



FULBRIGHT Romania



Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2025

October 1, 2024–September 30, 2025



Orientation for the 2025-2026 U.S. Fulbright Grantees



FULBRIGHT Romania

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THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Connecting people and places.
Advancing ideas.
Creating opportunity.

Founded in 1946, the Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program. Its mission is to increase mutual understanding between the United States and partner countries, forge lasting connections, and help individuals and nations work together toward shared goals.

Led by the U.S. government in partnership with more than 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers a broad range of fellowships and scholarships for accomplished and motivated students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds.

Participants study, teach, conduct research, pursue professional projects,

and contribute to solutions for shared global challenges.

The Fulbright Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, under policy guidelines established by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB).

The FFSB, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, establishes policies, sets selection criteria, and approves candidates for awards. Implementation is supported by binational Fulbright Commissions in 49 countries, U.S. embassies in more than 100 additional countries, and cooperating agencies in the United States.

One connection at a time, Fulbright brings people together and moves nations closer to a more peaceful world

In Romania, the Fulbright Program has been present since 1960, contributing meaningfully to the country's progress and democratization, shaping professional and personal trajectories, and strengthening enduring ties between Romania and the United States.

Since 1960, more than 3,800 Romanian and American students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and fields have

participated in educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Inaugurated in May 1993 with the support of the American and Romanian governments, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission is a bi-national, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering educational and cultural exchanges between Romania and the United States.

Board of Directors

The activities of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission are carried out in virtue of Law no. 50/2014 and supervised by its Board of Directors, a bi-national body with planning and coordinating responsibilities. The Commission's Board of Directors consists of ten members, five American citizens and five Romanian citizens. The Ambassador of the United States to Romania and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania serve as honorary co-chairs and appoint the members of the board.

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Kathleen Kavalec, U.S. Ambassador to Romania (until May 2025)

Michael L. Dickerson, Chargé d'affaires a.i. (starting May 2025)

Luminița Odobescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (until December 2024)

Emil Hurezeanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (until June 2025)

Oana-Silvia Țoiu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (starting June 2025)

U.S. Board Members

Daniel Vișoiu, Esq., FCI Arb, B.C.S.

President of the Board (until June 2025)
Registered Foreign Lawyer, Bucharest (Romania)
Bar, Member of Florida (USA) Bar

Alys L. Spensley

Public Affairs Counselor, U.S. Embassy

Peter Brown

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy

Marina Coandă Bundac

Director, Bonte Foundation

Charles Vernon

Managing Partner, Vernon | David

Romanian Board Members

Janina-Mirela Sitaru (until June 2025)

Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ligia Deca

Minister of Education (2022-2024); Secretary-General of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO (starting February 2025)

Marian Preda (until December 2024)

Rector, University of Bucharest

Madlen Șerban

Secretary-General of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO (2021-2024); Associate Professor, University of Bucharest

Alina Bârgăoanu

Dean, College of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Fulbright Team

Mircea Dumitru

Executive Director

Corina Dănilă-Guidea

Romanian Program Director

Mihai Moroiu

American Program Director

Loredana Bucuroaia

Program Assistant

Laura Pari

Financial Manager

Mihaela Doagă

Educational Adviser

Ruxandra Rădulescu

Educational Adviser



The Fulbright Grants

The Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission offers exchange opportunities to Romanian citizens – scholars, students and professionals – for study, research, and teaching in the United States. Grants are awarded through open merit-based competitions supervised by bi-national panels.

Candidates may apply in any field except clinical disciplines, allowing for the specific timeline of each competition for Romanian citizens. Grant duration varies from a couple of weeks to one academic year, depending on the category of grant the applicant wants to apply for.

Grants for Romanian Citizens

- **The Fulbright Student Program** – awards for Romanian graduate students for master's study or research at accredited U.S. universities.
- **The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** – awards for Romanian professors, researchers and professionals who have a doctoral degree or equivalent (certified) to conduct research and/or lecture at accredited U.S. universities.
- **Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Award in Agricultural Extension Services** – for Romanian academics who wish to carry out a semester-long fellowship in residence for study and research, individual mentorship, professional training, classroom observation and participation in community-based extension activities.
- **The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** – for mid-career professionals with demonstrated leadership potential, public service commitment and the capacity to take full advantage of a self-defined program of independent study at a leading U.S. university.
- **Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program** – a six-week professional development program for secondary-level school teachers.
- **The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program** – offers opportunities to visiting scholars from different countries, including Romania, to teach at U.S. colleges and universities for one or both semesters of one academic year.
- **The Fulbright Schuman Program** – offers scholarships to European citizens for research or lecture in the United States on a topic that is relevant to US-EU relations, EU affairs/policy, or EU institutions and shows relevancy to at least two EU member states.

ROMANIAN GRANTEES 2024–2025

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. Florina ALMARIU

Home Institution:

"Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy/
Fundeni Clinical Institute,
Bucharest

Host University: The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Field: Medical

Sciences/Pathophysiology

Type of Grant: Research

2. Dragos Andrei CANTEA

Home Institution:

DAC Music Performance,
Norway

Host University: Bowling Green State University

Field: Entrepreneurship in Classical Music

Type of Grant: Research

3. Andrea Olivia CIOBANU

Home Institution:

"Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy,
Bucharest

Host University: Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota

Field: Medical

Sciences/Cardiology

Type of Grant: Research

4. Alexandra CRISTIAN-SCUPIN

Home Institution:

Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest

Host University: Northeastern University

Field: Civil Engineering

Type of Grant: Research

5. Iulian Alexandru DUMITRESCU

Home Institution: National Meteorological Administration, Bucharest

Host University: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Field: Environmental Sciences

Type of Grant: Research

6. Cristian GAZDAC

Home Institution: Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Florida

Field: History

Type of Grant: Research

7. Virgil Alexandru IORDACHE

Home Institution: University of Bucharest

Host University: City University of New York

Field: Ecology/LTER

Type of Grant: Research

8. Gabriel LEANCA

Home Institution: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi

Host University: SUNY Cortland, NY

Field: Modern History

Type of Grant: Teaching

9. Simon Vlad LUCA

Home Institution: Technical University of Munich

Host University: University of Illinois Chicago

Field: Analytical Chemistry

Type of Grant: Research

10. Vlad MOISOIU

Home Institution: University Hospital Zurich

Host University: Johns Hopkins Medicine, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baltimore

Field: Bioinformatics

Type of Grant: Research

11. Mihai MURARIU

Home Institution: West University of Timisoara

Host University: The Pennsylvania State University

Field: Political Sciences

Type of Grant: Research

12. Sorin NISTOR

Home Institution: University of Oradea

Host University: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Field: Geodesy/Remote Sensing

Type of Grant: Research

13. Anisoara PAVELEA

Home Institution: Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Georgia, Athens

Field: Education/ Service-learning in HE

Type of Grant: Research

14. Oana Lelia POP

Home Institution: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of California, Davis

Field: Food Science

Type of Grant: Research

15. Dan Horatiu POPESCU

Home Institution: Partium Christian University Oradea

Host University: The University of Texas at Austin

Field: Literature/Archival Research

Type of Grant: Research

16. Marius Razvan PREDATU

Home Institution: Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: Columbia University

