



Year in Review 2024

A PROGRAM OF
FLAD
LUSO-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

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Welcome



A circular portrait of Michael Baum, a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a light blue shirt. He is gesturing with his right hand. The portrait is set against a light gray background and is partially framed by a large orange semi-circle on the left and a red triangle on the right.

Michael Baum

Message *from* Michael Baum

**FLAD Executive Board Member
& SiPN Founder**

To the 2024 SiPN alumni:

We hope this message finds you in high spirits! As the year draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to each of you who chose Study in Portugal Network for what we hope was a life-changing experience.

Your participation in SiPN has significantly contributed to a more global perspective and an openness to cultural exchange within your educational community. In Portugal, you embraced the opportunity to explore new challenges, engage with diverse cultures, and expand your academic and personal horizons.

From FLAD's perspective, now that you are back in the US, it feels like we now have 250+ Ambassadors who are able to represent the best values of both countries and continue to foster Transatlantic friendship and prosperity for life.

This Year in Review serves as a reflection on our collective journey, and your role in it cannot be overstated.

As you go from "SiPN students" to "SiPN alumni", you continue to carry the spirit of curiosity, exploration, and a commitment to excellence that defines our programmatic standards.

This is also an opportunity to reflect on how SiPN has been changing. This is particularly important in 2024, a year that witnessed a change in FLAD's administration and also some transformations in SiPN's *modus operandi*.

For example, over the past year SiPN re-evaluated its attitude toward short-stay study abroad programs (also known as faculty-leds), introducing a new model for our summer program.

The **Hybrid Model**, born after a lot of brainstorming and reprioritizing after the pandemic, allows a closer proximity between our host universities in Portugal and the US schools seeking our curatorial inputs.

Moreover, by running said programs during our regular summer sessions, we increase course choices for all SiPN summer participants and open these classes to local students as well.

With greater buy-in from our local university partners, we also seek to build more opportunities for intercultural interactions between US and Portuguese faculty – a major goal here at FLAD.

As we gather to reflect on the past year's endeavors, we also want to acknowledge the impact that your feedback has had on SiPN. Your adventures, challenges, and accomplishments have been an integral part of our 2024 highlights, and they serve as a testament to the importance of international education.

Let's rewind and highlight the most important takeaways from your time in Portugal:

- You immersed yourselves in the rich culture, history, and traditions of Portugal, broadening your cultural competence and deepening your understanding of the world.
- Your engagement in Portuguese classrooms and exposure to a different educational system enhanced your academic skills and global perspectives.
- Through this experience, you developed valuable life skills, including adaptability, resilience, and cross-cultural communication, which will serve you well in your future endeavours.
- The connections you established with fellow students, professors, and the local community offer new opportunities for collaboration and friendships.

And last, but not least...

The memories you created during your time in Portugal will remain with you for a lifetime, reminding you of the transformative power of international education. The impact of your participation extends beyond your personal growth; it also enriches us, the SiPN team, by fostering a more inclusive and globally aware learning environment for all our partners.

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors, may your experiences in Portugal continue to inspire you. SiPN stays with you!

Study in Portugal Network

Study in Portugal Network (SiPN) is a specialized study abroad provider based in Lisbon, Portugal.

As a multi-university consortium of Portuguese universities, it aims to attract U.S. students and faculty to Portugal through a variety of study abroad experiences.

SiPN offers semester, full-year, and summer study abroad opportunities. Every year, it also welcomes a number of short-term programs tailored to the needs and requirements of the program's director and the respective U.S. university. SiPN's privileged relationship with Portuguese universities, governmental and non-governmental institutions allows it to cover virtually any topic that merits study in Portugal.

SiPN's tremendous value is only made possible by the support of the **Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD)**, a private Portuguese non-profit grant-making

Foundation, dedicated to funding initiatives to promote scientific and cultural exchanges between Portugal and the United States. FLAD firmly believes in the mission of fostering transnational understanding through the academic exchange of faculty and students.

This was the vision that led to the creation of SiPN in 2014, by attracting more students from the United States to come to Portugal, the program fosters stronger links between the academic communities in each country.



Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD)

The Luso-American Development Foundation was created in 1985, a decision made by the Portuguese Government to create a private institution that, on a permanent and independent basis, would promote relations between Portugal and the United States.

Its priority areas are **Science and Technology**, **Transatlantic Relations**, **Arts and Culture** and, of course, **Education**, the portfolio that includes SiPN!

FLAD is a member of the main national and international networks of foundations (The Portuguese Foundation Center – CPF; The European Foundation Center – EFC), and is recognized within Portuguese society as one of its most important foundations).

It has opened doors to and from the United States for 40 years, developing Portugal, the Portuguese, and the Portuguese diaspora, through collaboration and projects of recognized value.



