

**Si**  
STUDY IN  
PORTUGAL  
NETWORK  
**PI**  
**YEARS**

**FLAD**

LUSO-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION

# 10 YEARS IN NUMBERS



150  
Internship

*Placements*



60+

*Customized  
Programs*



90+

*Recruiting  
Universities*



2000

*U.S. Students*





SPRING 2016



800k€

*Tuition Paid to Portuguese Universities*

2000 students have participated in SiPN since 2015



100k€

*Gilman –FLAD Scholarships*



50k€

*SiPN/FLAD Partial scholarships*

SUMMER 2016



# 10 YEARS OF SiPN A MOSAIC OF STORIES

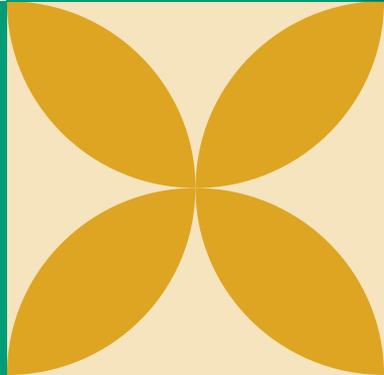


**Customized  
Programs**  
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**Partner  
Universities**  
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**Internships**  
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**U.S.  
Institutional  
Partnerships**  
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**In 2015, FLAD launched the Study in Portugal Network, or SiPN – a project designed to help place Portugal firmly on the radar of U.S. students seeking a study abroad experience.**

More than just a provider, SiPN became a connector – aligning systems, institutions, and cultures, and crafting a uniquely Portuguese academic and intercultural experience for U.S. students.

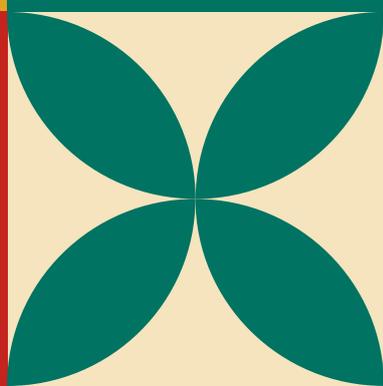
From its first student on **June 1, 2015**, to today, SiPN has grown to become the benchmark for US study abroad in Portugal. SiPN chose to prioritize high-impact, local credit-bearing experiences, along with strategic, customized faculty-led programs.

SiPN has woven together a rich mosaic of stories: of students who developed their personal and academic pathways, of partners, and of communities that welcomed meaningful cultural exchange. These shared experiences form the heart of SiPN's legacy, reflecting a decade of collaboration, growth, and lasting impact.

We invite you to discover a collection of inspiring stories and testimonials – just a glimpse into the vibrant mosaic of experiences that shape our community.

**Alumni**

P.12

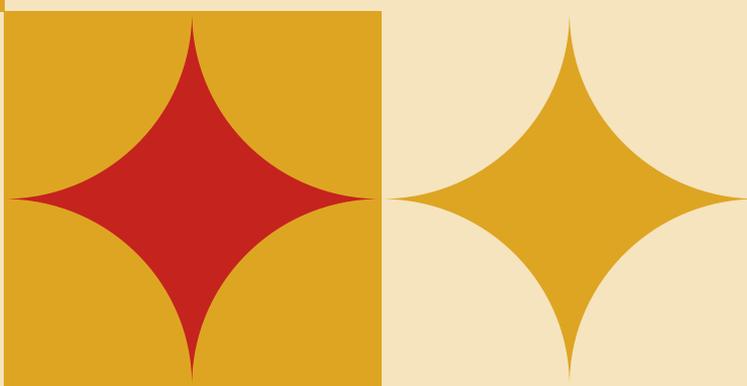


**Non-Academic Partners in Portugal**

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**SiPN Staff**  
The Heart of the Program

P.16





**ALEXANDRA ASSIS ROSA**  
PROFESSOR

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

*“SIPN stands indeed as a testament to the power of academic diplomacy and transatlantic cooperation. Their collective dedication has ensured that SIPN is not merely a program, but a platform for intercultural dialogue and academic growth.”*

