

FLAD Program UP Higher Education 2026-2027

FUNDING FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF PORTUGUESE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WITH
INSTITUTIONS IN THE USA

This regulation defines the conditions of access to the "UP Higher Education 2026-2027" program

I. SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

The Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) is launching a new competition to support the creation of partnerships between higher education institutions (HEIs) in Portugal and the United States (US), called "UP-Higher Education 2026-2027", with the aim of stimulating academic and scientific cooperation between HEIs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Proposals should involve joint initiatives with Portuguese and US HEIs that show potential for collaboration that will achieve mutually supported objectives over the medium and long-term and the consolidation of institutional relations. The objectives must be clear and measurable.

FLAD seeks to support projects with a high degree of institutional commitment between partners, and not just one-off actions, such as research or learning exchanges that involve one-way mobilities. Proponents should therefore view potential FLAD support as start-up funding for a partnership relationship that should demonstrate a path toward program sustainability for years to come.

These proposals may include, individually or in combination, and without prejudice to other proposals and formats that may be presented, the following possibilities:

- 1)** Cooperation and/or curricular articulation (e.g. the development of double or joint degrees; financial support for the development of new consortia between Portugal and the USA; development of joint programs with a practical *service-learning* component, etc.);
- 2)** Adoption and use of technology (e.g. Collaborative Online International Learning - COIL, virtual mobility, etc.);
- 3)** Training and development of faculty and staff (e.g. short-term stays for immersion training that furthers larger institutional goals);
- 4)** Joint research (e.g. joint projects, multilateral networks) that goes beyond occasional research mobility for investigators; Note that FLAD, FCT and other grant-making organizations have other programs for research funding that may involve international mobility for researchers. The goal of this program is seeding deeper *institutional* linkages between Portuguese and US HEIs that show promise for sustainable linkages moving forward.
- 5)** Acquisition of talent (e.g. joint hirings/joint appointments or promotion of a co-tutorship model doctoral students). Note that one-off requests for financing the costs of one-way faculty mobility, without a clear commitment to reciprocal funding models by both institutions, would not serve the *institutional* goals of this seed funding;
- 6)** Other relevant proposals.

Proposals can be submitted for all levels of higher education - bachelor's, master's, doctorate, executive training, among others, in any scientific area. The budget submitted must clearly indicate the investment planned for each of the institutions involved.

Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges, Research Centers, or similar, can apply, including in consortium, as long as they involve entities from both sides of the Atlantic.

Proposals from HEIs located in the interior of the country, or in the autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira, will be favoured.

As a rule, proposals that fall within the scope of other FLAD competitions will not be considered.

II. DATES

- The call will run from May 15 to September 15;
- Candidates will be notified by October 30;
- The winning proposals will receive support at a time to be determined, as appropriate. Support will be made available during the year 2026 for initiatives starting during the academic year 2026/27;
- In exceptional cases, depending on the nature of the initiative, the support may be processed in instalments.
- The final report must be submitted to FLAD no later than 90 days after their completion, and no later than November 15, 2027.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be submitted by Portuguese HEIs;
- Applications can be submitted in English or Portuguese;
- Each application submitted, either individually or as a consortium, must be associated with a Principal Investigator/Project Director representing the HEI(s) involved in Portugal, and the indication of a point of contact at the HEI(s) involved in the USA;
- The application must clearly demonstrate, in the budget, the financial involvement of the parties. It is a requirement that the contribution of the partner HEI in the USA is equal to or greater than that of the Portuguese HEI;
- FLAD does not fund *overheads*;
- The following documentation must be attached to each application
 - Letter of support from the Portuguese HEI(s) involved;
 - Letter of support from the US HEI(s) involved;
 - Description of the joint action and its objectives (max. 5 pages);
 - Timeline;
 - Budget must explicitly show:
 - The investment to be made by the Portuguese HEI (the amount eligible for FLAD UP Higher Education support);
 - The investment to be made by the US HEI;
 - Other financing sources (if any);
 - Total budget for the project;
 - Other documents to support the application, if applicable.

IV. EVALUATION

- The evaluation of proposals is the responsibility of a jury appointed by FLAD;
- Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a path to the overall sustainability of the institutional partnership in the medium to long term;
- Match funding projects, either by the HEIs involved and/or other existing support/funding programs;
- In the event of a tie, proposals from Portuguese HEIs located outside the major national coastal centers will have a positive increase in their evaluation.

V. FINANCING

- Up to 30,000 € per selected project to be awarded to the Portuguese HEI (regardless of the total value involved in the initiative);
- The award granted to each project may not cover the full amount requested;
- General institutional costs (overheads) are not eligible, so the budgeted investment amounts should reflect these costs as institutional co-financing of the HEIs involved;
- FLAD reserves the right not to select any application.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please access the list of FAQ's, [here](#)

For further questions or clarifications please contact: educacao@flad.pt

Start your application here:

https://flad.secure.force.com/CandidaturaMain?language=pt_PT