2024 at a Glance

Year by the Numbers



259

Students



31

SiPN
Recruitment
Sources



7

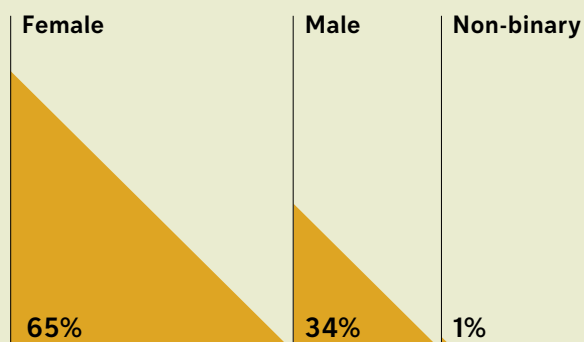
Customized
Programs led
by 15 US-based
faculty members



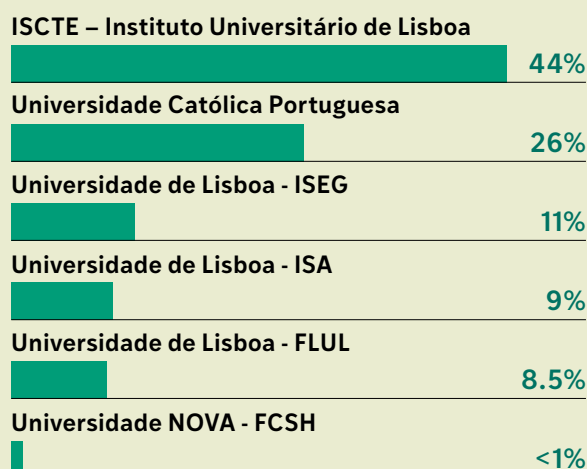
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SiPN Promoted
Internships

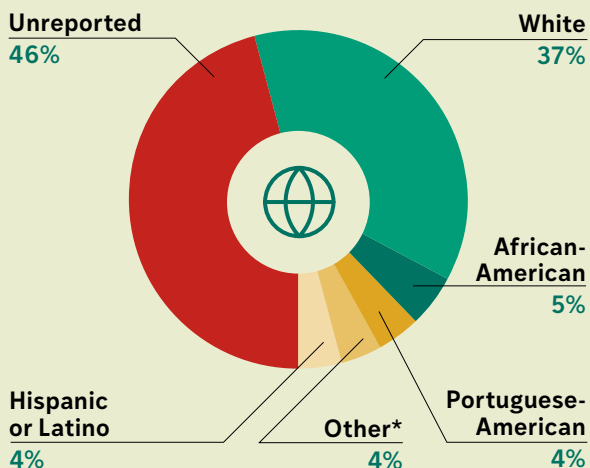
Gender



Host universities in Portugal

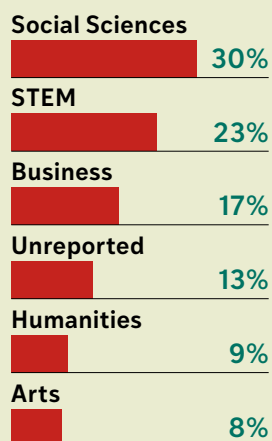


Ethnicity



*Other: Asian or Pacific Islander; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North American; Hispanic or Latino, White, Native Hawaiian White and African-American.

Area of study



75%

Of semester
program students
took a portuguese
language class





Students by state

Wisconsin State (WI)	13.9%
Indiana (IN)	13.5%
New York (NY)	12.7%
Michigan (MI)	9.7%
Massachusetts (MA)	9.3%
Georgia (GA)	8.1%
Utah (UT)	7.7%
Maryland (MD)	7.0%
Missouri (MO)	5.8%
Colorado (CO)	3.1%
North Carolina (NC)	2.7%
California (CA)	2.3%
New Jersey (NJ)	1.9%
Iowa (IA)	0.8%
Rhode Island (RI)	0.8%
New Hampshire (NH)	0.8%

31 SiPN recruitment sources

31 SiPN recruitment sources	Students	%
University of Wisconsin - Madison	35	13.5%
Western Michigan University (WMU)	25	9.7%
Emory University	20	7.7%
Johns Hopkins University	18	6.9%
Brigham Young University	17	6.6%
Siena College	17	6.6%
University of Notre Dame	16	6.2%
William Jewell College	15	5.8%
Indiana University	12	4.6%
University of Massachusetts Lowell	12	4.6%
Pratt Institute	10	3.9%
University of Massachusetts Amherst	9	3.5%
CU Boulder (University of Colorado Boulder)	8	3.1%
Indiana University - O'Neill	7	2.7%
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC - Chapel Hill)	7	2.7%
Rutgers University - New Brunswick	5	1.9%
San Diego State University	5	1.9%
University of Utah	3	1.2%
West Point Military Academy	3	1.2%
Bridgewater State University	2	0.8%
Loras College	2	0.8%
University at Buffalo	2	0.8%
University of New Hampshire	2	0.8%
Berry College	1	0.4%
Brown University	1	0.4%
Framingham State University	1	0.4%
Rhode Island College	1	0.4%
SUNY Oneonta	1	0.4%
University of California, Berkeley	1	0.4%
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	1	0.4%

SiPN & FLAD Promoted Scholarships

In 2024, SiPN/FLAD awarded a total of \$46,500 USD in partial scholarships to support students pursuing international education.