# PARTNER



*“As a matter of fact, the number of American students we are welcoming in our different schools is very significant and is a great contribution to our internationalization.*

*This creates a quite unique and enriching intercultural experience, not just for our Portuguese students but also for the European students.”*



**MARIA DAS DORES  
GUERREIRO**  
VICE-RECTOR FOR  
INTERNATIONALIZATION



**CATARINA BURNAY**  
DEAN

UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA,  
FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCES

*“At the Faculty of Human Sciences, we understand internationalization not merely as a mobility or outreach but as a deeper commitment to intellectual hospitality. Our classrooms are spaces of real exchange, where SiPN students learn not apart, but alongside our broader academic community, contributing their own perspectives while engaging meaningfully with others.”*

# UNIVERSITIES

*“It’s about creating opportunities for the students, but also for faculty, researchers, and institutions to exchange practices to grow in this interculturality that in the world today is such a necessary skill that we need. I think this is the spirit of SiPN, and the spirit of FLAD.”*



**RITA FALCÃO**  
DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

NOVA

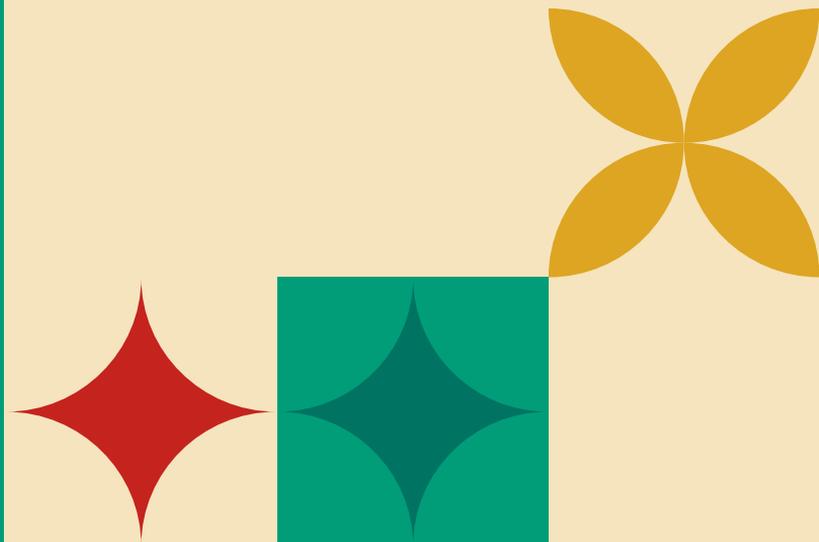
# INTERNSHIPS



**SiPN's Summer (June and July) Internship Programs offer students an immersive, community-based learning experience that allows them to engage directly with contemporary issues and challenges.**

Between 2015 and 2025, SiPN placed nearly 150 students across government bodies, NGOs, established businesses, emerging startups, and world-class research laboratories, and a wide variety of organizations, interning in areas as diverse as health, economics, biotechnology, neuroscience, restaurants, engineering, wine, social services, etc.

*“The SiPN internship program’s unique value proposition makes it a compelling choice for American universities and students. It has been a success, and the feedback we receive is very positive. The wide range of options and offers is only possible thanks to the contacts developed over the years with organizations that have met the needs and expectations of the internships. On the other hand, the high standard of the students has proven to be a great added value and a guarantee that the SiPN internship program is a win-win opportunity for everyone. Endowed with great interest and motivation, the students value the importance of the experience and what it represents for their academic or professional future. We have no doubt that SiPN has managed to provide excellent internships, involving exceptional institutions and mentors.”*



**PAULA VICENTE**  
SIPN PROGRAM SPECIALIST  
& FLAD DEPUTY DIRECTOR

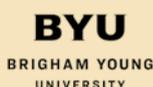


# CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS

More than 60 customized programs, serving over 900 students, often co-designed with U.S. faculty and local institutions throughout Portugal, such as:

