



Linking Minds Across Cultures

Fulbright Program to Italy for US Scholars  
a.y. 2020-21

**Fulbright Lectureship at the Department of Statistical Sciences of the University of Bologna**

Award # 10235

Grant Category: Teaching/Research

- ▶ **Number of Awards:** One grant
- ▶ **Discipline and specialization:** **Statistical Sciences**  
Specializations: Statistics; Economic Statistics; Demography; Social Science Statistics

The Lectureship refers to the field of statistical methods for the analysis of Big Data. In more detail, it could include the themes of methodological statistics related to the analysis of Big Data, such as supervised and unsupervised statistical learning in the multivariate context, machine learning techniques (neural networks and decision trees), penalized estimation methods for variable selection, dependence modelling and in general all the recent developments in statistical methodology that are aimed at addressing the challenges posed by Big Data. These topics could also be addressed from an applied perspective; preferred application areas would be business analytics or omics data or text data or social network analysis.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

Research and collaboration with peers: The Department of Statistical Sciences includes several research groups whose interests are in line with the Big Data theme, from both the methodological and the applied point of view. The main research interests of the members of the department involve the development of new statistical methods but also the possibility to make the traditional methods feasible in terms of computational costs for the analysis of Big Data. The research is also focused on fields of application in which the Big Data play a relevant role, like the social and psychometric studies, the analysis of financial data, the analysis of textual and consumer behavior data, the analysis of genetic and environmental data. As a result, there are several opportunities of collaboration for the scholar with the members of the department.

In addition:

Access to the University Library Organization: The University of Bologna has a wide network of facilities, library and documentary services providing support for studies, teaching, research, professional and cultural activities.

Access to the University Museum Network: A coordinated network of 13 museums (including the Palazzo Poggi Museum) that protects and promotes the University's historical and artistic assets.

Access to the Collegio Superiore: The Collegio Superiore provides supplementary, highly qualifying training courses with a strong interdisciplinary focus for students admitted on a merit basis. This excellent training is enriched by meetings and seminars held by Italian and international academics, as well as by exchanges with other European schools of excellence. The Fulbright Lecturer will be certainly invited to attend Collegio Superiore initiative, as well as to give a seminar in this center of excellence.

Access to the Institute of Advanced Studies: The Institute selects PhD students, PhD graduates, and high-profile academics from all over the world who are invited to Bologna by the University professors. It promotes the exchange of ideas and knowledge at an international level, constitutes a meeting point for Italian and international academics. The Fulbright Lecturer

will benefit from this high-profile international environment and related cross-fertilization initiatives with the possibility to cooperate with international academics coming from all over the world.

► **Grant period and activity:** Three to six months. Grant must begin in February 1, 2021.

The scholar will be expected to teach:

1. A 30- hours course included in the Master programme “Statistical Science” and will deal with statistical methods and models for the analysis of Big Data and related applications. The course is offered at the University Campus of Bologna. Teaching load: 6 hours per week

2. A 10-hours course within the PhD Program among the mandatory courses offered to the PhD students of the PhD programme in Statistics. It will deal with advanced statistical models and methods for the analysis of Big Data. The course will be offered at the University Campus of Bologna. Teaching load: 10 hours (one week) for a total of 40 hours.

The scholar is expected to submit a syllabus for each course.

Additional grant activity: The Lecturer is expected to advise PhD students on the main challenges posed to statistics by the availability Big Data and on possible approaches to face them, both according to a theoretical and applied perspective.

Curriculum Development: The Lecturer will be involved in the periodical evaluation sessions of the teaching programs involving academic staff in order to assess the interest of the proposed program at the international level. In addition to being a prestigious academic exchange program, the Fulbright Program is designed to expand and strengthen relationships between the people of the United States and citizens of other nations and to promote international understanding and cooperation. To support this mission, Fulbright Scholars will be asked to give public talks, mentor students, and otherwise engage with the host community, in addition to their primary activities.