\$46.5k

**Awarded
in 2024 by
SiPN and FLAD
in partial
scholarships**

FLAD LUSO-AMERICAN
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

 **Gilman** Scholarship.

Through a collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's Gilman Scholarship Program, The FLAD-Gilman Scholarship helps students with limited financial resources to study or intern abroad, equipping them with essential skills for their future success.

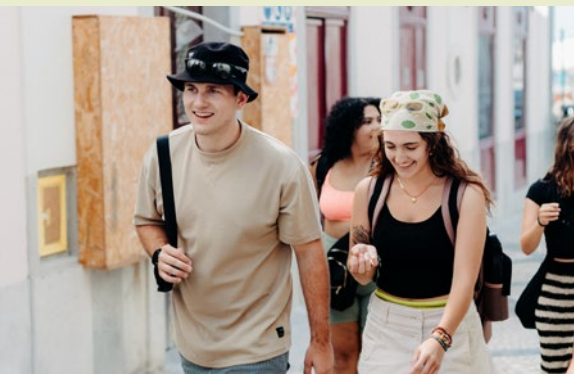
As one of only seven Gilman Global Partners worldwide, the FLAD-SiPN partnership proudly awarded 7 prestigious FLAD-Gilman Scholarships to SiPN students in 2024, totaling \$35,000.

This partnership underscores a shared commitment to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the SiPN community.

Additionally, FLAD provided further financial support of \$11,500 awarded as "SiPN/FLAD Partial Scholarships", ensuring broader access to transformative global experiences.



Summary *of Semester* Programs



FALL 2024



SPRING 2024

Spring & Fall 2024

In 2024, SiPN's semester programs hosted a total of 61 students from 13 different universities:

University of Wisconsin - Madison	57.3%
Emory University	9.8%
University of Massachusetts - Amherst	8.2%
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	4.9%
Loras College	3.2%
Bridgewater State University	3.2%
University of New Hampshire	3.2%
Siena College	1.6%
Framingham State University	1.6%
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	1.6%
University of California - Berkeley	1.6%
San Diego State University	1.6%
SUNY Oneonta	1.6%



FALL 2024



61

Total
Students



13

Universities
of Origin

6



Additional Universities
of Origin Compared to 2023

In 2024, SiPN expanded its reach by welcoming students from 6 additional universities compared to 2023. These institutions were:

- University of California - Berkeley*
- Bridgewater State University*
- Framingham State University
- University of Wisconsin – Madison
- San Diego State University*
- SUNY Oneonta

* Universities that had sent students to SiPN in previous editions, before 2023.



SPRING 2024

Summary *of Summer* Programs



SUMMER 2024

Summer 2024

15



96

**Total
Students**



3

**Host
Universities**

During June and July sessions, SiPN hosted 96 students across a variety of courses hosted by the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and the Universidade de Lisboa. Some students combined June and July sessions and chose classes up to 12 ECTS.



CLEAN UP WITH OCEAN ALIVE (NGO), SUMMER 2024

June

Course

Leading Faculty (University), Host University

**History, Art and Cultural Identity
in Contemporary Portugal**

Ana Fauri (University of Notre Dame), Univ. Católica

**Global Seminar: Lisbon as a Global City:
Cosmopolitanism, Diversity & Innovation**

Tania Martuscelli (University of Colorado-Boulder),
Univ. Católica

**Mediterranean Diet:
From Landscape to Tradition and Health**

Local Faculty, Agronomy Institute, ULisboa

Sustainable Development in Portugal

Daniel Preston and Sameeksha Desai
(Indiana University), ISEG-ULisboa

Portuguese Language for Foreigners

Various levels, Local Faculty, Univ. Católica

July

Course

Leading Faculty (University), Host University

Health Care Ethics

Angela Groves (Western Michigan University), ISCTE-IUL

Culture, Social Problems, and Social Change

Charles Crawford (Western Michigan University),
ISCTE-IUL

Environment and Cultural Studies in Lisbon

Deirdre Courtney (Western Michigan University),
ISCTE-IUL

Exploring Leadership in a Changing World

Eric Archer (Western Michigan University), ISCTE-IUL

Short Form Creative Writing

David Gewanter - Georgetown University &
Margarida Vale de Gato - Universidade de Lisboa, ULisboa

Intensive Portuguese Language for Foreigners

Various levels, Local Faculty, ULisboa

Summer *Internship* Program

This summer, SiPN proudly hosted a group of 10 interns, with 7 master's level students joining from Indiana University - O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and 3 from Brigham Young University.

The SiPN team worked closely with the interns, their advisors, and their internship supervisors throughout their experience, starting from initial preparations before their arrival to check-ins during their stay. This included facilitating internship placements and curating a rich cultural and social program to enhance the students' experience. Students were placed in 9 different organizations based in Lisbon, Portugal, spanning a diverse range of sectors such as private businesses, governmental bodies, and NGOs.



10

**Total
Interns**



9

**Receiving
Organizations
in Lisbon**

This two-month long experience focused on pressing areas such as environmental sustainability, investment, and social impact. At the end of their placements, each intern delivered a thorough presentation of their internship journey and the skills they gained, sharing insights into the missions of their respective organizations and discussing future personal and professional endeavors.