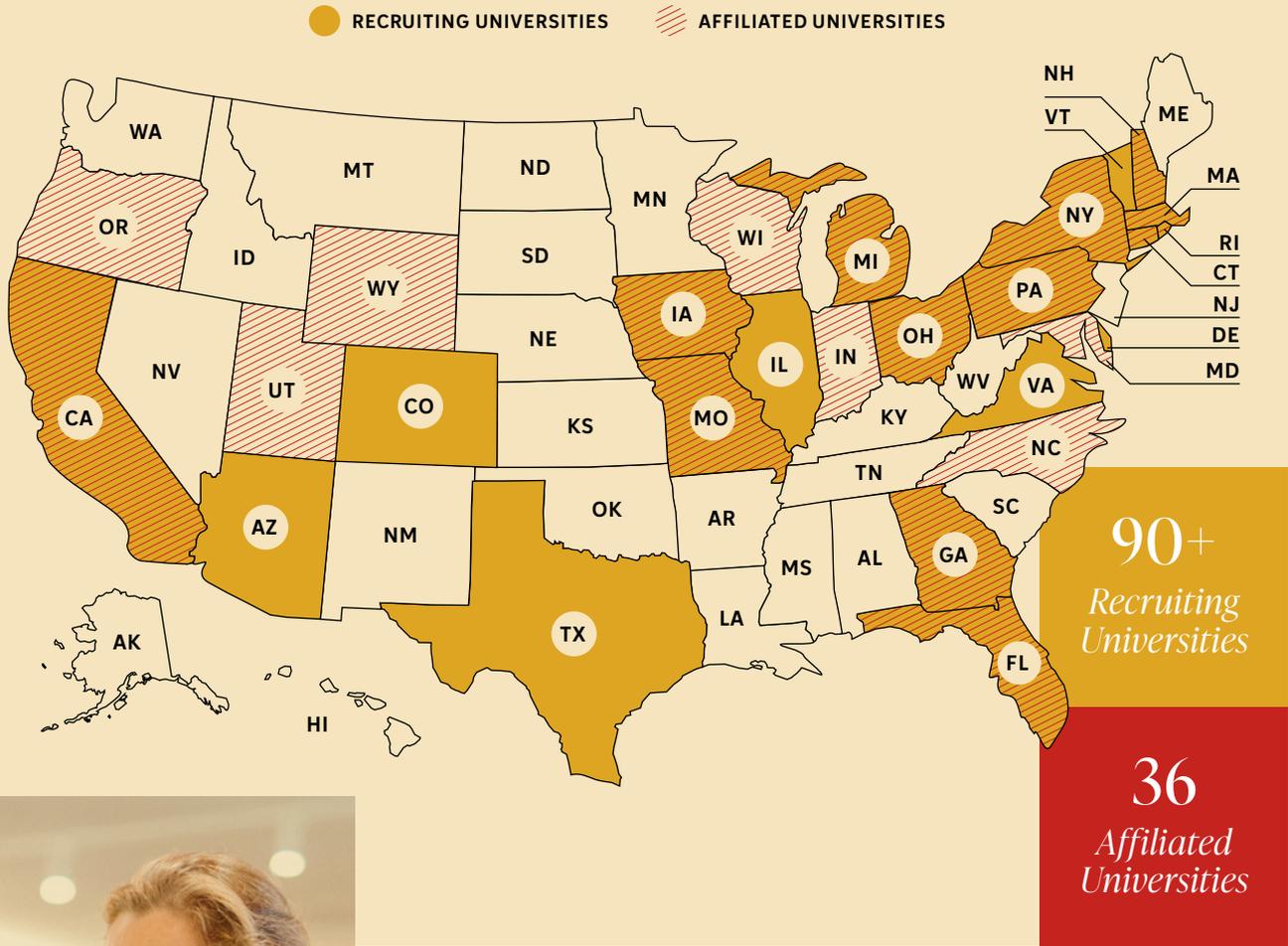
- **Johns Hopkins** at the Iberian Nanotechnology Institute (Braga) and Instituto Pedro Nunes (Coimbra);
- **BYU's** culture and language immersion in Porto;
- **University of North Florida's** arts program with Aldeias de Montanha;
- **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)** with the University of the Azores;
- **Berkeley's** Global Internships with the University of Coimbra.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA'S ARTS PROGRAM WITH ALDEIAS DE MONTANHA - 2025



# U.S. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In such a highly competitive sector, SiPN is proud to have built credibility and prestige that is recognized in the US study abroad sector.