Field: Psychology

Type of Grant: Research

ROMANIAN GRANTEES 2024–2025

FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

continued from the previous page

17. Zsolt SIMON

Home Institution:

"Gheorghe Sincai" Institute for Social Studies and the Humanities of the Romanian Academy, Targu-Mures

Host University: Northeastern University

Field: History

Type of Grant : Research

18. Lucian STAICU

Home University:

University of Warsaw

Host University: Duquesne University, Pittsburgh

Field: Environmental Sciences

Type of Grant: Research

19. Irina STOICA

Home University:

University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Field: Linguistics

Type of Grant: Research

20. Cătălina TESAR

Home University:

University of

Bucharest/Romanian Peasant Museum

Host University: Indiana University, Bloomington

Field: Social Anthropology

Type of Grant: Research

21. Mihaela TOFAN

Home University: "

Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi

Host University: Fordham University

Field: Law/Tax Systems

Type of Grant: Research

FULBRIGHT-RAF VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Agricultural Extension Services

1. Igori BALTA

Home University:

University of Life Sciences "King Michael I" from Timisoara

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

2. Stefan Laurentiu BATRINA

Home University:

University of Life Sciences "King Michael I" from Timisoara

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

3. Horia Nicolae CIOCAN

Home University:

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

4. Paula Ioana MORARU

Home University:

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

5. Dragos-Ioan SACALEANU

Home University: National University of Science and Technology Politehnica Bucharest

Host University: University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Field: Agricultural Extension Services

Type of Grant: Research & Academic Training

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM

1. Adrian-Bogdan BOLDIANU

Home University: University of Agricultural Sciences and

Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca

Host University: University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Field: Food Science

Type of Grant: Research

2. Ana-Maria CALANCEA

Home University: University of Bucharest/ "I.L. Caragiale

University" of Drama and Cinema of Bucharest

Host University: University of South Florida

Field: Film Studies

Type of Grant: Master's

3. Ioana-Silvia CARASEL

Home University: "Victor Babes" University of Medicine and

Pharmacy of Timisoara/National University of Science and

Technology Politehnica Bucharest

Host University: Stevens Institute of Technology

Field: Business Intelligence & Analytics

Type of Grant: Master's

4. Florina-Adina CIUCHITA

Home University: The Bucharest University of Economic

Studies/University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Southern California

Field: Urban Development

Type of Grant: Research

5. Antonio Andrei CRISTIAN

Home University: Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest/ Politehnica University of Timisoara

Host University: Northeastern University

Field: Civil/Structural Engineering

Type of Grant: Research

6. Karla Claudia CSUROS

Home University: West University of Timisoara

Host University: University of Oregon

Field: Applied Linguistics

Type of Grant: Research

7. Filip Andrei LARIU

Home Institution: University of Bucharest/ Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca/ Leiden University, the Netherlands

Host University: New York University

Field: International Law/Human Rights

Type of Grant: Research

8. Cristina Elena MIHALACHE

Home University: University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest/ School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy - Institute of Geography

Host University: Pennsylvania State University

Field: Geography

Type of Grant: Research

9. Flaviu Cristian MOLDOVAN

Home University: Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Host University: Oregon State University - Corvallis

Field: Electrical and Computer Engineering

Type of Grant: Master's

11. Diana Ioana MOREA-GHERGU

Home University: University of London - University College London

Host University: Columbia University

Field: Comparative and International Education

Type of Grant: Master's

11. Nicusor Viorel NASTASE

Home Institution: University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest

Host University: Montana State University - Bozeman

Field: Agricultural Engineering

Type of Grant: Research

12. Irina NEACSU

Home Institution: Bucharest National University of Arts/"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest

Host University: Yale University

Field: Art History

Type of Grant: Research

13. Antonia-Laura PUP

Home Institution: West University of Timisoara

Host University: Georgetown University

Field: Security Studies

Type of Grant: Master's

14. Stefan Cristian SIMON

Home Institution: University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Florida

Field: Classical Studies

Type of Grant: Master's

15. Andrei Gabriel STUPU

Home Institution: Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca; University of Bucharest

Host University: Harvard University

Field: Education/Educational Philosophy

Type of Grant: Research

16. Larisa-Ilaria TABARA

Home Institution: "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava

Host University: Michigan State University

Field: TESOL/Applied Linguistics

Type of Grant: Master's

17. Bogdan TOPAN

Home Institution: University of Bucharest

Host University: Stanford University, The Center for International Security and Cooperation

Field: Security

Studies/International Relations

Type of Grant: Research

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM RENEWALS

1. Laszlo BODOR

Home University: Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Host University: University of Oregon

Field: Non-Profit Management

Type of Grant: Master's

2. Andrei DINU

Home University: University of Bucharest

Host University: University of Montana-Missoula

Field: Wildlife Biology

Type of Grant: Master's

3. Mihai A. OICHEA

Home University: West University of Timisoara

Host University: Ohio University

Field: English/Creative Writing

Type of Grant: Master's

4. Alexandra TIMARU

Home University: "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest

Host University: SUNY at Albany

Field: Public Health

Type of Grant: Master's

FULBRIGHT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

1. Suzana-Beatrice NEAGU

(Spring 2025 cohort)

Home Institution: "Roman-Voda" National College

Host University: Florida Gulf Coast University (Spring 2025)

2. Ioana-Luciana OPRIS

(Spring 2025 cohort)

Home Institution: "Andrei Saguna" National Pedagogical College

Host University: Florida Gulf Coast University



The Fulbright Grants

Fulbright offers programs for passionate and accomplished U.S. students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach, and conduct research in Romania, helping to build mutual understanding between our two countries and to find solutions to shared international challenges.

Applications in any field are welcome. According to the policies established by the Romanian Fulbright Board, the program tries to reach as many local universities and students as possible. The Commission strongly encourages grantees to travel to other university centers to give public talks and lectures, attend conferences, participate in American Corners events and other similar activities.

Grants For American Citizens

- **The U.S. Scholar Program** is designed for American academics, professionals, and artists with a Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) interested to teach, conduct research and/or pursue professional or artistic projects in Romania in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. The U.S. Scholar Program also includes "Hyphenated" grants, which are partly sponsored by Romanian universities and mirror both the interest in the Fulbright program of higher education institutions and the intention of the Fulbright Commission to increase the number of grants it offers.
- **The U.S. Student Program** offers recent graduates, post-graduate candidates, professionals and artists an opportunity to teach or conduct research in Romania, through English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Awards or Research Awards. Candidates at all degree levels will be considered, but preference is given to advanced graduate students who are interested in international education and teaching. The Commission accepts proposals in all disciplines.
- **The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP)** promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions in Romania. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative projects at host institutions which initiate these projects. To participate in the program, host institutions must develop and submit project proposals, and U.S. experts must apply to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster.

