

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023**

### **FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED AWARD IN THE BIOSCIENCES AT RICE UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON, TEXAS**

The **Fulbright Distinguished Award in the Biosciences at Rice University, Houston, Texas (RICE)** will give one award for a Brazilian scholar to spend one academic semester lecturing and researching in the fall term 2022 (September to December 2022) or spring term 2023 (January to May 2023), following RICE academic year calendar.

The award is intended to foster teaching and research in the area of Biosciences. Candidates for the Award shall submit a detailed proposal for lecturing and/or research related to a field of study to be carried out during the fall 2022 semester or the spring 2023 semester. The ideal candidate has interdisciplinary research interests and a course proposal that intersects with different fields, including Biochemistry & Cell Biology (BCB), Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB), and Systems, Synthetic & Physical Biology (SSPB). (Please check more information in the attachment).

Lecturing proposals should include a detailed syllabus for a three-hour weekly graduate seminar or advanced undergraduate course as conceived within one of the disciplines taught at RICE. Research proposals should consist of a detailed research plan, including timeline, expected resource needs, proposed research site or laboratory, and proposed RICE affiliation.

**Please note that, with the COVID-19 outbreak, all Fulbright programs are contingent upon local restrictions, border controls, sanitary procedures, and availability of funds. Only and if those conditions are met, programs will be implemented.**

#### **1. ELIGIBILITY**

The candidates must work under a full-time and active contract in a Brazilian higher education institution. English language proficiency compatible with the proposed activities is a requirement. The candidates must hold a Brazilian passport and must have earned a doctoral degree before December 31st, 2013. Candidates that have benefited from a J-1 visa in the past must have returned to Brazil before August 1st, 2020, to be eligible for the Fulbright Program. **Dual Brazilian/U.S. citizens and or candidates hired temporarily or as substitute professors are not eligible.**

The candidate must demonstrate outstanding academic qualifications and a record of professional experience and intellectual production in the proposed area during the last ten years in the Brazilian arena. The candidate must stay in Brazil during the selection, affiliation, and departure to the U.S.; this grant cannot be cumulated with any other similar grant with the same purpose.

## 2. FUNDING

The award funds one visiting scholar based on one semester stay at RICE University, 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), after federal, state and local income taxes, and Fulbright (US\$ 16,200);
- Limited health coverage through ASPE – Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges;
- Visa J-1 fee; and
- Access to the facilities and services of RICE, such as office space and internet connection; access to collaborative research space, libraries and any other courtesies and amenities normally 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 submit the online application form, available at <https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2022>, indicating **“Chair in the Biosciences at Rice University”** in the Country Information, cycle 2022-2023, and including the following documents, **all in English:**

- Brazilian passport ID pages, pages, if available, or photo ID. If the candidate has already received a J-1 visa, copy of the DS-2019 form and the visa page from the passport;
- Resume (CV), no more than three pages;
- Ph.D. certificate or diploma (original document; translation not required);
- Pay Stub (*contracheque* original document; translation not required);
- Syllabus and/or Research Project Statement with bibliography;
- Plan of Activities; and
- Two letters of reference.

## 4. SELECTION PROCESS

The Fulbright Commission will review all applications and select the complete ones from eligible candidates. A peer review panel, nominated by the Fulbright Commission, will assess candidates' academic and professional qualifications and the relevance of their proposed courses and research projects. An interview may be required.

The Fulbright Commission will nominate the selected candidate for final approval by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Candidates from groups already underrepresented in the program with no significant previous academic experience in the U.S. will be preferred.

## 5. TIMELINE

- **September 1st, 2021:** deadline for online applications submission;
- **November 2021:** results of the selection process;
- **Fall term 2022 or spring term 2023:** activities at RICE.

## 6. INFORMATION

Additional information about the **“Fulbright Distinguished Award in the Biosciences at RICE University, Houston”** at [www.fulbright.org.br](http://www.fulbright.org.br)

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**ATTACHMENT**  
**Information on the Biosciences Department**

The mission of BioSciences department at Rice University (<https://biosciences.rice.edu/>) is to educate and nurture the next generation of bioscientist leaders, conduct paradigm-changing scientific research, and make meaningful contributions to the betterment of our world.

### *Scholarship*

The diverse research interests within the Rice BioSciences department leverage quantitative approaches to study biological systems using both bottom-up and top-down experimental approaches and can be classified into three general areas--Biochemistry & Cell Biology (BCB), Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (EEB), and Systems, Synthetic & Physical Biology (SSPB). The faculty within BCB investigate the structure and function of individual proteins and nucleic acids, the assembly of cellular membranes and organelles, and the development of tissues and organisms, as well as the molecular mechanisms underlying interactions among cells and between organisms and their environment. The research foci of EEB faculty include gene and genome evolution, behavioral genetics, functional morphology, climate change & phenology, seed dispersal, food webs, invasion ecology, biodiversity loss, coral reef ecology, infectious diseases & parasitoids. This work includes marine, freshwater and terrestrial systems, which frequently takes place in tropical and subtropical climate zones. Our synthetic and physical biologists use a “bottom-up” approach by creating simplified, de novo gene networks to understand the processes by which regulation occurs, whereas our systems biologists bring a “top-down” approach to large-scale native networks to discover the emergent properties and effects of the underlying layers of regulation. These approaches are also applied to the areas of bioelectronics and metabolic engineering. Our ecology and evolutionary biologists take a strongly quantitative approach that includes integration of mathematical and computational models with experiments and analysis of “big data” to reveal the forces that determine the ecology and evolutionary dynamics of natural systems and how they will change in the Anthropocene. In addition to scholarship excellence within the sub-disciplines, the department has investigators at fertile research interfaces, including (i) ecology, evolution and synthetic biology, (ii) cellular, genetic, and ecological networks, and (iii) biochemistry, metabolic networks, and ecology.

### *Curriculum*

The department faculty participate in three doctoral degree programs (Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Systems, Synthetic & Physical Biology). It is anticipated that the Fulbright Fellow will participate in an area-appropriate course(s) that serves the training and curricular needs of the graduate students. More details about the graduate program can be found at <https://biosciences.rice.edu/graduate-program-overview>.

### *Additional Opportunities*

In addition to the scholastic departmental activities, the Brasil Fulbright Distinguished Faculty will also develop alliances to expand academic networks with the: 1) Dean of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, 2) Associate Vice Provost for International Education, 3) Faculty, students and staff involved in Rice’s Brazilian initiatives, and 4) Fulbright community at Rice University and in Houston, Texas.