*“I’ve had the privilege of witnessing and participating in SiPN’s growth from the very beginning. Over the past decade, the program has expanded in both scope and ambition. It has become a gateway for our students to discover Portugal, not only as a country of extraordinary cultural and historical richness, but as a vibrant living society that both challenges and inspires them.”*

**ANA FAURI**  
 ASSOCIATE  
 PROFESSOR

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE  
 DAME, PORTUGUESE  
 PROGRAM

# NON-ACADEMIC PARTNERS IN PORTUGAL

To engineer such an operation and meet the highest standards and educational relevance, SiPN engages with local NGOs to translate the challenges and opportunities to its students through visits, workshops, and volunteer activities.



*“Through the program, first we started with Johns Hopkins University, and now with Berkeley students. They’re really amazing, their creativity, their willingness to learn, and their approach to entrepreneurs. And I know entrepreneurs aren’t really the most patient people. They want to do stuff. They’re doers. But they do have the time. And learning and exchanging, I think, has been really a magical experience for us.”*



JORGE  
PIMENTA  
INNOVATION  
DIRECTOR

INSTITUTO  
PEDRO NUNES

# A

**GABRIELLA  
ROSADO**

SPRING 2024

# L



*“When I think of SiPN, I am overwhelmed with the unique feeling of saudades & want to return immediately. I think about the jokes and bonds created with the SiPN team, the tours that we spent around Portugal, and the overall warmth of being surrounded by caring people. SiPN gave me an opportunity to explore a new country with newfound confidence & perspective on life. I truly wish I could go back every day.”*

**VALERIA  
PITTSFORD**

INTERN AT SANTA CASA  
DA MISERICÓRDIA  
DE LISBOA

INDIANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Our alumni community is also represented through a documentary-style video produced by Ben Friedman (Spring'19) of Totus Media, featuring students' reflections on their transformative study abroad journeys.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.

# U

KAITLYN  
DA SILVA

SPRING 2025



N

*“SiPN is a welcoming and dedicated network that brings people from different backgrounds together. Through SiPN, I learned that diversity is a gift and our differences are strengths. The program truly shaped the way I view culture, community, and connection. SiPN has provided me a home in Portugal that I always feel welcome to go and visit.”*

M



*“SiPN did a fantastic job aligning my interests and my internship. I was very specific in wanting to work with people and immerse myself in the culture. I asked for a hands-on internship in which I could help others. I was placed in the perfect internship that allowed me to work with different age groups while immersing myself in the Portuguese culture. Working at Santa Casa was rewarding, fun, and filled with new experiences. Senior citizens taught me to embrace simplicity and turn simple materials into something beautiful.”*

I



# Diego Parada

## FROM A PORTUGUESE CLASS TO FOOTBALL CAREER: DIEGO'S SiPN JOURNEY

**When Diego Parada walked into a Portuguese class at Berkeley City College in 2015, he thought he was just choosing a language. He had no idea he was choosing a country and a future.**

“Portuguese was a language I always wanted to learn,” he says. The class was taught by Professor Deolinda Adão, who introduced him to SiPN and the Study in Portugal opportunities. Europe suddenly became possible for someone whose family had never crossed the Atlantic.

“Going to Portugal was the first opportunity for me to break that barrier.”

### THE FIRST SUMMER: AZORES & LISBON

Diego's SiPN story started in **2016**, in São Miguel, Azores, studying Azorean literature, history, and culture. His first contact with Portugal wasn't Lisbon or Porto; it was the islands.

“My first experience with Portugal was with the islands, and that gave me a completely different connection to the country.”

From there, he moved on to Lisbon for courses in Portuguese literature and urban architecture. By the end of that first summer, he wasn't just studying Portugal, he was starting to belong to it.



In **2017**, Diego returned to the Azores as **a teaching assistant for Prof. Deolinda Adão**, where he welcomed new students, greeted them at the airport, and supported their transition to a new culture.