AMERICAN GRANTEES 2024–2025

U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

1. Alexandru BALAS

Home University: SUNY Cortland

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: International Relations

2. Ovidiu CALIN

Home University: Eastern Michigan University

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Mathematics

3. Alin-Mihai CEOBANU

Home University: University of Florida

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi

Field: Sociology

4. Rebecca DAVIS

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Award

Home University: Rutgers University-New Brunswick, NJ

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Social Work

5. Amy DONNELLA

Home University: Villanova University, PA

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Law

6. Eric FRETZ

Home University: Regis University, CO

Host University: West University of Timișoara

Field: American Studies

7. Moshe GAI

Home University: University of Connecticut

Host University: Extreme Light Infrastructure Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP)

Field: Physics

8. Selim Salim HIZIROGLU

Home University: Oklahoma State University-Main Campus

Host University: Transilvania University of Braşov

Field: Forestry

9. Matthew MYERS

Home University: Independent scholar

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Film/Cinema Studies

10. Ines MURZAKU

Fulbright-Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Award

Home University: Seton Hall University, NJ

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: History

11. Andrei RUCKENSTEIN

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: Boston University, MA

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Computer Science

12. Patricia SEYBURN-LITTLE

Home University: California State University-Long Beach

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi

Field: Literature

13. Maria TRACHE

Home University: The University of Texas at Arlington

Host University: Transilvania University of Braşov

Field: Education

14. Radu Bogdan ZAMFIR

Home University: Southern Connecticut State University

Host University: Transilvania University of Braşov

Field: Education

15. Ian ZUCKERMAN

Fulbright-University of Bucharest Award

Home University: Regis University, CO

Host University: University of Bucharest

Field: Political Science

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

1. Faith BATES

Home University: Monmouth University, NJ

Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

2. Zachary GALLUS

Home University: Florida State University

Host University: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca

Field: Public Health
(Grant ended in March 2025)

3. Esther HEYMANS

Home University: Saint Edward's University, TX

Host University: West University of Timișoara

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

4. May HONG

Home University: Harvard University, MA

Host University: "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

5. Amber JOHNSON

Home University: University of Nebraska Omaha

Host University: North University Center in Baia Mare

Field: English Teaching Assistantship

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

6. Amelia KAHLHAMER

Home University: College of Saint Benedict, MN
Host University: University of Oradea
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

7. Adrian LAPADAT

Home University: Carnegie Mellon University, PA
Host University: National University of Political Studies and Public Administration
Field: Humanities

8. Shrika MADIVANAN

Home University: University of Georgia, GA
Host University: West University of Timișoara
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

9. Victoria McMILLEN

Home University: Vanderbilt University
Host University: "Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

10. Andreea Ioana MOSILA

Home University: American Public University System, WV
Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Field: Social Sciences

11. Emmalyn Grace OSCARSON

Home University: Baylor University, TX
Host University: University of Bucharest
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

12. Maria Gabrielle POPA

Home University: Emerson College, MA
Host University: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

13. Katlin RILEY

Home University: University of New Mexico-Main Campus, NM
Host University: Transilvania University of Brașov
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

14. Jessica RYAN

Home University: California State University-Fullerton, CA
Host University: "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

15. Hope Noelle SMITH

Home University: Coastal Carolina University, SC
Host University: University of Craiova
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

16. Haley STEVENS

Home University: Ball State University, IN
Host University: "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

17. Abigail THOMSON

Home University: The College of Wooster, OH
Host University: "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENTS RENEWALS

1. Jesus GONZALEZ

Home University: The University of Texas at El Paso, TX
Host University: "Vasile Goldiș" Western University of Arad
Field: English Teaching Assistantship

2. Catherine JOHNSON

Home University: Davidson College, NC
Host University: Ovidius University of Constanța
Field: English Teaching Assistantship



FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Applications approved in
FY2025 for the Fulbright
Specialist Program

1. Debra Zahay BLATZ

Home University: St. Edward's
University, Austin, Texas

Host Institution: Babeş-Bolyai
University, Cluj-Napoca
(May - June 2025)

Discipline: Business
Administration

2. Laura Claudia CHEZAN

Home University: Old Dominion
University, Norfolk, Virginia

Host Institution: Babeş-Bolyai
University, Cluj-Napoca
(April - May 2025)

Discipline: Education

3. Mikel Walker COLE

Home University: University of
Houston, Texas

Host Institution: Alexandru Ioan
Cuza University of Iasi
(May 2025)

Discipline: Education

4. Lisa E. COX

Home University: Stockton
University, New Jersey

Host Institution: Babeş-Bolyai
University, Cluj-Napoca
(May - June 2026)

Discipline: Social Work

5. Charles TEMPLE

Home University: Hobart and
William Smith Colleges, Geneva,
New York

Host Institution: *Asociația Toți
Copiii Citesc* (All Children Read
Association), Cluj-Napoca
(May - June 2025)

Discipline: Education



Fulbright Exchanges in Numbers

AY 2024-2025

88

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

49 RO/39 U.S.

GRANTEES BY CATEGORY

Romanian: 49

- 21 Scholars
- 5 Fulbright-RAF
Scholars –
Agriculture
- 17 Students
- 4 Student renewals
- 2 Fulbright TEA

American: 39

- 15 Scholars
- 17 Students
- 2 Student renewals
- 5 Specialists

1960-2024

3798

FULBRIGHT
GRANTEES

2412

Romanian Grantees

1386

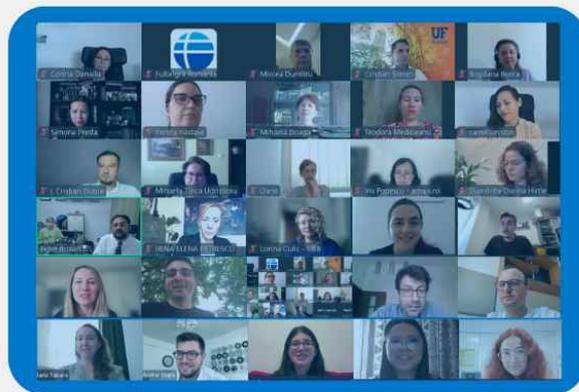
American Grantees



COMMISSION UPDATES

Pre-Departure Orientation for 2025–2026 Romanian Fulbright Grantees

Pre-Departure Orientation for 2025–2026 Romanian Fulbright Grantees



On July 8, 2025, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission hosted the online Pre-Departure Orientation for the 2025–2026 cohort of Romanian Fulbright grantees.

This year's group includes 34 grantees: 15 Fulbright Visiting Scholars, 13 Fulbright Students, 5 Fulbright-RAF Scholars, and 1 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, who will study, pursue research, and conduct professional development activities at various universities across the United States. Their fields of study and research span a wide range of disciplines and

interdisciplinary areas, including STEM fields, the social sciences, the humanities, the arts, and education.

The event opened with welcome remarks from Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, and Peter H. Brown, Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest.

Mr. Brown also led a session offering recommendations for grantees as they prepare for their U.S. experience.

Throughout the orientation, participants learned about practical, cultural, and academic aspects of life in the

United States—from housing and budgeting to campus life, cultural adjustment, research opportunities, and cross-cultural communication—while also having the chance to connect and exchange ideas with fellow grantees.

We would like to thank the recent alumni and grantees — Alexandra Cristian-Scupin, Larisa-Illaria Tabără, Irina Stoica, Andrei Gabriel Stupu, and Ștefan Cristian Șimon — for generously sharing their experiences, advice, and insights with the new cohort.

& GRANT-SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Fulbright Ambassadors Program



In 2025, the Fulbright Commission successfully redesigned the Fulbright Ambassadors Program with support from ECA funding. Moving from an appointment-based model to a competitive application process, the Commission invited alumni to apply, resulting in the selection of 13 Ambassadors representing institutions across Romania.