My internship reinforced my passion for working with nonprofits, particularly those with an international focus. I learned the importance of building respectful, empathetic relationships with beneficiaries, recognizing that while this work is part of my daily life, it addresses susceptible situations for those we serve.

Brandi Bruemmer

INDIANA UNIVERSITY · O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CRESCER · COMMUNITY INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION





This experience was transformative, allowing me to deepen my global outlook and hone my intercultural communication skills. Working with individuals from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds taught me to adapt to new environments and to collaborate effectively with people whose perspectives and approaches differ from my own. The role provided me with firsthand exposure to a national agency with a profound global impact, that supports educational and cultural exchanges and encourages people from Portugal to study abroad in the EU and vice versa. This global experience will be instrumental in allowing me to work effectively with immigrant populations (in the future).

Katherine Timperman

INDIANA UNIVERSITY - O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

INTERN AT AGÊNCIA NACIONAL ERASMUS+ EDUCAÇÃO E FORMAÇÃO






Calendar + Timeline


01. January

2 - 16 JANUARY

 **Faculty-Led students**
A group of Faculty-Led students from Johns Hopkins University arrived in Portugal to participate in the prestigious Portugal Immersion Program - "Practice of Consulting."


02. February

1 FEBRUARY

 **Arrival Day**
Spring 2024 Students
The first ten days featured a variety of engaging activities, including a student reception, an orientation session, a welcome event at the students' respective universities, a bike tour through Lisbon, a course advising, and SiPN's 1st day-long trip.


 **First Intercultural Competency Groups (ICG) session**

23 - 25 FEBRUARY


 **SiPN Field Trip**
to the Center region of Portugal - Coimbra, Viseu, & Aveiro.

03. March

1 - 10 MARCH

 **Faculty-Led students**
from WMU participated in the course "Globalization in 6 Glasses, The History of Globalization in Six Glasses: Spirits, Coffee, Tea, Beer, Wine, and Coca-Cola."

15 MARCH

 **Volunteering Day with CRESCER, Spring 2024**
Students collaborated with the CRESCER Organization to organize and streamline a donation warehouse.

18 MARCH


 **Second ICG Session**

07. July

FIRST WEEK OF JULY

The first week of July kicked off with the students' arrival and orientation day, followed by the start of classes and a welcome event.

13 JULY

 **SiPN Day Trip**
to Setúbal, served as a volunteer clean-up activity with Portugal's first co-operative dedicated to ocean protection, Ocean Alive.


20 JULY

 **SiPN Day Trip**
to Nazaré e Óbidos Medieval Fair

13 JULY


 **Departure Day**
of July session

08. August


 **SiPN Office Closed**
Staff on Holiday!

09. September

FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

 **Arrival Day**
Fall 2024 Students
Fall student arrival day, orientation day, a city bike tour, first ICG session, course advising, welcome sessions at students' respective host universities, welcome dinner, and a traditional tile-painting workshop at the National Tile Museum.

14 SEPTEMBER

 **SiPN Day trip**
to Cascais & Amadora's Gastronomical Festival *É um Encontro*

25 SEPTEMBER

 **First ICG Session**

04. April**9 APRIL****6ð Mid-Semester Check-In Event**

Meeting with Spring 2024 students to check on their academic progress and engagement with life in Lisbon.

12 - 14 APRIL**📍 SiPN Field Trip**

to Évora, Vidigueira, and Beja.

15 APRIL**🌐 Third ICG Session****05. May****1 MAY - 22 JUNE**

🎓 **Faculty-Led students** from BYU Portuguese Literature and Portuguese Culture. The program allowed students to engage with Portuguese culture by visiting numerous sites of historical and cultural importance.

10 MAY

📍 **SiPN Day Trip** with Spring students to Setúbal & Arrábida.

LAST WEEK OF MAY

🍷 **Farewell Dinner**

✈️ **Departure Day**

🌐 **Final ICG Session**

26 MAY - 29 JUNE

🎓 **Faculty-Led students** from Emory University participated in a two-course program, studying Portuguese language and culture, enhancing the students' appreciation of the country's traditions and heritage.

06. June**FIRST WEEK OF JUNE**

The first week of June session included orientation, a welcome event, the first day of classes, and a Lisbon bike tour.

8 JUNE:

📍 **Day trip 1** to Peniche

16 - 27 JUNE:

🎓 **Faculty-Led students** from Pratt faculty participated in the "*Portuguese Ceramics Program*" in the city Caldas da Rainha, providing participants with an in-depth introduction to essential aspects of the ceramic manufacturing process.

17 - 27 JUNE:

🎓 **Faculty-Led students** from UMass - Lowell participated in writing workshops on the island of São Miguel in the Azores.

