

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027
PROGRAM FOR BRAZILIAN CITIZENS
FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED CHAIR AT
RICE UNIVERSITY**

The Fulbright Distinguished Award in Theoretical Biological Physics at Rice University, Houston, Texas, will give one award for a Brazilian scholar to spend one academic semester lecturing and researching in the fall term 2026 (September to December 2026) or spring term 2027 (January to May 2027), following the RICE academic year calendar.

The award is intended to foster teaching and research in **Theoretical Biological Physics**. Candidates for the award shall submit a detailed proposal for lecturing and research related to a field of study to be carried out during the fall 2026 semester or the spring 2027 semester. The ideal candidates are those working in theoretical biology who would like to visit Rice University and engage in research collaborations with the faculty. The selected research scholars will be hosted by the [Center for Theoretical Biological Physics faculty](#) at Rice University. They will engage in collaborative research, pedagogy, give scientific talks/seminars, and build long-term inter-institutional connections.

Lecturing proposals should include a detailed syllabus for a three-hour weekly graduate seminar conceived within one of the disciplines taught at RICE. Research proposals should consist of a site or laboratory and proposed RICE affiliation.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must work under a full-time and active contract in a Brazilian higher education institution. English language proficiency that is compatible with the proposed activities is a requirement. Candidates must hold a Brazilian passport and have earned a doctoral degree before December 31st, 2017. Candidates who have benefited from a J-1 visa in the past must have returned to Brazil before August 1st, 2024, to be eligible for the Fulbright Program. **Former Fulbright Chair awardees, dual Brazilian/U.S. citizens, candidates hired temporarily or as substitute professors, are not eligible.** Candidates must demonstrate outstanding academic qualifications and a record of professional experience, and intellectual production in the proposed area during the last ten years. The candidate must stay in Brazil during the following phases: selection, affiliation, and departure to the U.S.; this grant cannot be combined with any other similar grant with the same purpose.

2. FUNDING:

The Chair will award funding for one visiting scholar based on a four-month stay, as follows:

- US\$30,200 for all expenses related to the stay in the U. S. (stipend, housing, settling-in allowance, and international round-trip air ticket). The award will be paid by both institutions, RICE (US\$14,000) and Fulbright (US\$16,200);
- Limited health coverage through Fulbright's ASPE - Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges;
- Visa J-1; and
- Access to the facilities and services of the host institution, such as office space, laboratories, libraries, and any other amenities regularly provided to the academic community, to ensure the success of the teaching and research activities undertaken by the scholar.

3. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The candidate must carefully read the [Application Instructions](#) and submit the online application form, available at <https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2026>, indicating **"Chair at Rice University"** in the Award Information, cycle 2026-2027, and including the following mandatory documents, **all in English**:

- **Brazilian passport ID pages**, if available, or official ID document with photo (ex., CIN, RG, or CNH);
- **CV** with no more than three pages;
- **Ph.D. certificate or diploma** (original document; translation not required);
- **Research project statement** with bibliography;
- **Course syllabus**, with no more than ten pages;
- **Plan of Activities**;
- **Paystub** (*contra cheque*);
- **Previous DS-2019 forms and visas** on the passport, if the candidate has already received a J-1 visa;
- **Letter of support from institution of affiliation**: employer's declaration must indicate the date of admission and the present status of the contract (active and full-time); and
- **Two letters of reference**.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The Fulbright Commission will screen and **analyze, by peer review**, all valid applications. A multi-disciplinary faculty review panel at the Host University will assess valid candidates' academic and professional qualifications and the relevance of their proposed courses and research projects. An interview may be required. The Fulbright Commission and the University will nominate the selected candidate for final approval by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Preference will be given to candidates with little or no previous academic experience in the U.S.

Note: Plagiarism will result in disqualification from participating in the program.

5. TIMELINE

- **September 30, 2025:** deadline for online application submission;
- **December 2025:** results of the selection process;
- **Fall 2026 or Spring 2027:** activities at the host institution.

6. INFORMATION

Grantees must complete their Fulbright grant in the academic program specified in the grant document. Grant dates and funding amounts stated in the grant document are subject to change. Prospective Fulbright participants should be aware that public health conditions, consular services and travel availability, and U.S. institutional operating status and policies may affect their ability to travel to the U.S. and participate in academic programs. The grant is activated only if the grantee can obtain a passport, J-1 visa, and enter the United States to start the academic program outlined in the grant document.

Additional information about the **"Fulbright Distinguished Chair at RICE University"** at www.fulbright.org.br
Contact: Camila Menezes (camila@fulbright.org.br)