Fulbright Ambassadors serve as advocates for the program, raising awareness of Fulbright opportunities, supporting prospective applicants, and strengthening

academic and cultural ties between Romania and the United States.

Their responsibilities include organizing outreach events — such as workshops, information sessions, and campus presentations — participating in Commission webinars, and promoting the program through digital platforms and local networks.

The Commission provides training, promotional materials, and logistical support, including funding for small-scale events and coverage of participation costs for official meetings.

The first meeting of the new cohort, held on March 20, 2025, provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and plan initiatives aligned with the Commission's mission.

Within just a few months, the Ambassadors organized and contributed to a wide range of outreach activities across the country, including online and in-person information sessions, media appearances, guest lectures featuring U.S. Fulbrighters, participation in Fulbright interview panels and orientations, mentoring U.S. Fulbright ETAs, and advising prospective applicants.

fulbright.ro/fulbright-ambassadors

Orientation for the 2025-2026 U.S. Fulbright Grantees



From September 24 to 26, 2025, the Fulbright Commission organized its annual orientation program for the new cohort of U.S. Fulbright grantees. The event brought together 26 Fulbrighters and their families, with additional grantees expected in the spring semester, increasing the total number of U.S. participants to 34. The cohort includes U.S. Scholars, Student Researchers, and English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) engaged in academic activities across 14 Romanian cities.

The first day of the orientation centered on the ETAs, with sessions dedicated to education and teaching. Dr. Simona Iftimescu (University of Bucharest) opened with an introduction to Romania's higher education system and academic culture, followed by a panel on "Best Practices for Teaching EFL and American Culture in Romania," delivered by returning ETAs May Hong, Katlin Riley, and Haley Stevens. In the afternoon, ETAs met their university contacts from cities including Arad, Bacău, Baia

Mare, Constanța, Craiova, Iași, Suceava, and Timișoara. The day closed on a celebratory note with a reception at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință*, bringing together grantees, alumni, and Fulbright partners.

The second day highlighted official welcomes and cultural insights, underscoring the importance of academic and cultural exchange.

The group was greeted by U.S. and Romanian representatives, including Ms. Alys L. Spensley, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy; Mr. Andrei Cosmin Luca, Director of the Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Education and Science at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Cătălina Crișan, Fulbright Alumna and Associate Professor at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca; and Mr. Mihai Moroiu, American Program Director at the Fulbright Commission.

Ms. Spensley also provided a

detailed briefing on security, consular services, health, media, and public diplomacy matters.

Afternoon sessions featured insights from alumni and faculty about adapting to Romanian academic life, understanding local history and identity, and making the most of the Fulbright experience. Fulbright alumni Dr. Cătălina Crișan, Dr. Irina Stoica, and Dr. Dan Gabriel Anghel shared perspectives on academic life in Romania, while Dr. Marian Coman spoke on Romania's history, culture, and identity. Dr.

Dragoș Iliescu discussed "Emotional Tools for Shaping the Fulbright Experience," and Dr. Ionuț Geană offered an introduction to the Romanian language.

The final day of the orientation shifted to practical topics, covering program logistics such as finances, residence permits, work-related travel, and plans for future group meetings. The program concluded with a guided visit to the Palace of Parliament, offering the new grantees a glimpse into Romania's recent history.

Winter Holidays Meeting and Enrichment Program for 2024-2025 U.S. Fulbrighters



On December 12-13, 2024 the Fulbright Commission hosted the Winter Holidays Meeting, bringing together the U.S. Fulbright grantees who are currently teaching and conducting research in Romania.

The first day featured engaging presentations by the grantees, who talked about their main teaching and research activities, while also sharing highlights of their participation in various academic and cultural events,

such as conferences, public lectures, poetry workshops, cultural clubs, and volunteer initiatives. The day ended with an evening reception at *Casa Oamenilor de Știință*, celebrating the grantees alongside Fulbright alumni and program partners.

The second day, the group followed the lead of Fulbright alumnus and historian Andrei Răzvan Voinea, who kindly accepted to guide the grantees through the lesser-known parts of Bucharest and conducted a

walking tour of Uranus, historic district of Bucharest. The group also had the opportunity to visit to the Museum of the National Bank of Romania for a glimpse into the country's economic history.

Our winter meeting concluded at the Romanian Athenaeum with a symphony concert performed by "George Enescu" Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leo Hussain, with cellist Zlatomir Fung as the soloist.

Final Meeting of the 2024–2025 U.S. Fulbright Grantees in Romania



On June 10–11, 2025, the Commission organized the final meeting for the 2024-2025 U.S. Fulbright grantees in Romania, hosted by “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu.

The event began with warm welcomes from Assoc. Prof. Eva-Nicoleta Burdușel, Vice-Dean for Research, Innovation, and Internationalization; Peter H. Brown, Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy; and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission.

Throughout the meeting, U.S. Fulbright Scholars, Student Researchers, and English Teaching Assistants shared highlights of their teaching and research work. They also

presented an impressive range of academic and cultural initiatives—from conferences and public lectures to community engagement and volunteering work. Their contributions left a meaningful impact on their Romanian colleagues, students, and local communities.

On the second day, the group visited the ASTRA Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization, located in the Dumbrava Sibiului Natural Park. One of Europe's largest open-air museums, ASTRA spans 96 hectares and features over 400 traditional houses, household annexes, and installations, celebrating the country's traditions and cultural heritage.

Workshop for High School English Teachers



On November 21, 2024, the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission and its EducationUSA Advising Center hosted a one-day workshop for high school English teachers, under the title: "Widening Horizons in the Modern Classroom: Perspectives from the U.S. and Romania". The event, organized with the support of the Ministry of Education and held at the National Library of Romania, brought together 27 teachers from 18 counties.

The workshop began with a few remarks from Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission, Peter H. Brown, U.S. Cultural Affairs Officer, Rodica Cherciu, Inspector General, Ministry of Education, and Nicoleta Rahme, Deputy Director, National Library of Romania, on the value

of a humanistic and values-centered approach in education.

The first session of the day consisted of an engaging dialogue with Prof. Costica Bradatan, Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Texas Tech University and currently a Fulbright scholar in Romania, on the topic of failure, humility and personal transformation in the educational process.

The keynote lecture – on using poetry in the high school classroom – was delivered by Prof. Patricia Seyburn-Little (California State University – Long Beach/ Fulbright Scholar, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) and was received with enthusiasm by the English teachers in attendance. May Hong (M. Ed. Harvard University – Fulbright ETA,

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu) talked about using literary translations in the process of language teaching, while Cosmina Almasan (Octavian Goga National College, Sibiu/ Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Alumna) approached the topic of teaching media literacy through critical thinking by drawing on her experience in the TEA program.

Last, but not least, Emmalyn Grace Oscarson (Baylor University, Texas/ Fulbright ETA, University of Bucharest) delivered a presentation on key aspects of American student life, while the Fulbright-EducationUSA advising team concluded the workshop by talking about application pathways to studying in the United States.

Program Presentations and Seminars

This is a selection of events organized for prospective applicants. The insights and experiences shared by Fulbright alumni and grantees played a key role in making these events successful.

October 3rd, 2024:

The Commission organized a webinar designed for Romanian professors, researchers, and professionals interested in applying for the 2025-2026 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award.