22 JUNE:

📍 **SiPN Day trip** to Tomar & Almoural

29 JUNE:

✈️ **Departure Day** for June session

10. October**11 - 13 OCTOBER**

📍 **SiPN Field Trip** to Alentejo, namely Portalegre greater area

8 OCTOBER

🌐 **Second ICG Session**

24 OCTOBER**6ð Mid-Semester Check-in Event**

Series of activities and group reflection

11. November**5 NOVEMBER**

🗳️ **U.S Election Night at FLAD**

12 NOVEMBER

🌐 **Third ICG Session**

15 - 17 NOVEMBER

📍 **SiPN Field Trip** Coimbra, Aldeias do Xisto, Piodão

27 NOVEMBER

🍷 **SiPN Thanksgiving Dinner**

12. December**9 DECEMBER**

🌐 **Final ICG Session**

17 DECEMBER

🍷 **Farewell Dinner**

Sponsored *Field Trips*



FALL 2024

SUMMER 2024



SUMMER 2024

FALL 2024



- 01 Aldeias do Xisto
- 02 Almourol
- 03 Amadora
- 04 Arrábida
- 05 Aveiro
- 06 Beja
- 07 Caldas da Rainha
- 08 Cascais
- 09 Castelo de Vide
- 10 Cerdeira
- 11 Coimbra
- 12 Ericeira
- 13 Évora
- 14 Lisboa
- 15 Lousã
- 16 Mafra
- 17 Marvão
- 18 Monsaraz
- 19 Nazaré
- 20 Óbidos
- 21 Peniche
- 22 Portalegre
- 23 Setúbal
- 24 Tomar
- 25 Vidigueira
- 26 Viseu



Customized Programs

In 2024, SiPN hosted 7 customized programs, each crafted by faculty leaders in collaboration with SiPN to offer students immersive learning experiences that reach beyond the classroom. Through these programs, 92 students earned direct academic credits recognized by their U.S. home universities.

1- JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

The Practice of Consulting

As part of Johns Hopkins University’s Master of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM) Program, 18 students spent their January-Term in Portugal, gaining hands-on consulting experience through their “The Practice of Consulting” course led by professors Andrew Ross and JJ Rorie. In Braga, students collaborated with the Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) on projects such as heavy metal ion sensors for industrial wastewater, hydrogen sulfide sensors for aquaculture, and nanotoxicology safety assessments. In Coimbra, they engaged with startups at the Instituto Pedro Nunes (University of Coimbra), including TeroMovigo (drone-based archaeological surveys) and Spotlite (satellite-based infrastructure monitoring).

The groups reunited in Porto for cultural activities, including a visit and concert at Casa da Música, before presenting their findings and touring Portugal’s center region. The 7th edition of this immersive program combined real-world problem-solving dynamics with cultural exploration.

2- WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

Portugal: A Different Perspective

15 William Jewell College students participated in a 12-day program in Portugal focusing on Luso-American topics and international relations. Course discussions explored 20th-century Portuguese history, Europe-USA relations in the context of current events, and global perceptions of the United States.

Students engaged with national experts and visited key sites in Lisbon, Porto, Braga, Coimbra, among others, enriching their understanding of Portugal’s role in global affairs. The program was co-taught by Professors Allan Katz and Gary Thomas Armstrong.



PORTUGAL: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Globalization in 6 Glasses

10 students embarked on a journey through The History of Globalization in 6 Glasses: Spirits, Coffee, Tea, Beer, Wine, and Coca-Cola. The program blended academic study with immersive experiences, offering insights into Portugal's historical, political, artistic, and social institutions. By examining cultural similarities and differences between Portugal and the United States, students gained a deeper appreciation for diversity and inclusion, both locally and globally. Key highlights included exploring Lisbon, visiting a Community Intervention Association, a visit to Portugal's leading coffee roaster and distributor - Delta Café and touring Sintra and Évora, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These experiences brought the themes of globalization to life, making the journey educational and transformative. This program was once again led by Professor Nancy Bjorklund.

4- BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Portuguese Literature and Portuguese Culture

This Faculty-Led type program brought 13 portuguese-speaking students to Portugal, a cohort that was looking for an immersive experience in Portugal. Academically, participants took courses on Portuguese Literature, taught by Professor Anna Lisa Halling, and Portuguese Culture, led by Professor Cristina Cowley. The program provided students with the opportunity to deep dive in Portuguese culture by exploring a variety of historically and culturally significant sites. These included medieval and renaissance castles, monasteries, convents, royal palaces, world-class museums, and other landmarks that showcased the rich heritage of Portugal, not to talk about various promoted interactions with locals in various formats.

Mapping Lisbon Through the Arts

Professor Ana Catarina Teixeira led 13 students through a 5-week program that entailed a Portuguese language component, offered in partnership with NOVA University, as well as an Emory University accredited course - "Mapping Lisbon Through the Arts" which combined academic instruction with cultural and artistic explorations. The courses included various cultural visits, enriching the students' understanding of Portuguese traditions and heritage.

It concluded with a final presentation, where students not only reflected on their experiences but also delivered their final assessment, suggesting new walking tours to either areas in the city that have been less popular to visitors or new routes to others that are considered more well-known. These findings required students to explore these sites and master their Portuguese culture and language skills.