During the Fulbright grant, the scholar may be also invited to take part in academic meetings, conferences, seminars and other program-related activities organized by Italian or European universities, under the **Fulbright Inter-Country Program** <http://www.fulbright.it/fulbright-intercountry/>

► **Qualifications:**

Open to academics only.

A good research record is desirable. The Department welcomes any tenured professor teaching at a certified American higher education institution. Younger scholars are welcome, although at least three years of teaching experience are required. However, the Department would also like to consider the application of new academics, provided they have a CV that is compatible with the Department's expectations and the quality of the program.

► **Language:**

Lecturing is in English and additional language proficiency is not required. Conversational Italian is considered helpful.

► **Letter of Invitation and project proposal:**

Letter of invitation should not be requested. Applicants should submit a detailed project proposal in the Fulbright US Scholar application.

**D Award benefits:**

€9,000 for three months; €12,000 for four months; €15,000 for five months; €18,000 for six months, and a travel allowance of € 1.100.

The grantee will be covered by Health and Accident Insurance for the whole grant period, provided to participants in the Fulbright cultural exchange Program by the *United States Department of State*.

The University of Bologna will provide assistance in finding accommodation on private market through its housing service SAIS.

UNIBO staff and students can benefit from special discounts to cinemas, museums and theatres

Focusing on transport and mobility: Mi Muovo: single train-bus travel pass valid throughout Emilia Romagna

In addition, there are several activities that the scholar might be involved in and benefit from: University Sports Centre - CUSB; University Museum Network - SMA; Collegium Musicum University of Bologna Choir and Orchestra; Wi-Fi wireless connection; UniboCultura - UniboCultural initiatives

Tax Code desk for students and international teaching staff: A help desk from which University students and international teaching staff may obtain an Italian Tax code.

Office space with phone, computer and printing facilities; Secretarial assistance; Access to internet and to the bibliographic datasets of the University; University badge (which provides access to all facilities of the University of Bologna); Welcome kit.

**D How to apply:**

Fulbright Scholar Awards to Italy are assigned through an annual competition administered at the national level in the US by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars - CIES in Washington DC, in collaboration with the Fulbright Commission in Italy. Potential candidates can apply online through CIES (<https://apply.iie.org/apply/>).

Information on the Fulbright US Scholar Program, catalogue of awards, eligibility requirements, tips, guidelines and resources for applying, review criteria, selection and competition timeline is available on CIES website at <https://www.cies.org/program/fulbright-us-scholar-program>

**D Application Deadline:**

**Monday, September 16, 2019**

**For information about the grant, please contact Fulbright Commission staff:**

Commissione per gli Scambi Culturali fra l'Italia e gli Stati Uniti  
The US - Italy Fulbright Commission  
Via Castelfidardo 8 - 00185 Rome Italy  
[www.fulbright.it](http://www.fulbright.it)

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### Resources on the Italian university system and research:

- ❖ MIUR - Ministry of Education, Universities and Research - [www.istruzione.it](http://www.istruzione.it)  
Italian Government - Ministry of Education, Universities and Research
- ❖ CRUI - Conference of Italian University Rectors - [www.crui.it](http://www.crui.it)  
National Conference of Italian state and private universities
- ❖ ENIC-NARIC network - [www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Italy](http://www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Italy)  
Italy Country page on the ENIC-NARIC network of European Information Centers on academic recognition and mobility
  
- ❖ Ricerca Italiana - [www.ricercaitaliana.it](http://www.ricercaitaliana.it)  
National portal on the world of Italian Research
- ❖ ICCU - [www.iccu.sbn.it](http://www.iccu.sbn.it)  
National Institute for the Italian Library Catalogue

### Travelling to Italy

- ❖ ITALIA - [www.italia.it](http://www.italia.it)  
Discover Italy - info, ideas and resources for the travel to Italy
- ❖ CULTURA ITALIA, Un patrimonio da esplorare - [www.culturaitalia.it](http://www.culturaitalia.it)  
Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities - Cultural paths and resources from the world of Italian culture