Fulbright alumni Dr. Laura Stan (University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca), Dr. Dan Gabriel Anghel (Bucharest University for Economic Studies), and Dr. Valentina Cojocaru (University of Bucharest) shared their personal experiences with the application process and provided tips on preparing the project statement and other application components.

April 1st, 2025:

Fulbright Ambassador Răzvan Cherecheș, in collaboration with several other ambassadors and the Fulbright Commission, organized an online information session dedicated to candidates interested in the 2026–2027 Fulbright Student Award.

The event included an overview of the program and eligibility criteria, guidance on the application process and timeline, and practical advice for preparing a competitive application.

Former Fulbright grantees shared their experiences studying and living in the U.S., followed by a Q&A session with the Fulbright team. The session concluded with useful resources and encouragement for prospective applicants.

Over 100 participants from all over the country attended the event.



Live Webinar

Preparing a Strong Application for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program

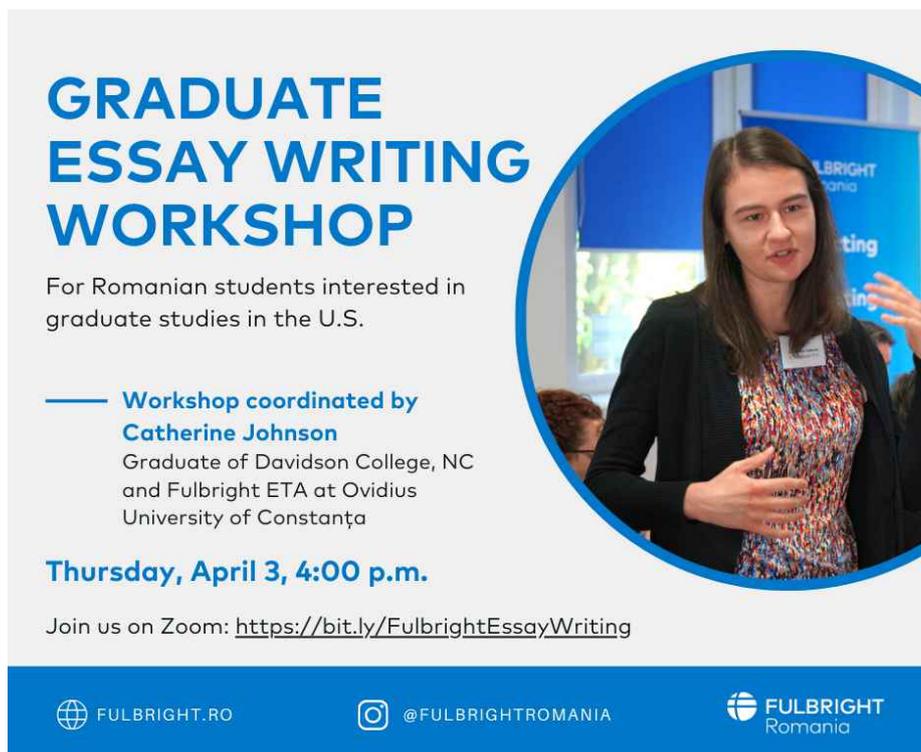
With Fulbright Alumni

October 3, 2024
16:00 - 17:00

Online meeting

For more information:
<https://fulbright.ro>

FULBRIGHT
Romania



GRADUATE ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP

For Romanian students interested in graduate studies in the U.S.

— **Workshop coordinated by Catherine Johnson**
Graduate of Davidson College, NC and Fulbright ETA at Ovidius University of Constanța

Thursday, April 3, 4:00 p.m.

Join us on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/FulbrightEssayWriting>

FULBRIGHT.RO **@FULBRIGHTROMANIA** **FULBRIGHT**
Romania



April 3rd, 2025:

The Fulbright Commission organized a workshop on graduate essay writing, coordinated by Catherine Johnson, a Davidson College graduate and Fulbright ETA at Ovidius University of Constanța. The workshop discussed the components of strong essays, analyzed excerpts from successful Fulbright applications, touched upon the most important skills or qualifications to highlight, and covered techniques for refining language and style for effective essay writing.

April 8, 2025:

Fulbright Ambassador Gabriel Leanca and U.S. Fulbright ETA Faith Bates organized information session on the 2026–2027 Fulbright Student Award at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. The event provided students with details about eligibility, award benefits, and how to apply.

April 9, 2025:

With the support of the Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission, Fulbright Ambassador Grigore Stamatescu organized an information and networking session about the 2026–2027 Fulbright Student Award at the National University of Science and Technology Politehnica of

Bucharest (UPB). The event featured presentations on Fulbright opportunities for Romanian students, insights from Dr. Cristina Nichiforov, Fulbright Alumna (University of Texas at San Antonio, 2020–2021), followed by a Q&A session and networking opportunities for prospective applicants.

April 10, 2025:

Fulbright Ambassador Cătălina Crișan organized an online and in-person session to share insights about the Fulbright Student Award competition for study or research in the U.S.

The event took place at the Student i-Lab, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

June 20, 2025:

Fulbright Ambassador Mihaela Tinca Udriștioiu organized a Fulbright Program presentation for students and academics at the University of Craiova. The event included information on Fulbright research and teaching scholarships for academics, as well as student grants and practical guidance on preparing a strong application. The presentation coincided with the opening of the "American Photography

Exhibition," featuring 32 images captured by Dr. Udriștioiu during her Fulbright Visiting Scholar grant at Georgia Southern University. The exhibition was displayed for a week in the university's main hall, alongside Fulbright materials, attracting significant interest from students, faculty, and the general public. In addition, during the University's Open Doors event (June 11–12, 2025), Dr. Udriștioiu presented materials about the Fulbright Programs at the Department of Physics booth, where she serves as a lecturer.

August 6, 2025:

Fulbright Romania together with Fulbright Poland and Fulbright Bulgaria co-organized a joint Zoom info session dedicated to U.S. citizens interested in Fulbright opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe.

The participants had the chance to meet representatives from the three Commissions and learn about the grants available in each country, but also to hear from U.S. Fulbright alumni who have recently completed their grants, including Dr. Amy Donnella, U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Villanova University School of Law/University of Bucharest.

Fulbright Educational Advising Center (FEAC-EducationUSA)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Outreach

Throughout Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, we conducted in-person outreach in Bucharest, Craiova, and Constanța. We were also happy to accompany U.S. HEI representatives on school visits in Bucharest. However, we continued to rely extensively on virtual outreach, as a cost-effective means to promote our programs to students across the country. We also attended the Access Masters and QS Master's and PhD Fair in Bucharest. Thus, we managed to acquaint an average 1,000 prospective applicants with the opportunities afforded by the U.S. higher education system and the advising services and generous resources awaiting them at FEAC/EducationUSA Romania.



Access Masters - May 2025

Webinars and Workshops



INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

29 September 2025, 15:00-16:00
Hybrid event

[LINK IN COMMENTS](#)

Speaker: Sara Cohen
Associate Dean
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
University of Pennsylvania

bucharest@educationusa.org
www.fulbright.ro

We conducted monthly webinars and workshops on topics ranging from "Celebrating Liberal Arts" to "How Students Prepare for U.S. Medical School Admissions", in close collaboration with the American Spaces network. Guest speakers included U.S. HEI reps from a variety of schools and U.S. Fulbright ETAs.

