

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT Academic Year 2018- 2019

Bratislava, November 2019

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1. THE COMMISSION

Based on the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the United States of America (198/2005, 303/2017 Z. z. Law register) the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange is responsible for administering and supervising the Fulbright Program in the Slovak Republic. The Commission is an independent legal entity recorded in the Register of nonprofit organizations of the Slovak Ministry of Interior.

The Commission strives to:

- To enable leading U.S. and Slovak scholars, students and professionals to be involved in educational and research exchanges, and to develop of relationship and cooperation;
- To increase expertise in fields in which lecturing is provided and/or research is conducted in both countries;
- To extend activities to establish cost sharing programs with participating institutions;
- To serve as an advising center for individuals and institutions on information about study and research possibilities in both countries.

The bi-national **Board of the Directors** oversees the operation of the Commission. Both the Slovak Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport and the U.S. Ambassador to Slovak Republic appoint the Board members and serve as Honorary Chairmen.

The Board has the responsibility for setting long term goals and priorities of the program, program activities, selection and nomination of grantees, and coordination of finances of the Commission.

Academic Year 2018 - 2019 Commission Board

Honorary Chairmen:

Martina LUBYOVÁ Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak

Republic

Bridget BRINK U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic (since August 2019)

Adam STERLING U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic (till August 2019)

U.S. Members:

Bruna JAKUB Entrepreneur, *Treasurer* (till March 2019)

David DUERDEN Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S Embassy Bratislava, *Treasurer*

Griffin ROZELL Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava

Linda STEYNE Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava,

Chairwomen of the Slovak Chamber of English Teachers (since May

2019)

Aaron WALTER Associate Professor, Center for European Studies, Cyril and

Methodius University, Trnava, and Masaryk University Brno, Czech

Republic

Slovak Members:

Jozef BÁTORA Professor, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava

Marek MOŠKA Director General, Section of International Relations and European

Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the

Slovak Republic, Alternate Treasurer

Daniela OSTATNÍKOVÁ Professor, Institute of Physiology, Comenius University Bratislava

(since May 2019)

Zuzana POLAČKOVÁ Researcher, Prognostic Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences (till

March 2019)

Jana TOMKOVÁ Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign

and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Fulbright Commission Office

Nora HLOŽEKOVÁ Executive Director

Denisa BEZÁKOVÁ Finance Officer

Zuzana KOPČANOVÁ Program and Study Officer

Dáša TAKO VELICHOVÁ Program Officer

2. THE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The Commission administers and supervises a variety of high-profile award programs for U.S. and Slovak citizens that are based on open and merit-based competition.

The Commission Board takes into account the recommendations of selection committees focusing on professional skills, academic achievements, promising career development, financial means available, and other program requirements; and announces the final nomination of Fulbright grantees.

Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies

Slovak and U.S. graduate students can apply for up to 9-months fellowships for independent research or study at Slovak or U.S. institutions, respectively. Candidates are required to have an outstanding university record and to submit high-quality, well-conceived projects.

<u>Slovak applicants</u> can conduct independent research; and if funding available to enroll in nondegree or Master's programs. They can apply in all fields except clinical medicine, MBA and LL.M. Candidates without extensive U.S. study or research experience are given preference.

<u>U.S. applicants</u> can pursue individual research projects under the leadership of a Slovak expert in the respective field. Knowledge of Slovak is required for commensurate with the level needed in fields such as political science, history, linguistics, and anthropology. Candidates without extensive Slovak study or research experience are given preference.

Slovak Students

Host Institution N Project Title C	cademy of Music and Performing Arts, Bratislava Novement Research Institute, NY ontemporary Dance months/beginning September 2018
Host Institution N Project Title C	Novement Research Institute, NY ontemporary Dance
Project Title C	ontemporary Dance
Daration of Grant	months, segming september 2010
Zuzana NOVÁKOVÁ	
Home Institution	Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
Host Institution	Boston University, MA
Project Title	Political and Economic Development Studies
Duration of Grant	5 months/beginning September 2018
Dominka SEMAŇÁKOVÁ	
Home Institution	National Cultural Center, Bratislava
Host Institution	Syracuse University, NY
Project Title	Music Management
Duration of Grant	14 months/beginning September 2018
Ivana SMOLEŇOVÁ	
Home Institution	Prague Security Institute, CR
Host Institution	Columbia University, NY
Project Title	Security Studies
Duration of Grant	9 months/beginning September 2018
Max STEUER	
	Comenius University Bratislava
Host Institution	Washington State University
•	Comparative Constitutionalism
Duration of Grant	6 months/beginning January 2019

Fulbright Awards for Research and Lecturing

<u>U.S. scholars</u> with comprehensive experiences propose projects on research or lecturing at a Slovak host institution. The applications are welcomed in any field; although preference may be given to the needs of Slovak academic institutions. Candidates without extensive research or lecturing experience in SR are given preference.

