and other fellows similarly stranded across the country. New friends invited us for city walks and al fresco coffees buffeted by spring breezes. Gradually, restrictions loosened. The campus library opened for researchers. We could travel to the Aran Islands. Enjoy a meal at a sidewalk café. Even spend a night in a Westport hotel. (Our most welcome adventure? The cab ride to the local racetrack, to get our vaccinations.)

Spring 2021 was an extraordinary time for the world. Thanks to Fulbright and NUI Galway, it was a different kind of extraordinary time for me. I won’t forget the generosity and cheer of a people coping with difficult times—and still finding ways to welcome a stranger.”



LAURA MARSHALL CLARK

Laura Marshall Clark is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma and an interdisciplinary scholar, writer, and curator. As a Fulbright Scholar, she taught Native American literature and aesthetics, and researched Celtic History.

“When I first arrived in late August 2021, University College Cork in Ireland filled me with wonder. We weren’t a post-COVID world just yet and moving from a semi-isolated home environment to a global community seemed in itself a phenomenon. The one-year delay in becoming a Fulbright U.S. Scholar amid the pandemic had in no way dampened my dream of teaching Native American literature and aesthetics at UCC and researching Celtic history and identity. As an Indigenous woman with Celtic ancestry, this connection was a natural fit.

Statistically, UCC is ranked in the top two percent of universities in the world who offer a wide array of disciplines and subject areas. During my application process, I discovered that its Department of English and Digital Humanities was already engaging with Indigenous scholars and authors in connection to a historical interchange during the Great Famine.

UCC faculty and students were remarkably warm and eager to learn about Indigenous Peoples and my work. Together we found a fascination in one another’s history and cultures, and the beauty of what formed us into distinct, yet not dissimilar, people groups. Even as my students gained understanding about Native American cultures, I grew in my own understanding of the Irish.

Traveling across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, I had opportunities to not only connect to cities, mountainsides, and the sea, but also with a variety of Irish people—scholars, artists, shop owners, bus drivers, priests—the people are the tablets of Ireland telling a beautiful story. If I had not lived among the Irish, I would not have been immersed in the confluence of Irish paradigms that dovetailed with Indigenous knowledges, a deep sense of the ancient that informs my own identity. When it was time to return to the U.S., I left feeling as if my work had only begun.

“The Fulbright Award gave me an experience I hold so dear and embrace so deeply. Ireland became my Ireland, and she calls to me today. I hope to return again soon”

I am fortunate to have a potential collaborative project in the next year at UCC that involves literature and history. The generous reciprocity of Ireland and tribes of North America has not waned but continues to grow.

The Fulbright Award gave me an experience I hold so dear and embrace so deeply. Ireland became my Ireland, and she calls to me today. I hope to return again soon.”





FULBRIGHT IRELAND CAMPUS AMBASSADORS

The Fulbright Ireland Campus Ambassador Programme was established in 2016 with the aim of providing on-campus support for Fulbright applicants and partners across the country, and giving the Fulbright programme wider visibility. There are currently 22 Alumni serving as Ambassadors across Higher Education Institutions in Ireland. Pictured above from left to right:

Athlone Institute of Technology:

Dr Luke Geever

Carlow Institute of Technology:

Trina Rea

Cork Institute of Technology:

Dr Michael D. Murphy

Dublin City University:

Dr Donal Fitzpatrick

Dundalk Institute of Technology:

Dr Caroline Sheedy

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology:

Katharine West

Limerick Institute of Technology:

Dr Daragh Naughton

Marino Institute of Education:

Madeleine Ní Ghallchobair

Mary Immaculate College:

Vicky Brady

Maynooth University:

Dr Catherine Leen

National College of Art and Design:

Dr Rachel O'Dwyer

National University of Ireland Galway:

Dr Ruth Melia

Queen's University Belfast:

Roisin Hyde

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland:

Dr Helen French

Technological University Dublin:

Dr Liz O'Sullivan

Trinity College Dublin:

Áine Ní Shúilleabháin

Ulster University:

Dr Art Hughes

University College Cork:

Professor Colin Bradley

University College Dublin:

Dr Francesco Pilla

University of Limerick:

Dr Jean McCarthy

Waterford Institute of Technology:

Dr Anne Graham Cagney

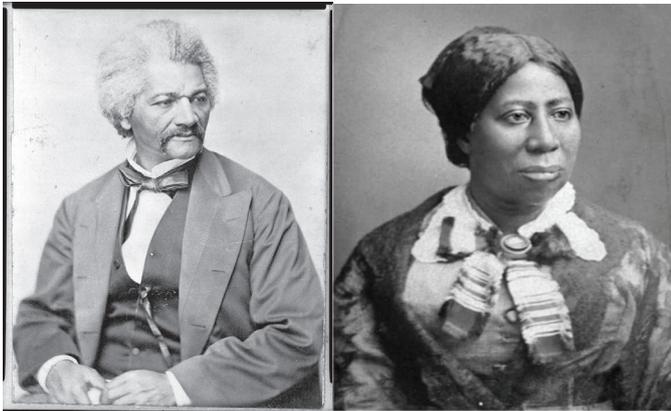
At Large - Creative Writing:

Kevin Kiely

FULBRIGHT NEWS

NEW AWARDS

To mark the 175th anniversary of Frederick Douglass' historic visit to Ireland, the Fulbright Commission in Ireland created the *Fulbright-Frederick and Anna Douglass Awards*. Established in cooperation with *Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI)*, and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Dublin, these Awards honour the legacy of Douglass and his wife Anna. With the goal of increasing participation of diverse communities in Ireland - U.S. exchanges, these new scholarships will be offered to Irish and U.S. students in areas broadly related to civil rights and social justice. Dublin City University will host the first successful U.S. Awardee.



This year, the Commission also worked with Science Foundation Ireland to create a new Award in Future Scoping and Challenge Based Funding. The Award will welcome U.S. Scholars to Ireland to work on the design of novel initiatives addressing pressing societal and technical challenges. In another exciting development, Letterkenny Institute of Technology will sponsor two new discipline-specific opportunities for U.S. experts to come to Ireland. The award in Computer Science invites U.S. scholars to undertake lecturing and research, while recipients of the Award in Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation will assist in program development, conduct research and teach courses.

(Above: photos courtesy of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives; Below: LYIT campus)



MARY MCPARTLAN BURSARY

In memory of Fulbright Irish Alumna and renowned singer, producer and mentor, Mary McPartlan, this Bursary of €5,000 will be awarded annually to two Fulbright Award recipients.

Mary was a valued member of the Fulbright family, and acted as a mentor to many aspiring awardees during her time as Fulbright Ambassador at NUI Galway. She was a 2013 Fulbright Scholar to Lehman College (CUNY) and Berea College Kentucky. While there, she lectured on the history of Irish Traditional Culture, Women Traditional Singers in Ireland, and Irish Contemporary Plays and Playwrights. Her research explored Irish song material in New York and the great Appalachian Folk singer and song collector Jean Ritchie. Mary leaves a legacy for the Fulbright community, US-Ireland connections, and the arts.



ALUMNI PROJECT FUND

Each year the Commission offers five €1000 grants to support Alumni projects and events with a diversity, equality and inclusion focus. While several projects were postponed due to the pandemic, the 'ShoutOut: Queer Decolonisation Panel Discussion' went ahead in Autumn 2020. Fulbright Alumna Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh and LGBTQ+ educational charity ShoutOut organised this engaging discussion featuring speakers Katlego Kai Kolanyane-Kesupile, Timothy R. Bussey, Ph.D., Alber Saborío, and Mpho Mokotso. It is available to watch on ShoutOut's YouTube channel.

PARTNERS & FRIENDS



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



DIAS

Institiúid Ard-Léinn | Dublin Institute for
Bhaile Átha Cliath | Advanced Studies



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
FAMILY INITIATIVES



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

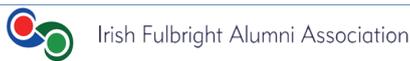


HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHOR
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACI

HRB Health
Research
Board



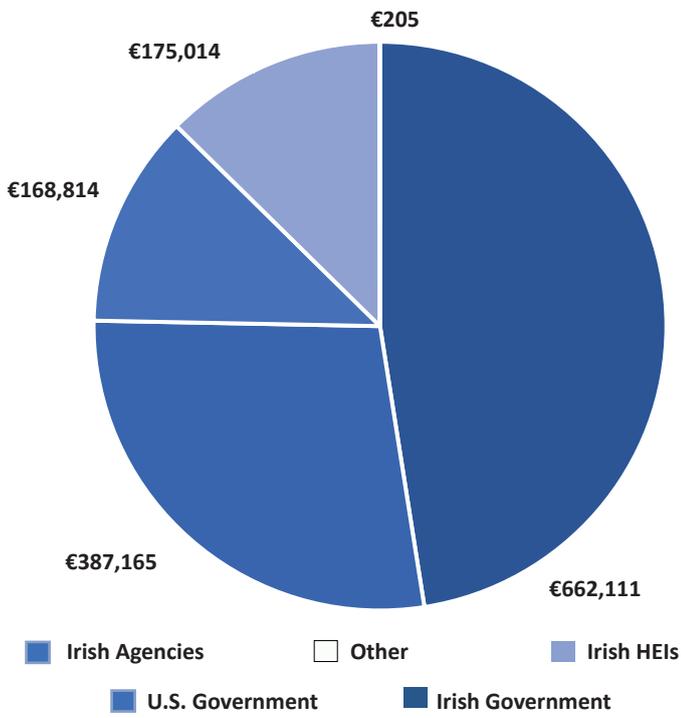
lyit

Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn
Letterkenny Institute of Technology



FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

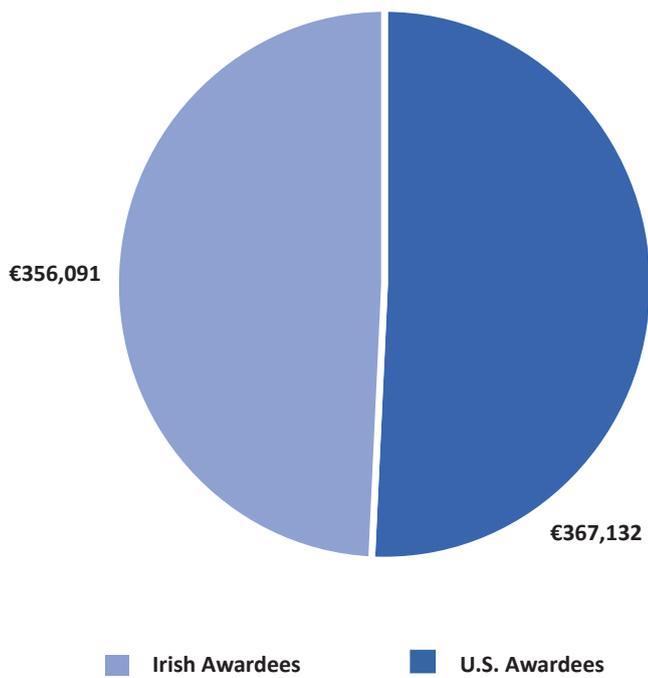
Annual Income



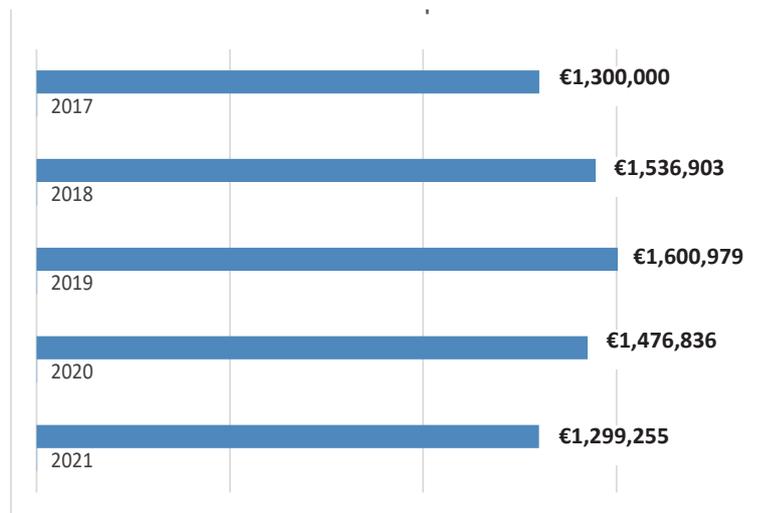
Annual Income



Scholarships



Annual Expenditure





FULBRIGHT IRELAND TEAM

Dr Dara Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Rowan Gallagher, Communications Officer (Maternity Cover)
Emma Loughney, Communications Manager
Paula Melvin, Awards Manager
Sonya McGuinness, Senior Awards Manager
Sara West, Executive Assistant

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

 **FULBRIGHT**
Ireland-USA

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FULBRIGHT

Ireland-USA

“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. The simple purpose of the exchange program...is to erode the culturally rooted mistrust that sets nations against one another. The exchange program is not a panacea but an avenue of hope....”

SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

[From From The Price of Empire, 1967]