An average 500 students from high schools in Bucharest, Bacău, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Constanța, Iași, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş, and Timișoara joined us online for these events.

2. Opportunity Funds Program

FEAC/EducationUSA Romania kicked off the first Opportunity Funds program in Romania in the spring of 2016. In March 2025 we started working with our tenth cohort, made up of two highly promising high school students from Brăila and Pitești. They are currently receiving funding from EducationUSA to cover their application-related fees and personalized guidance every step of the way to boost their chances of admission, with a full scholarship, at a U.S. university. Our cohort advising activities were also conducted exclusively online. The EducationUSA Opportunity Funds program assists highly qualified students who are likely to be awarded full financial aid from U.S. colleges and universities but lack the financial resources to cover the up-front costs of obtaining admission, such as testing or application fees.



American Corner Constanta - May 2025

FULBRIGHT-EDUCATIONUSA ROMANIA

*Celebrating Liberal Arts:
Elizabethtown College*



January 16
4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Zoom Link in comments

FROM FULBRIGHT

Humphrey Alumna Among Recipients of U.S. Secretary of State's 2025 International Women of Courage Award



Georgiana Pascu, a Hubert H. Humphrey alumna and Program Manager at the Center for Legal Resources, is among the recipients of the 2025 U.S. Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award (IWOC).

The award recognizes women from around the world who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership – often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

Ms. Pascu has dedicated her career to promoting access to accountability and recognition of human rights for institutionalized children and adults with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. Through monitoring visits, research, training, and legal and media advocacy, she works alongside legal and psychosocial professionals to

support the de-institutionalization and rights of persons with disabilities.

Over the last 25 years, Georgiana Pascu secured rights and safe treatment for thousands of children and adults with disabilities in Romania.

She was instrumental in the adoption of the first law for monitoring visits to care institutions in the region. Georgiana was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow in 2017-2018 at American University in Washington, D.C., where she pursued a project in the field of Law & Human Rights.

The annual IWOC ceremony took place on April 1st and was hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and First Lady Melania Trump at the U.S. Department of State.

Fulbright Scholar Ovidiu Calin Advances Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Across Academia and Society



In addition to teaching Artificial Intelligence in Physics at the University of Bucharest, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Ovidiu Calin, Professor at Eastern Michigan University, actively contributed to the broader AI ecosystem in Romania through high-level speaking engagements, industry workshops, media commentary, and academic events.

He shared expertise on AI applications in business and society, provided perspective in

the context of the Nobel Prize recognition of AI-related research, delivered keynote insights at various tech and business forums, and took part in milestone events for Romania's AI research community.

Through these activities, Dr. Calin strengthened connections between academia, industry, and the public, highlighting the growing impact of artificial intelligence across sectors.

ALUMNI AND GRANTEEES

Sustainable Tourism Workshop in Constanța

Eighty students specializing in tourism and American studies took part in the Sustainable Tourism Workshop led by Amber Johnson, Fulbright ETA based at North University Center in Baia Mare. The event was hosted by the American Corner Constanța on April 4th, 2025.

The workshop explored themes such as the cultural heritage of Constanța, the impact of domestic tourism on beach destinations, and the role of

local governance and tourism stakeholders.

Comparative discussions also highlighted tourism strategies in Baia Mare/Maramureș and Nebraska, USA. Working in small groups, students developed tourism concepts centered on Romanian cities and crafted original slogans, combining creativity with practical insights into sustainable tourism.



The Humor of Being Human with Fulbrighter Costică Brădățan

On January 28, 2025, U.S. Fulbrighter Costică Brădățan joined David Duchovny as a guest on FAIL BETTER, a thought-provoking dialogue series exploring failure, resilience, and personal growth. Their conversation, "The Humor of Being Human", builds on Prof. Brădățan's book *In Praise of Failure* and explores the true meaning of humility,

the benefits of failure, and how democracy evolves across time and place.

Costică Brădățan is a Professor of Humanities in the Honors College at Texas Tech University and a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Bucharest's Center of Excellence in Image Studies (CESI).



Fulbright Scholar Leads Cinematography Lectures in Timișoara

Matthew Myers, U.S. Fulbright Scholar affiliated with "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, delivered two lectures to MA and PhD students at West University of Timișoara (November 14-15, 2024), as part of the Fulbright Lectures Series organized by the American Studies Center.

Entitled "From Page to Frame: How Cinematographers Bring Scripts to Life," the

presentations explored the techniques cinematographers use to transform scripts into visual narratives.

Drawing on his extensive experience in documentaries, television, and advertising, Matthew Myers provided case studies from notable films and offered students a hands-on workshop to apply script-writing techniques and cutting-edge software tools.



The lectures and workshops exemplified the intersection of theory and practice in filmmaking, offering students valuable insights into the world of cinematography and screenwriting.



On October 30, 2024, Fulbright-RAF alumnus Ciprian Romeo Comșa, Vice-Rector for Innovation at "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași, shared insights with *PressOne* on the evolving role of entrepreneurship in education,

Entrepreneurship & Innovation in Romanian Universities

drawing on his Fulbright experience at the University of Rochester's Ain Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Dr. Comșa emphasized the importance of partnerships among academia, civil society, and the business environment to drive innovation and equip students with practical entrepreneurial skills that meet real-world needs. He discussed his experience as a Fulbright-RAF Scholar at the University

of Rochester's Ain Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, sharing best practices learned during his fellowship and ongoing initiatives to create an academic environment that addresses economic and societal needs while keeping pace with technological trends. Read more about his vision for entrepreneurial education in Romanian universities here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc4k743v>

Fulbright ETA Strengthens Community Engagement and Student Enrichment in Constanța



Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Catherine Johnson, in her second year at Ovidius University of Constanța, expanded her impact beyond the classroom through a range of educational and cultural initiatives.

She organized interactive programs for local high school students at the American Corner, including activities for World Space Week, a U.S. college admissions workshop, and a United Nations Day learning session that encouraged exploration of global themes and hands-on activities. Johnson also launched and facilitated extracurricular clubs for university students, such as a

creative writing club and a book club, and collaborated with faculty to broaden these offerings.

In November 2024, she extended her outreach by hosting themed events for high school students on topics including Native American Heritage Month, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving, and capped the month with a Thanksgiving celebration for Ovidius University students.

Fulbright ETA Explores Postmodern Literature at West University of Timișoara



May Hong, Fulbright ETA affiliated with "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, lectured at West University of Timișoara

on "Postmodern Perspectives: Alienation & Absurdism in George Saunders' Sticks". Delivered to first- and second-year MA students, the presentation explored the intersection of literature and visual arts, focusing on themes of alienation and absurdism - issues that are both relevant and pressing in contemporary society. Using George Saunders' Sticks as a central

text, May also drew connections to Edward Hopper's evocative paintings and the experiences of pandemic lockdown. Through this interdisciplinary lens, she guided the audience in developing innovative and thought-provoking reading frameworks that extend beyond traditional seminar practices.

Human Violins Wins European XR Award

Human Violins – Prelude, a VR project written and directed by Fulbright alumna Ioana Mischie about the transformative power of music, received the European XR Award for Best Art Direction.