<u>Slovak scholars</u> who hold a PhD. degree (in arts and some other fields they prove comparable professional experience) include an invitation letter from the U.S. institution in the application. All areas of research or lecturing except clinical medicine are eligible. Candidates without extensive U.S. research or study experience are given preference.

U.S. Scholars

Researcher:

Zuzana CHOVANEC	
Home Institution	State University of New York at Albany
Host Institution	Archeological Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra
Project Title	Human/Poppy Relationship in Central Europe
Duration of Grant	6 months/beginning September 2018

Lecturers:

Kevin Simpson	
Home Institution	John Brown University at Siloam Springs AR
Host Institution	Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava
Project Title	Social Psychology of Holocaust
Duration of Grant	4 months/beginning February 2019

Slovak Scholars

Alexandra ANDHOV		
Home Institution	University of Copenhagen, Denmark	
Host Institution	Cornell University, NY	
Project Title	Legal Compliance in FinTech	
Duration of Grant	5 months/beginning January 2019	
Krisína BOSÁKOVÁ		
Home Institution	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University Košice	
Host Institution	North Caroline State University	
Project Title	tle Philosophy in Education and Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit	
Duration of Grant	4 months/beginning January 2019	
Barbora HRÍNOVÁ		
Home Institution	Academy of Music and Performing Arts Bratislava	
Host Institution	Chapman University, CA	
Project Title	Frank Daniel – Screen Writer	
Duration of Grant	5 months/beginning January 2019	

Vladimír JURÁŠ

Home Institution Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Host Institution New York University, NY

Project Title Qualitative Analysis of Connective Tissues Using MRI

Duration of Grant 6 months/beginning January 2019

Gabriela MIŠŠÍKOVÁ

Home Institution University of Constantine the Philosopher, Nitra

Host Institution University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
Project Title Pragmatic Resources of Literary Translation
Duration of Grant 6 months/beginning September 2018

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program

The Slovak secondary schools receive assistance in strengthening English language instructions by establishing a qualified native speaker presence. At the same time, U.S. participants gain from intensive cross-cultural interaction and research opportunities.

Sofia FALL

Home Institution University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Host Institution Secondary Veterinary Vocational School, Nitra

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Hannah FALCHUK

Home Institution Washington and Lee University, VA
Host Institution Gymnasium of Martin Kukučín, Revúca

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Natalie ALEMAN

Home Institution At Large

Host Institution Secondary Construction Vocational School Nové Zámky

Project Title TESOL

Duration of grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Massimo GUGLIETTA

Home Institution Rutgers University, NJ

Host Institution Gymnasium of Jozef Holly, Trnava

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Grace POPPE

Home Institution University of Dayton, OH

Host Institution Secondary Services and Business Academy, Trenčín

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Alison PREISSING

Home Institution Miami University, OH

Host Institution Gymnasium of Pavol Hviezdoslav, Dolný Kubín

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Grace SPROCKETT

Home InstitutionUniversity of Cincinnati, OHHost InstitutionGymnasium of Karol Štúr, Modra

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

Nathaniel TAPSAK

Home Institution At Large

Host Institution Hotel Academy Prešov

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

E-mail Address ntapsak@epix.net

Kaitlin TROKAN

Home Institution University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Host Institution Gymnasium of St. Edita Stein, Košice

Project Title TESOL

Duration of Grant 10 months/beginning September 2018

3. OTHER PROGRAMS

Fulbright Specialist Program

Slovak academic institutions can invite a U.S. expert for 2 - 6 weeks to lecture, assist in developing curricula and educational materials, participate or lead seminars or workshops, assist in faculty development, etc. The selection and placement can be handled within 3 months.

