

Celebrating the bicentennial of the Recognition of the Brazilian Independence by the United States of America

Request for Proposals for the Establishment of FULBRIGHT COMMISSION CHAIRS IN BRAZIL-U.S. STUDIES

An Initiative to Energize Brazil-United States Relations

Introduction

The Fulbright Commission in Brazil invites proposals for the establishment of up to two Chairs in Brazil-U.S. Studies. This initiative aims to fortify the relationship between Brazil and the United States by advancing studies that address pressing technological, economic, political, social, and cultural challenges within the context of a transforming global order.

Background

Effective integration of Brazil and the United States, with coordinated actions in economy, society, science and technology, and international relations, can contribute to a more sustainable, socially just, and democratic future. Despite all affinities and possibilities for joint action, relations between the two countries are marked by tensions that frustrate expectations and compromise projects considered naturally of common interest.

Although there is intense intellectual collaboration and scientific exchange between Brazil and the U.S., it typically fails to impact public debate and the behavior of political leaders and key actors in shaping public opinion and policies. Fulbright's actions can contribute to changing this situation, especially if shaped by an approach that stimulates and provides conditions for the emergence of institutional initiatives that combine academic collaboration in strategic and sensitive fields with the mobilization of actors outside the academic environment and with meaningful intervention in the public debate.

The proposed Chairs are expected to catalyze the potential for impactful collaboration through interdisciplinary research and public engagement. This is the case, for example, of fostering initiatives with a defined focus and structural commitment to producing diagnostics and realistic recommendations for public debate and policies.

The projects should focus on strategies of national relevance that address the challenges (technological, economic, political, social, and cultural) posed by the redesigning of the world order, increasing inequalities, threats to democracy, challenges to the pillars of Western civilization, and the technological revolution that undermines the foundations of the economy and established forms of social coexistence. The approach should be clearly interdisciplinary in nature and hence the Chairs and their collaborators should involve graduate students and young

researchers from the humanities, social sciences, and/or earth and life sciences in the activities of the Chair.

For the Fulbright Commission Chairs in Brazil-U.S. Studies as outlined here, potential research topics could broadly cover areas of bilateral interest and challenges where both nations can envision mutual benefits. Tentative topics that would align with the thematic areas outlined in this Request for Proposals include:

- Economic Cooperation and Trade Relations
- Technological Innovation and Collaboration
- Environmental Policies and Climate Change
- Political and Diplomatic Relations
- Social and Cultural Exchange
- Public Health and Biomedical Research
- Security and Defense Cooperation
- Education and Academic Collaboration
- Legal and Human Rights Issues

This list of topics is not exhaustive, but offers an indication of the breadth of the spectrum of areas that could be explored through the proposed Chairs, fostering deeper understanding and cooperation between Brazil and the U.S.

The main goal of the Chair program is to develop studies and seek initiatives that enhance collaboration between the two countries in the search for mutually beneficial solutions that increase their leadership on a regional and global scale. To this end, the Chairs should combine the analysis and production of knowledge with dialogue with social actors and effective intervention in public debate in support of the formulation of public policies. The Chairs should also develop opportunities for the interdisciplinary training and education of graduate students and young researchers.

Scope of Work

The Fulbright Chairs will focus on:

- Research and Analysis: Conducting comprehensive studies on national strategies to address bilateral challenges.
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Involving scholars from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
- Public Engagement and Policy Intervention: Facilitating dialogues with various social actors to influence public policy.
- Education and Training: Offering interdisciplinary training opportunities for graduate students and young researchers.

Eligibility

This call is open to all Brazilian higher education institutions and research institutes that demonstrate an ability to host multidisciplinary projects focusing on Brazil-U.S. relations.

Proposal submission guidelines

Proposals should be submitted by August 30, 2024, and must include the following documents in English:

1. **Institutional submission letter.** Each institution is allowed to submit only one project. This rule applies to individual institutions and those grouped in a consortium. If the project involves multiple institutions, the submission letter must be signed by the president of the leading institution within the consortium.
2. **One cover page** should include the project's title, the project coordinator's name, position, email address, phone number, and a list of the team members involved in the project.
3. **Project Coordinator resumé** of up to three pages and two recommendation letters.
4. **Project Description:** Objectives, methodology, expected outcomes. A tentative list of potential chairholders and topics (one per year, for five years) with a justification of their relevance to the bilateral relationship. The project must also include:
 - Interdisciplinary Approach: Strategy for integrating different academic disciplines.
 - Stakeholder Engagement: Plan for interaction with political, economic, and societal actors.
 - Sustainability: Measures for sustaining the project post-Fulbright funding.
 - Budget: Detailed financial plan, including requested funding and co-funding mechanisms, using the template available.

Funding

The five-year funding will be allocated annually, conditioned upon the approval of the annual report of activities. The projects selected will receive funding up to a maximum of US\$ 400,000 (i.e., US\$ 80,000 per year) covering:

- Chairholder activities (up to 25% per year);
- Coordination and administrative support (up to 25% per year);
- Events for academic and public engagement;
- Publications and other dissemination activities;
- Courses and educational programs.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance and impact of the proposed project;
- Interdisciplinary approach and methodology;
- Experience and qualifications of project coordinator and team;
- Engagement strategy with various stakeholders;
- Dissemination of project outcomes;
- Feasibility and clarity of the budget.

Timeline

- June 10 to August 30, 2024: Submission of proposals.
- October 2024: Selection of proposals.

- December 2024: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.
- August 2025: Commencement of activities of the Chairs.

Submission

Proposals must be submitted in PDF format, attached to an e-mail to 200years@fulbright.org.br, by **August 30, 2024**.

Contact Information

For further inquiries or clarifications, please contact 200years@fulbright.org.br

Concluding Remarks

This initiative represents Fulbright Brazil's strategic effort to deepen the collaborative ties between Brazil and the U.S. through the integration of scholarly research and public discourse. We look forward to receiving innovative proposals that contribute to a robust partnership to address some of the most significant challenges of our times.

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