"*Human Violins – Prelude* is based on true events, although it is deeply fictionalized. During my Fulbright scholarship, in 2018, I visited by chance an exhibition featuring a violin restored by Amnon Weinstein, that had

been saved from the Holocaust. It's a memory I've never been able to forget. I gradually began to learn more about the subject, and discovered that Jews could take an object with them to the camps. Many chose to bring their instrument, their violin. In some cases, the violins saved their lives. In others, the violins remained as eternal testimonies of human creativity."

– Ioana Mischie for [XRMust](#).



How useful is the mathematics learned in school

On May 15, 2025, Dr. Maria Trache—Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington, and Fulbright Scholar at Transilvania University of Braşov—presented a workshop at the Ovidius University of Constanţa entitled "*There is life after school: How useful is the mathematics learned in school?*".

The workshop was organized in collaboration with Prof. Daniela Căprioara from the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Studies, as part of the events specific to the International Conference Contemporary Perspectives in Psychology, Education and Social Work held in May 2025 at the Ovidius University.



The workshop attracted undergraduate and graduate students, as well as teachers from Constanţa schools, interested in mathematics education research, policy and practice.

Chronicles and Creeds

On May 12, 2025, Dr. Ines Angeli Murzaku—Professor of Religion at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, and Fulbright Scholar at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca—delivered a keynote lecture at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi, entitled "*Chronicles and Creeds: Where History and Theology Converge.*" The event

was moderated by Dr. Gabriel Leanca, Fulbright Ambassador and Associate Professor at the Faculty of History, and Dr. Lucian Păuleţ, Lecturer at the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology. Dr. Murzaku's presentation explored the dynamic intersection of historical events and theological thought.





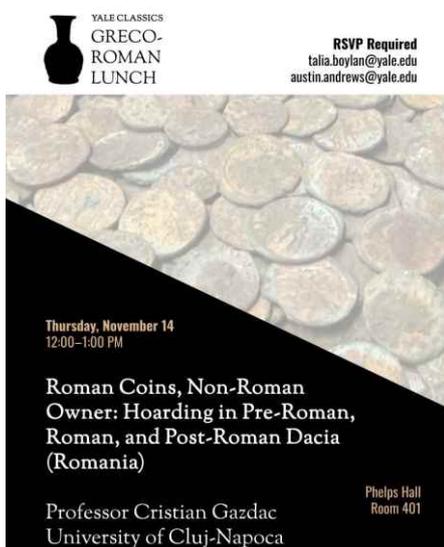
Fulbright ETA Academic and Cultural Engagement Across Romania

Hope Smith, Fulbright ETA at the University of Craiova, expanded her reach beyond her host institution through a series of academic and cultural engagements at universities throughout Romania.

She delivered guest lectures and workshops at the University of Bucharest, University of Bacău, Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava,

Transilvania University of Brașov, West University of Timișoara, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Ovidius University of Constanța, and North University Center of Baia Mare, covering topics ranging from academic writing and American literature to U.S. culture, media, musicals, intercultural communication, and the American Dream.

Roman Coins and Non-Roman Owners: Fulbright Scholar's Talk at Yale



On November 14, 2024, Fulbright Scholar Cristian Găzdac delivered a presentation titled "Roman Coins, Non-Roman Owner. Hoarding in Pre-Roman, Roman, and Post-Roman Dacia (Romania)" at Yale University's Department of Classics.

Dr. Găzdac's talk focused on the patterns of coin hoarding and the ethnic identities of hoard owners across the territory of Dacia (broadly, modern-day Romania) from the 2nd century BC to the 5th century AD. The presentation

addressed key themes, including: the concentration area and chronological patterns of hoarding; hoarding behaviors; specific coinages and denominations; and the identities of those who owned the hoards.

Dr. Cristian Găzdac is an Associate Professor at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca and a 2024-2025 Fulbright Scholar at the University of Florida, where he conducted research in the field of Archaeology.



Empowering Youth: Volunteering in Suceava

As part of her commitment to fostering community engagement and cultural exchange, Fulbright ETA Victoria McMillen began volunteering with Open Hands Charity, a non-profit organization dedicated to

supporting youth in villages around Suceava. The charity runs two afterschool programs where Victoria taught English to both primary and high school students, helping to empower young learners and contribute to their future success.



Public Speaking Workshop in Oradea

On December 6, at the University of Oradea, Fulbright ETA Esther Heymans led a public speaking workshop for students. This workshop was designed for students who were new to the field of public

speaking, but wanted to grow their confidence at speaking in front of people. The students learned how to be comfortable in front of an audience through various interpersonal activities.

Fulbright Scholar Costică Brădăţan Launches Romanian Edition of *In Praise of Failure*

On November 22, U.S. Fulbright Scholar Costică Brădăţan launched his book *Elogiu eşecului: Patru pilde de umilitate* (Spandugino Publishing House) at Humanitas Library in Cluj-Napoca.

The event featured a dialogue with Ciprian Mihali (Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University) and Laura T. Ilea (Department of Comparative Literature,

Babeş-Bolyai University), moderated by Mihaela Gligor (Cluj Center for Indian Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University), exploring the philosophical reflections on failure.

The English version of his book, *In Praise of Failure: Four Lessons in Humility* (Harvard University Press, 2023), won the Association of American Publishers' PROSE Award in Philosophy.



Romanian Fulbrighter at MSU Global Festival

On November 16, 2024, Fulbright Student Ilaria Tabără represented Romania at Michigan State University's Global Festival. Over the course of four hours, Ilaria had the opportunity to interact with the visitors, including local community members and fellow international students,

as she introduced them to Romanian culture, traditions, and cuisine. Ilaria Tabără, from "Ştefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, is pursuing a Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) as a Fulbright Student at Michigan State University.



Workshop for High School Students in Sibiu

On October 21, May Hong, Fulbright ETA at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, led an engaging workshop on American higher education for students from "Octavian Goga" National College.

The session focused on various aspects of studying in the U.S., from student life and the philosophy of education to navigating the often complex college application process.

Students explored topics such as how U.S. universities evaluate applicants holistically, including personal essays and extracurriculars, and gained new perspectives on educational opportunities.

Through a reflection exercise, the students shared how their perceptions had shifted, highlighting the newfound possibilities of pursuing higher education in the U.S.



Fulbright ETA Brings Halloween Spirit to Campus Activities in Baia Mare

On October 24, 2024, Fulbright ETA Amber Johnson (North University Center, Baia Mare) guest-lectured in a Gothic literature class on *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Cask of Amontillado*. She also organized a Halloween-

inspired "zombie walk," modeled after an annual event from her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, where students practiced portrait photography with themed makeup and staged shoots across campus.



Fulbright Researcher Discusses Climate and Human Security at REFLECT Conference



Andreea Mosila, U.S. Fulbright Student Researcher at "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, presented her work at the REFLECT International Conference hosted by "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu (November 21-23, 2024).

Her talk, titled "Climate Change, Vulnerable Populations, and Human Security Risks in Romania's Danube Delta" examined the intersection of environmental

changes and human security in the Delta.

Focusing on vulnerable communities, Andreea Mosila highlighted findings from fieldwork in areas like Letea Sandbank, where shifting weather patterns disrupt traditional livelihoods.