Prof. Richard BUSCH	
Home Institution	Saint Louis University, MO
Host Institution	Department of American and British Studies, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava
Project Title	Courses on Contemporary American Literature
Duration of Grant	6 weeks in March/April 2019

Jonathan LARSON Instructor in Anthropology	
Home Institution	Grinnell College, IA
Host Institution	Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Institute of Social Anthropology, Comenius University Bratislava
Project Title	Courses on Integrating Linguistic Anthropology TESOL
Duration of Grant	2 serial visits in March - May 2019

Gregg LOSINSKI	Instructor in Anthropology
Home Institution	Grinnell College, IA
Host Institution	Faculty of Natural Sciences, Matej Bel University Banska Bystrica
Project Title	Courses on North American Nature Conservation
Duration of Grant	4 weeks in November 2018

Humphrey Fellowship Program

The program enables professionals at a mid-point in their career to participate in a 10 months study and related professional experience at U.S. institutions in fields such as environmental management, finances, human resources management, urban planning, communications, drug abuse education, etc. Final selection of nominees from over 150 countries is made at the U.S State Department:

Július ROZENFELD	
Home Institution	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice
Host Institution	Vanderbilt University, TN
Project Title	Educational Administration – Planning and Policy
Duration of Grant	10 months/beginning September 2018

The United States Institutes 2019

These programs are 5-weeks programs focusing on American Studies and civic society affairs. The candidates are selected through worldwide competition:

The Institute for Secondary Educators

- Chiara FALCONE, Gymnázium Senica, teacher.

The Institute on Civic Engagement:

Daniel CSEFALVAY, BISLA Bratislava.

The Institute on Youth, Education and Closing the Skills Gap:

- Renáta MASAROVIČOVÁ, Faculty of Education, Comenius University Bratislava.
- Michal RADOŠINSKÝ, Academy of Performing Arts Bratislava.

Fulbright Hays Seminar

The program provides short-term seminars abroad for U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities to improve their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries. Educational lectures and activities are designed specifically for each seminar group, including visits to local schools and organizations, meetings with educators and students, and visits to cultural sites. Participants draw on their experiences abroad to create new curricula for their classrooms and school systems back in the U.S. 13 secondary educators applied to take part in the program, July 5 - August 4, 2019.



Prior the start of the program in Slovak and Czech Republics there was a predeparture program, organized be the lowa State University in De Moines, IA. During July 5-8, 2019, 13 high school teachers and administrators across the U.S. took part in lectures and seminars to get acquitted with both republics, their past common history and current issues.

The Slovak portion took place July 9 - 15, 2019 in Bratislava. The participants were briefed on history, political life, European affairs, education and culture. Visits to Banská Štiavnica, Trenčín, Nitra and suroundings of Bratislava were also part of the program.



4. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Fulbright year consists of recruitment and selections of candidates for programs administered. It also requires planning of academic cycles, finances, advertising, outreach activities. There is an Emergency Action Plan in place to provide guidance to grantees in variety of situations. Regular checks and visits have been made to host institutions to check on the professional performance of the grantees.

A/ September 10 - 14, 2018, Bratislava: <u>The Orientation Program</u> for incoming U.S. grantees, briefing on the terms and conditions that go with respective awards. The representatives of the



U.S. Embassy Ms. Maria Amaya, Mr. David Duerden and Mr. Griffin Rozell discussed with the grantees the U.S. - Slovak relationship, security issues, Embassy programs and activities. The program included seminar on geopolitical, social and cultural background of the host country and seminar on stress and culture shock management.

- B/ The European Fulbright Diversity Initiative Conference, September 22 23, 2018, Berlin: Task Forces composed of Fulbright students, scholars, staffers, and EDs have been collecting facts and figures, developing strategies and action plans fostering diversity and inclusion in the Fulbright Program. The initiative is closely cooperating with the U.S. State Department to ensure that the Fulbright Program reflects the diversity of U.S. society and societies abroad, and provides exchange opportunities for all segments of society.
- C/ Regional Enrichment Seminar on Media Literacy and Critical Thinking, Warsaw, October 26-27, 2018: Fulbright English teaching assistants placed in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary, their tutors and Fulbright staff participated in series of lectures on teaching media literacy and critical thinking in the classroom.
- D/ The annual **Mid-Year Conference** for U.S. grantees affiliated in the Slovak Republic took place January 29 February 1, 2019, in Zvolen. The grantees presented their accomplishments and their host institutions. Professor Bulcroft, sociologist and Fulbright Fellow, met with teaching assistants in group and separately to research and discuss their experience after first semester at Slovak host institutions, and on mastering living and working in new environment. A session led by mental coach Peter Bielik was also aimed on mental couching, identity of own and self-reflection.
- E/ The Pre-Departure Program for the Slovak Fulbright Grantees departing to the U.S. in the AY 2018-2019, was held in Bratislava, June 11, 2019, in Bratislava. Its program focused on all aspects of the departure such as terms and conditions of awards, visa, health insurance, financial matters, housing etc. Alumni of the programs and representatives of the U.S. Embassy participated in the event as well.