That same year, he applied for a SiPN internship and requested a placement with a soccer team in Lisbon. Although FLAD had no prior connections to soccer teams or sports agencies, we recognized Diego's determination to pursue this path. Thanks to Paula Vicente's efforts, he secured an **internship at Sporting Clube de Portugal**, working in youth scouting. He returned to Sporting in **2018**, further expanding his experience and presenting his work at the SiPN internship showcase.

"They understood that I was a person with a unique background, that I was studying political science, that I played music, that I'm Mexican and Salvadoran. So my background was very unique, and they really appreciated that," he says.

By **2019**, he was returning to Portugal and Sporting on his own, fitting in another stint at the club. SiPN had done its job: he was navigating Europe independently.

## AFTER THE PANDEMIC: TURNING A DREAM INTO A LIFE

After graduating in political science and working multiple jobs in the U.S., Diego reached a turning point.

"One night, I realized I had just enough money to go back to Portugal. So I bought the ticket right then."

Between 2021 and 2023, he kept returning, short trips, long trips, always back to Lisbon, always back to football. A friend finally pushed him to formalize what was already in his heart: Do a master's. Build your life here.

In 2024, Diego moved to Porto to begin a master's in football coaching and performance at Universidade Lusófona do Porto. He is currently **working full-time in Porto, completing his thesis**, and planning his next step in women's football and scouting.

As SiPN celebrates its 10th anniversary, Diego's journey is one of many other stories of people who decided their future by coming to Portugal for the first time with SiPN.



# SiPN STAFF THE HEART *of the* PROGRAM

**Over the years, our team has grown, bringing together passionate professionals who embody the spirit and values of SiPN. We are proud of our collective commitment to supporting students and creating a welcoming, transformative environment.**

As a co-creator of SiPN, Ricardo would like to share a few insights into what makes this program's aspect so special.

As SiPN reaches its 10th anniversary, we invite you to join us in celebrating the incredible network of institutions and individuals—both in Portugal and in the United States—that now form the fabric of SiPN.

As part of this *Mosaic of Stories*, many individuals and institutions have played an essential role in shaping SiPN. Among them, I ought to offer special recognition to amazing team that I have the luck to be a part of - the SiPN Team—Silvia Carrilho, Genesis Garcia, Paula Vicente, Ouwais Sadek, Renata Assis and Beatriz Loureiro —whose dedication and daily work have been central to the program's quantitative and qualitative growth.



This expression of gratitude is equally extended to previous SiPN workers and all FLAD colleagues who have supported and strengthened the initiative over the years.

**The SiPN team is indeed the heart of the program**—a true labor of love that extends far beyond day-to-day operations. Our work is grounded in a commitment to empower motivated students and enrich both their academic and personal journeys. Year after year, this dedication is reflected in student surveys, where **satisfaction levels consistently exceed 95%**<sup>1</sup>.

Our commitment goes beyond student qualifications. Through international education, we help students find their place in new academic, cultural, and civic contexts, while also encouraging them to question, reflect, and develop their own sense of purpose and agency. Every semester program, every summer experience, each internship placement, and customized faculty-led program is designed with care and energy, with the goal of creating a lasting impact.

Together with our partners, friends, and students, we are building bridges across cultures and expanding horizons, particularly between the US and Portugal. As Hannah Arendt once wrote, in a quotation that has been hanging in our office throughout the year:

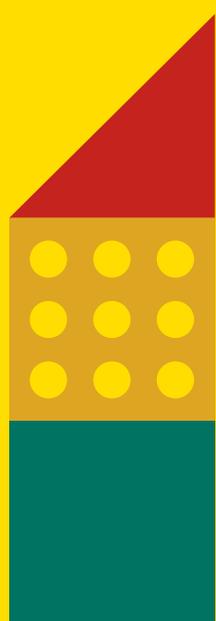
*“Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it. We are proudly part of a community that believes deeply in the transformative power of education.”*

*Congratulations to FLAD and SiPN —40 and 10 years young, respectively.”*

**RICARDO PEREIRA**  
DIRECTOR

FLAD EDUCATION  
& SiPN PROGRAM  
MANAGER

<sup>1</sup> Based on answers to the question “Would you recommend SiPN to a friend?”



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