

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – CYCLE 2026-2027
PROGRAMS FOR BRAZILIAN CITIZENS
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARD (DDRA)

The Fulbright Commission is pleased to launch the call for applications for the **Doctoral Dissertation Research Award (DDRA)**. This award is part of the Fulbright Program, which aims to promote mutual understanding between people from the United States and other countries.

The Commission will offer **up to fifty (50) awards in open competition for Brazilian citizens currently enrolled in doctoral programs at Brazilian universities to develop part of their dissertation in the U.S. The DDRA provides opportunities** for doctoral candidates to engage in nine-month dissertation research in the U.S. The award is for one academic year, beginning in **August/September 2026** and ending in **April/May 2027**.

1. ELIGIBILITY AND ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be regular students enrolled at a Brazilian Ph.D. program and meet the English language requirements indicated below. Only Brazilian citizens are eligible, and dual Brazilian/U.S. citizens are not. The candidate must stay in Brazil during the selection and affiliation process and before departure to the U.S.

The minimum language requirement to apply to the DDRA program is assessed through standardized test scores obtained after **July 27th, 2024**: no less than 81 TOEFL iBT, 6.5 IELTS or 110 Duolingo.

1.1 Eligible Fields of Study

I. Life Sciences

(i) Agricultural Sciences: Agricultural Science, Fisheries Management, Food Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Zootechnics; (ii) Biological Sciences: Biodiversity, and Biology; and (iii) Health Sciences: Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Nutrition, Pharmacy, and Physical Education.

II. Humanities

(i) Applied Social Sciences: Architecture and design; Demography, and Economics; (ii) Human Sciences: Archaeology, Education, History, International Relations, Philosophy, and Psychology; and (iii) Language, Literature and Art: Arts, Language and Literature

III. Earth Science, Technologies And Multidisciplinary Studies

(i) Earth sciences: Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Probability and Statistics; (ii) Engineering; and (iii) Multidisciplinary Studies: Biotechnology, Materials Science, Sciences and Humanities for Basic Education; Teaching and learning

2. FUNDING

The monthly students' stipend amounts have increased by approximately 70% to 120% as of the incoming academic year, depending on the campus location. This adjustment reflects regional cost-of-living differences and aims to ensure more equitable support for all recipients. The updated values were established based on a comprehensive review and are intended to better meet the financial needs of students across different campuses.

The Commission will fund for nine months:

- Monthly Stipend: living expenses, exclusively for the awardee, variable with the host institution campus;
- International air ticket;
- Settle-in allowance: US\$ 2,000;
- Pre-Departure Orientation seminar;
- Limited health insurance coverage: ASPE - Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges; and
- J-1 visa fee.

3. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The candidate must carefully read the Application Instructions and submit the online application form, both available at www.fulbright.org.br, including all the following mandatory supporting documents:

- **Brazilian passport ID pages**, if available, **or official ID document** with photo (ex. CIN, RG or CNH);
- **Personal Statement in English**, one page;
- **Study/Research Objective in English** – candidates must send a **research project** with up to ten (10) pages, not including the bibliography. It must include the following items: (i) Title, Background, and Relevance; (ii) Objectives; (iii) Methodology; (iv) Timetable; (v) U.S. host institution (indicate and justify the U.S. host

institution you will attend – must be the same from the Invitation letter) **and the bibliography in a separate document;**

- **Academic transcripts:** applicants must submit official, complete, and certified diplomas and transcripts in Portuguese of the undergraduate program, master's degree, and the current doctorate program indicating the date of enrollment;
- **Previous DS-2019 forms and J-1 visas** on the passport if the candidate has already received a J-1 visa;
- **CV in English**, limited two pages;
- **Brazilian academic advisor's CV in English**, limited to three pages;
- **U.S. host institution advisor's CV**, limited to three pages;
- TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo **score report**;
- **Letter of support** from the home institution;
- **Invitation letter** from the U.S. host institution;
- **Three letters of reference in English**, one of the letters must be from your Brazilian advisor.

Applicants must also record a **thirty-second video in English** and send it through the Fulbright Brazil Platform: https://fulbright.com.br/candidatura/net_public/?app=login. In the video, applicants must explain **how going to the U.S. is contribute to the candidate's doctoral dissertation**.

Candidates must submit their applications through the online application system and send the video by **August 3rd, 2025**. The Fulbright Commission will not consider applications with inaccurate, insufficient, or inconsistent data or missing supporting documents and video.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The Fulbright Commission will review and select valid applications. A peer review panel nominated by the Commission will assess candidates' academic and professional qualifications and the relevance of their applications. A videoconference interview of the selected candidates will be required. Priority will be given to all qualified individuals belonging to underrepresented groups.

The Fulbright Commission will nominate the pre-selected candidate for approval by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB).

Note: Plagiarism will result in disqualification at any point in the program.

5. TIMELINE

- **August 3rd, 2025:** deadline for submitting applications
- **October 2025:** interview of candidates approved by the peer review panel
- **November 2025:** announcement of selected candidates
- **August/September 2026:** start of activities in the U.S.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grantees will be required to 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, availability of consular services and travel, as well as 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.

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Fulbright Commission - www.fulbright.org.br