MAPPING LISBON THROUGH THE ARTS

Portuguese Ceramics

As part of Pratt Institute's School of Design and its arts related programming abroad, Professor Dana D'Amico led a ten-day collaborative program with 10 students.

The Portuguese Ceramics program introduced participants to key aspects of manufacturing, materiality, and brand identity, while encouraging them to develop their own unique ceramic identity through hands-on practice and creative exploration. Students were based in the city of Caldas da Rainha and engaged daily with the famous Bordalo Pinheiro factory.

Azores Project Writing Retreat

With a group of 12 students, Prof. Rachel Elizabeth Mansfield led this study abroad initiative in the Azores, which was specifically designed for students who were at or nearing the Honors Project stage of their academic journey.

This unique ten-day experience in Ponta Delgada, located on the breathtaking island of São Miguel in the Azores, combined an inspiring writing retreat with a rich cultural immersion. Students participated in dynamic writing workshops, harnessing the creative energy of a fresh environment to reset and refocus. The program embraced the philosophy of slow travel, allowing participants to fully engage with the stunning landscapes and vibrant cultural heritage of the Azores, making it a truly transformative experience.



PORTUGUESE CERAMICS



SiPN's *impact* on Portugal, Portugal's *impact* on SiPN

The SiPN program had a significant impact on students, fostering both academic and personal growth. For many, it was a transformative study-abroad experience with meaningful personal dimensions.

Students were asked to reflect on the program by responding to the following prompts:

Describe your experience in Portugal to a friend:

I would describe my experience [with SiPN] as life changing. I truly feel like Portugal is a second home to me. I had the best study abroad program that allowed me the freedom to become a local in a new country on my own, but was also there for support when I needed it. I embraced the fact that I got to live in Portugal for 4 months and took every chance I could get to travel around the country, speak the language, try local dishes, and even make a few local friends. I have already started planning my trip back to Portugal next year!

Spring 2024 Semester Student

How you think SiPN impacted you.
Did it meet your objectives
for study abroad?
Did it contribute to your
personal growth, and if so, how?

[SiPN] was the program I didn't know I needed! It exceeded my expectations in regards to learning about [Portuguese] culture, immersing myself into daily Portuguese routines, and having fun... It taught me how to stray away from the classic "study abroad experience" of traveling to major capitals every weekend.. This outlook led me to foster a strong fondness for the simplicity of the Portuguese lifestyle and enjoy all the country has to offer.

Spring 2024 Semester Student

I feel endlessly grateful for the time and energy the SiPN team put into making our experiences amazing, because we felt that effort and it was amazing. Met and exceeded my expectations for study abroad. I feel that SiPN did contribute to my personal growth. ICG served as an incredible reminder to be situationally aware and created a great space for sharing and learning. Also, I think if I was in the same group of 14 people but without the SiPN activities/field trips/built in bonding time, I would not be half as close with them. The way SiPN is structured is so nice because it alleviates the anxiety of not making friends or having a community, which I personally worried about with study abroad.

Fall 2024 Semester Student

This program was wonderful and I felt that I gained an abundance of life experience that contributed to my personal growth. The variety of people that I interacted with not only in Portugal, but specifically, within the SiPN program really provided me with perspective and allowed me to have an open mind with the whole experience.

Summer 2024 Student

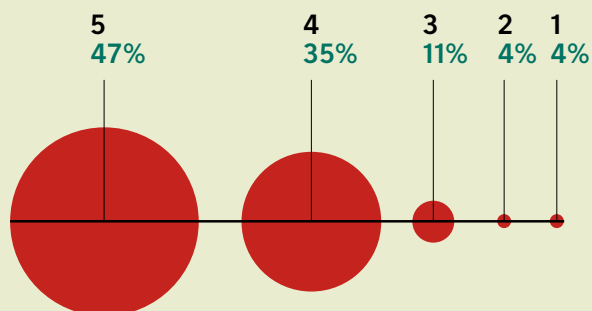
SiPN's *impact* on Portugal, Portugal's *impact* on SiPN

Through studying abroad, students not only acquired academic knowledge but also deeper cultural insights that broadened their perspectives.

Nearly 80% of SiPN's 2024 semester-long participants responded to the program survey evaluation (sent to students at the end of their stay). Take a look at the key takeaways:

Portuguese Culture at Home

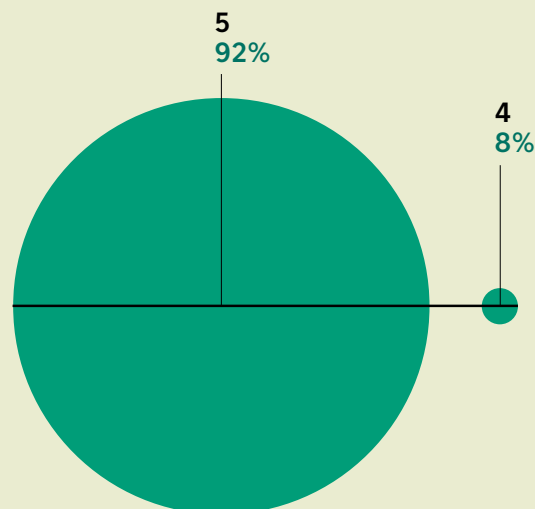
On a scale from 1 (Very Unlikely) to 5 (Extremely Likely), how likely are you to look into exploring portuguese culture in your local community?