F/ Other Activities:

 Ms. Zuzana CHOVANEC, Fulbright Scholar at Institute of Archeology Nitra, presented her the *outcomes of her research* stay at the Institute, February 2019, Nitra.



Professor Kevin Simpson, Fulbright Scholar at the Department of Psychology, Comenius University Bratislava, was the sponsor and initiator of the commemoration of over 250



Jewish prisoners deprived of civil and human rights on the basis of racial laws, who in 1941-1943, during their forced labor, built the foundation of the western part of the football stadium in Žilina. On this occasion, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the stadium building of the football club MŠK Žilina, May 15, 2019.

He also gave a lecture on Holocaust and Sports at the Holocaust Museum in Sered, April 2019.

5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES

Part of the Commission's activities is the operation of its Advising Center, that also is a part of the worldwide network EducationUSA, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The Fulbright staff works together to provide services for those contemplaiting studies in the U.S. through speaking engagements, participation on fairs, and contact with appropriate staff at schools and universities. Services are being provided free of charge. The trend has been to utilize advising materials and online, together with webinars on variety of topics concerning U.S. higher education.

The Commission cooperates with local American paces, here called InfoUSA Centers, which provide resources on political, economic, cultural, educational and social life in the U.S. These are located in cities of Košice, Bratislava and in Banská Bystrica. The centers in Košice and in Banská Bystrica are also a part of EducationUSA worldwide network.

Statistics:

Walk-in Visitors	Phone Inquires	E-mail Inquires	Outreach	FaceBook	U.S. Institutions Representatives	Web Unique Visitors
119	86	388	4,159*	1,133	9	30,420

*including visitors of InfoUSA Centers

Outreach Activities:

October 2018:

 VAPAC Study and Career Fair, Bratislava: Largest educational fair in the Slovak Republic. <u>InfoUSA Centers Representatives</u> Jozef Fabrici, Martina Jesenská and Robert Cimer participating in the event as well;



 Visit to Prešov and Košice to meet the ETAs and their tutors at host institutions, participation the event "My American Story" for secondary students, that brought together alumni of various programs to present on their U.S. experience, including Alena Vachnova, Humphrey Fellow 2018;



Advising on study in the U.S. and essay writing at Gymnasium Ľudovíta Štúra Trenčín.

November 2018:

- o the Annual **GOUSA! Educational Fair** took place at Trnava University;
- Advising on study in the U.S. and essay writing at Secondary private prep College Best, Trnava.

December 2018:

- o "<u>Living Science</u>" Conference organized by the Slovak Researcher Platform, Bratislava, presentation of Fulbright research grants;
- o Ms. Maura Smith, Ohio Northwestern University, held a <u>Seminar on LLM programs</u> at the premises of the Commission.

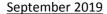
February 2019:

- <u>"Where to Study at a College"</u> educational fair took in Prešov and Košice. The Fulbright staff together with colleagues from the InfoUSA center Košice participated in the Košice event.
- Ms. Andrea Vagi, representative of IIE Budapest, held a seminar on <u>"US</u>
 Colleges Essay Writing" at University Library, Bratislava;



June 2019

o <u>Conference EFL Forum</u>, for English teachers in primary and secondary education, language schools and universities, Fulbright Staff presented on seminars and scholarships available for students and teachers to the United States, Economic University Bratislava.



 GAUDEAMUS, redesigned and enlarged educational fair took place in a new venue in Bratislava, attracting over 9,000 students and more than 250 teachers. Fulbright staff presented on study opportunities and scholarships to the U.S.