Her research emphasizes community-centered adaptation strategies to tackle environmental challenges.

Student Workshop on Halloween and Dia de los Muertos



On October 29, 2024, Fulbright ETAs Haley Stevens and Jesus Ricardo Gonzalez teamed up with Professors Antoanela Mardar and Isabela Merila at "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați to host an engaging student workshop exploring the traditions of Halloween and Dia de los Muertos.

The event featured student presentations on Halloween customs in Romania, a special talk by Jesus Ricardo Gonzalez, Fulbright ETA at "Vasile Goldiș" University of Arad, on the cultural significance of Dia de los Muertos, as well as interactive contests, face painting, and artistic displays inspired by both Halloween and the Day of the Dead.

Coffee & Conversation Club at the University of Oradea



Fulbright ETA Amelia Kahlhamer launched the Coffee & Conversation Club at the University of Oradea, hosting students to discuss culture, identity, and more in English.

The club not only allows Amelia to get to know the student

body better and learn more about Romania, but it also gives her students an opportunity to ask questions about the U.S., learn new concepts and vocabulary, and practice conversational English in an informal setting.

FULBRIGHT STORIES



Andrei Stupu

Fulbright Student Researcher, 2024-2025

"As a Harvard Fulbrighter, I was able to expand my professional network meaningfully, which enabled me to complete my research in ethical-moral intelligence after receiving direct feedback from leading figures in the fields of human intelligence, moral psychology, and moral philosophy. [...] Fulfillment came not only from having an incomparable platform for intellectual growth, but also from being part of a nurturing community dedicated to making me feel integrated and heard."

Alexandra Cristian-Scupin, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2024-2025

"For me, Fulbright came as a challenge for finding new ways of exploring development opportunities in an academic context I had always admired without having the chance to experience it. I started the application journey with little hopes for success, but Fulbright ended up being the most accomplishing program I have ever attended. Looking back, I feel like I can say the Fulbright Program was the period I felt I truly experienced an accelerated personal and professional growth."



Lucian Staicu

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2024-2025

"My Fulbright experience in Pennsylvania bore colorful and rich fruits of a scientific and cultural nature. The region is rife with Eastern European cultural heritage and was once the workshop and the powerhouse of America. This research visit enabled me to delve further into the fascinating world of microbial biominerals and to establish numerous connections with prestigious American scientists."

Alexandra Timaru

Fulbright Student, 2023-2025

"Being selected as a Fulbright Student has been an incredible honor and a truly life-changing experience. During my time at the State University of New York at Albany, I had the opportunity to learn from outstanding faculty and gain knowledge and skills that I am excited to bring back to Romania's public health system."



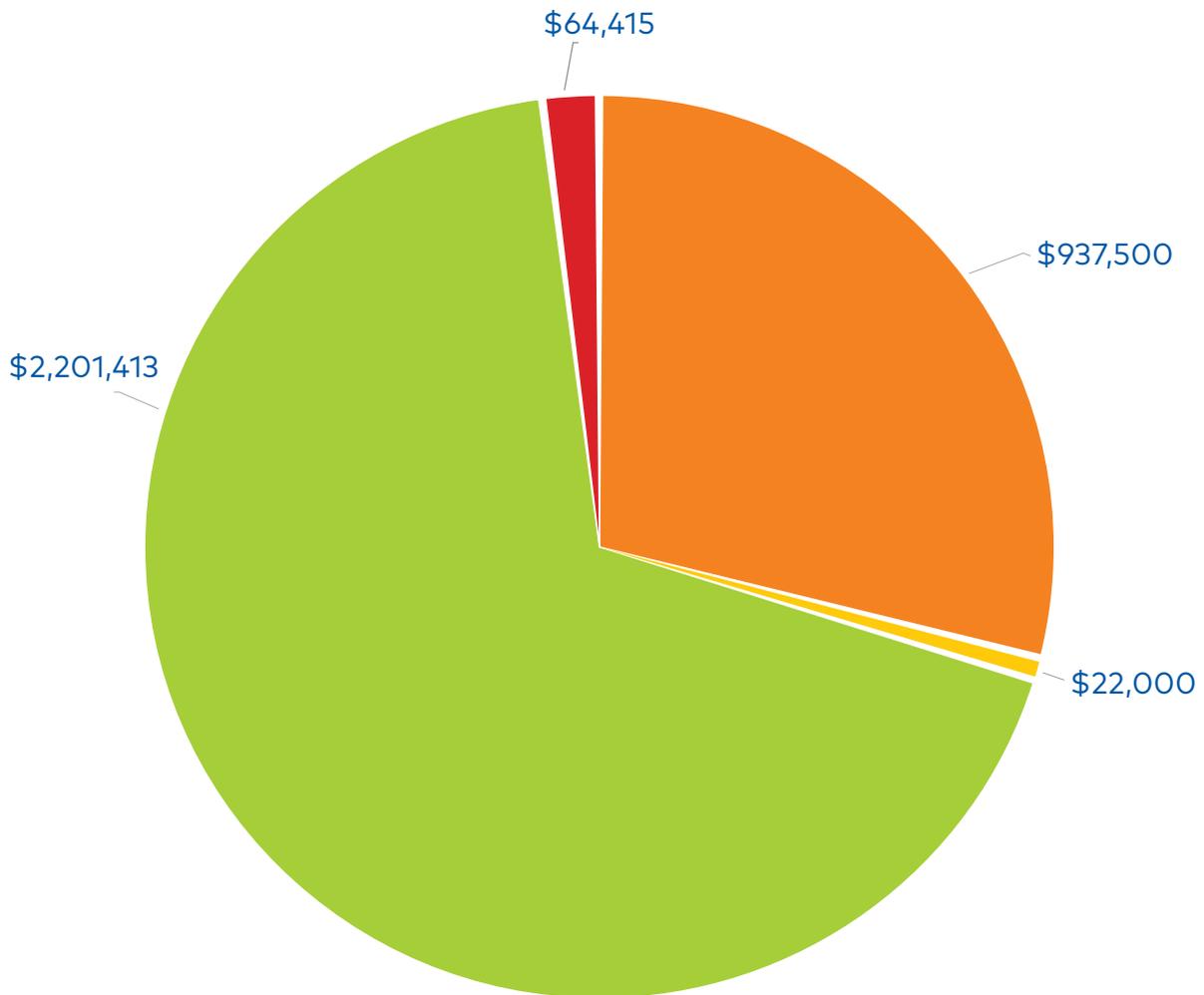
Beatrice Suzana Neagu

Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program, Spring 2025

"When I found out I had been selected for the Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program in Florida, I knew I was about to embark on a life-changing adventure. What I didn't expect was how deeply it would impact me—as a teacher, a learner, and a global citizen."

FY 2025 BUDGET

In FY 2025 the Commission's total budget amounted to \$3,225,328



\$2,201,413 funding from the Romanian Government (amount received in Romanian currency)

\$937,500 funding from ECA/US Department of State (**\$892,000** allocation; **\$45,500** end of year funding)

\$64,415 funding from Romanian-American Foundation for the Fulbright-RAF Visiting Scholar Program

\$22,000 EducationUSA grant for advising and Opportunity Funds Program

Additional Support:

\$85,000 (estimated amount) - In kind support from the Romanian Government (office space and utilities)



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