TOTAL ANSWERS: 57

Returning to Portugal

On a scale from 1 (Very Unlikely) to 5 (Extremely Likely), how likely are you to return to Portugal?



TOTAL ANSWERS: 51



80%

of SiPN's 2024 semester-long participants responded to the survey evaluation



92%

of respondents are Extremely Likely to return to Portugal



47%

of respondents are Extremely Likely to explore Portuguese culture in their local community

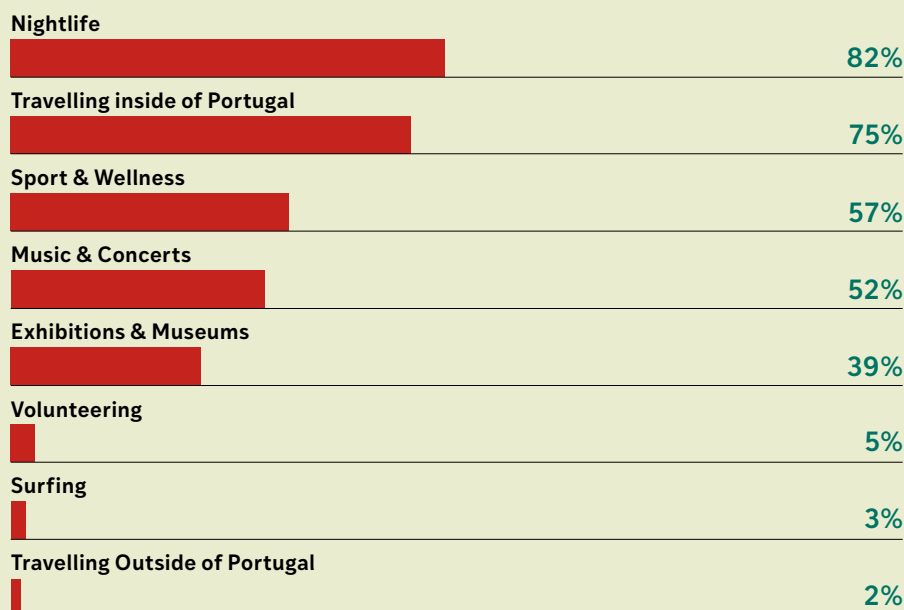


75%

of respondents travelled within Portugal by their own means

Self-Initiated Activities

Please select the activities you participated in by your own means (not organised by SiPN)



TOTAL ANSWERS: 46

Independent Travel Destinations in Portugal

SiPN students made the most of their time in Portugal, exploring the country extensively. Beyond the destinations included in the SiPN program, they embarked on their own journeys, creating personalized itineraries to discover even more of Portugal's diverse regions.



Intercultural Competence Groups (ICG)

Intercultural Competence Groups provide a collaborative environment to deepen students' understanding of cross-cultural interactions and develop their ability to engage effectively with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.

These groups create a supportive space where students can share experiences, insights, and perspectives, fostering cultural awareness, sensitivity, and improve cross-cultural communication skills.

Some Spring 2024
Students Reflections on ICG:

I think my biggest takeaway is that things are going to be different and you have to be open and receptive to that. You can't expect it to be like your home country and you have to keep in mind that we are the visitors and we should try to be immersive.

The importance of recognizing you are in a new place and acknowledging and respecting the place's culture and practices no matter how different or new they are to you.

My overall biggest takeaway from ICG...was to really make an effort to become a local. I feel like I really embraced that and became a local in Lisbon. Now I can't wait to go back and visit the friends I made there and the life I made for myself there!



Even with our largest cohort this past Spring, I remain deeply moved by the impact that intentional reflective spaces, such as Intercultural Competency Groups, have on SiPN students' overall integration, well-being, and intercultural competence throughout their semester abroad. Students' in-person and written feedback about their ICG experiences underscores the critical role these groups play in fostering learning and personal development, emphasizing the undeniable importance of such facilitated intercultural spaces.

Genesis Garcia

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY GROUPS DESIGNER & FACILITATOR



Ambassadorship Program



Jetta
University of Wisconsin - Madison



Emilee
Siena College



Taya
University of Wisconsin – Madison

SiPN is committed to fostering strong connections with its alumni, and the SiPN Ambassadorship Program is one of the key ways we do so!

Our Ambassadors play an essential role in promoting SiPN and positioning Portugal as a premier destination for study abroad. They engage in various activities, such as attending study abroad fairs and events on behalf of SiPN, sharing their personal experiences, and providing guidance to prospective students interested in studying in Portugal. By participating in this program, ambassadors not only broaden their own horizons but also help enhance Portugal’s reputation as a dynamic hub for global education and innovation.

SiPN extends its heartfelt gratitude to its dedicated student Ambassadors this 2024/2025 academic year!



SUMMER 2024



Zach

University of
Wisconsin - Milwaukee



Telaney

Siena College



Nora

University of
Wisconsin - Madison



Jimena

University of
Colorado - Boulder



Message *from* SiPN's Team

As we close out 2024 and look ahead to SiPN's 10th anniversary celebrations, the members of the SiPN team reflect in awe at the journeys you have all taken through our summer, semester, internship, and faculty-led programs in Portugal.



This year has been a testament to the transformative power of authentic cultural exchange. Whether you were here for 4 weeks or 4 months, you not only immersed yourself in Portugal's beauty, history, and traditions but also left an impression on the different communities you engaged with throughout.

In turn, we hope you've gained deeper intercultural competence, enriching your perspective and shaping your futures.

We hope that the curiosity and appreciation you've cultivated here only continues to inspire your journeys beyond Portugal, fostering connections that transcend borders. Obrigado from all of SiPN for being part of this shared story!

Partner Universities



UNIVERSIDADE
DE LISBOA



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA



Credits

Ricardo Pereira

Program Manager

Sílvia Carrilho

Program Coordinator

Paula Vicente

Program Specialist


Genesis Garcia

Program Specialist

Ouwais Sadek

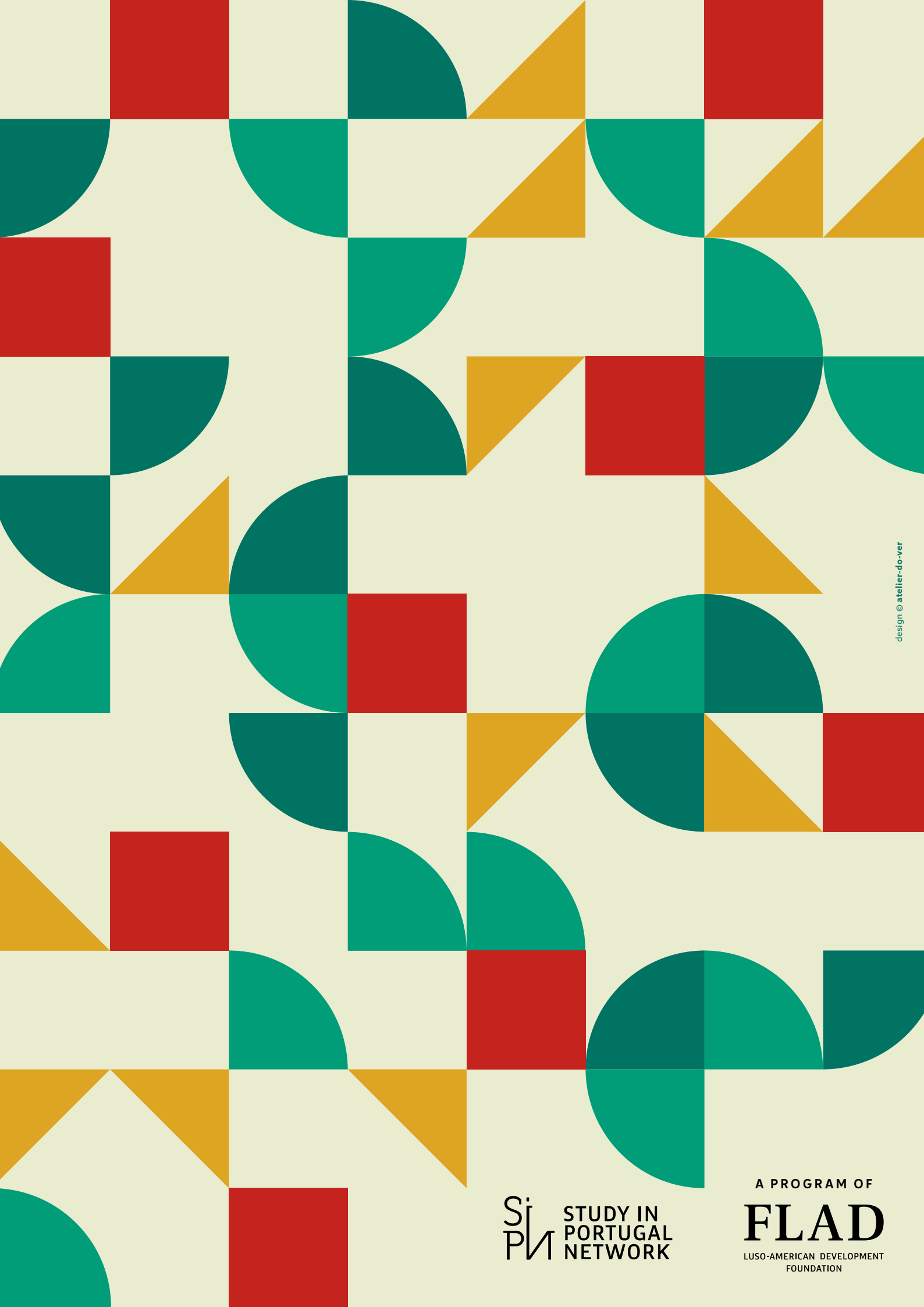
Program Assistant

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