6. ALUMNI

The Commission strives to remain in contact with both the U.S. and Slovak alumni and to follow up on their professional progress and activities. They are also invited to participate in the evaluation and selection procedures for the various program competitions, and they serve as contacts and hosts for the incoming grantees.

o **Christiana Caro**, photographer and Fulbright Fellow at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, organized an exhibition at the Art Center Gem Center for the Arts in Boise,





Idaho, January - February 2019. Under the title <u>Home Land – Domáca Zem</u>, the exhibition was composed of works of Slovak artists. The exhibit was curated by Lee Karpiscak, Art Historian, University of Tucson, Arizona, also a Fulbright Fellow. The exhibition also commemorated the

upcoming 25th anniversary of the Commission.

- Evenings with Michal Vašečka on "Myth of the Beauty" took place February, and "The Culture of Discussions in Slovakia"in March, Art Café Bratislava;
- o **Scholars at Risk** is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission it is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom. By arranging temporary academic positions at member universities and colleges, it offers safety to scholars facing grave threats, so scholars' ideas are not lost and they can keep working until conditions improve and they are able to return to their home countries.

Michal Vašečka and the Bratislava Policy Institute together with BISLA - Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Paneuropean University Bratislava, University of Cyril and Methodius in Trnava and Matej bel University in Banska Bystica are creating a network in the Slovak Republic. The initiative was introduced during the FREEDOM Festival at Nova Cvernovka in Bratislava and supported by the Fulbright Commission.

Joseph Grim Feinberg, anthropologist and Fulbright Fellow at the Ethnological Institute in Košice, explores in his book the processes by which authentic folklore identifies, creates, reconstructs and revives. He combines ethnographic analysis, philosophical projection and narration to interpret the aspirations and difficulties of young folk dance and folk music enthusiasts.

- Magda Stanová showed her works at a solo show ALGORITHMS in ARTS at the Slovak Consulate in Dallas, Texas, October 2018.
- o Matúš Vallo has been elected the Mayor of Bratislava.



7. ADMINISTRATION, STAFF AND FUNDING

The respective fiscal year of the Fulbright Commission is observed as set by U.S. (October 1 - September 30) and Slovak (January 1 - December 31) regulations. The financial income is composed of two sources of funding: allocation from the Slovak Government and the Government of the U.S.A.

In-kind contributions to the Commission include tuition waivers, funds allocated to other programs through other U.S. or Slovak government activities, health insurance for the grantees, private in-kind sponsorship etc.

Annually the Commission is subject to an independent audit of receipts and disbursements and on the internal control structure. The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport also audits the expenses from the Slovak government contribution separately.

- A/ <u>Workshop for Fulbright Commissions staff</u> (Program and Finance Officers) from Europe, East Asia and Pacific, December 2019, Washington, DC. The staffers took also take part at National Screening Committees of the U.S applications to SR for 2019 2020 at IIE New York.
- *A*nnual European Executive ED Meeting in Salzburg, April 2019 the agenda focused on cooperation between commissions, diversity and inclusion, alumni data collecting and tracking via Fulbright app, dealing with mental health issues, relationship of commissions with partner agencies.
- C/ Global Executive ED Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 2019 the program included a meeting with the Foreign Fulbright Scholarship Board, an event at the U.S. Congress to celebrate Fulbright and launching the new logo and branding. Also, an exclusive online networking platform for alumni and grantees of Fulbright programs worldwide has been launched.





D/ Ms. Zoey RUGEL, Student at University of Wisconsin, Madison, joined the Commission as a <u>Summer Intern</u> in May – August, 2019. She was assisting with statistics, developing of information materials for departing Slovak grantees, information brochures for recruiting U.S. scholars and students to apply to Slovak Republic.

Review of Financial Sources Fiscal Year 2019

Income

U.S. Government Contribution	410,384
Slovak Government Contribution	200,575
Other U.S. Government Contribution	26,421
Surplus Program Funds from previous FY	292,590
Subtotal	929,970
In-Kind Contributions	
not included in the Commission's accounting	USD
Fulbright Specialist Program	20,000
Humphrey Fellowship	22,000
Scholar-in-Residency	14,300
Study Institutes	40,000
Subtotal	96,300
TOTAL INCOME	1,026,270
Expenses (in USD)	USD

Program Expenses	390,121
Grant Supporting Expenses*	45,645
Administrative Expenses	185,093

TOTAL EXPENSES 620,859

- Information Programs for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Grant Supplement Expenses for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Educational Material
- Web Page and Social Media Management
- In-country Travel
- Operation of the Advising Center

Not included are costs for the Accident and Sickness Insurance for all grantees provided by the U.S. State Department.

USD

^{*}Grant Supporting Expenses cover: