

2019 REPORT

INTRODUCTION

After the completion of the 2014-2018 five-year scholarship programme, the Armenian Communities Department launched a new programming plan in 2019 for the 2019-2023 five-year period. The new scholarship programme maintained as its core support to Armenian and Armenian Studies university students and researchers. There are two main differences in comparison with the old programme. 1) The “Global Excellence” scholarship category for Armenian students studying any subject for a PhD in an internationally recognized university was phased out, as the value added in this category was rather limited given that funding could be found elsewhere for truly exceptional students, and 2) The Western Armenian Teacher Education scholarship category was incorporated into Armenian Studies and other programming areas.

This report presents the 2019 results with the following six scholarship categories:

1. [Armenian Studies Scholarship](#)
2. [Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies](#)
3. [Short Term Conference and Travel Grants to Students in Armenia](#)
4. [Undergraduate Studies Scholarship](#)
5. [Support to Armenian Students in Portugal](#)
6. [Emergency Scholarship](#)

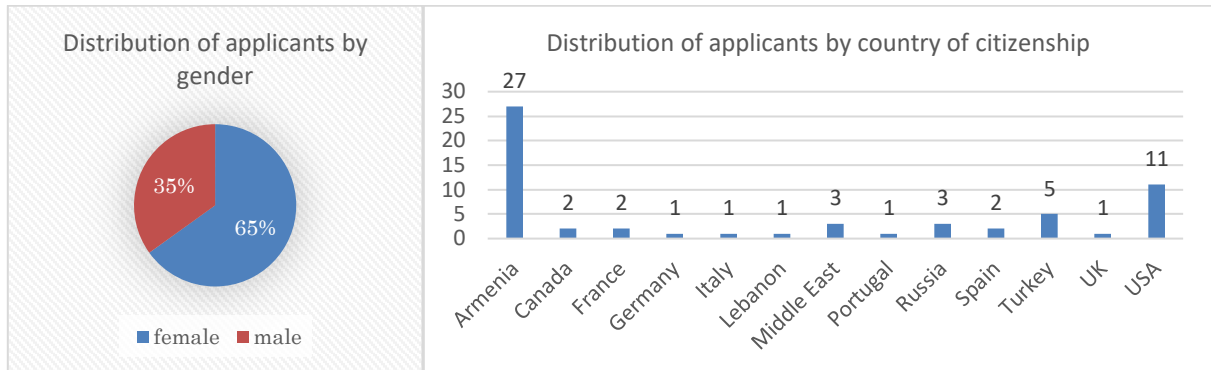
BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

1. [Armenian Studies Scholarship](#)

The Armenian Studies scholarship application cycle was open from 1 March to 15 May with the aim to promote research in Armenian Studies by students and researchers of any nationality pursuing a Master’s, a PhD, or a Post Doc in recognized universities around the world. The scholarship is open to research in various disciplines and subjects, but preference is given to modern and contemporary themes, including current issues considered important to the Armenian world.

In 2019, the Department received 60 applications, one third of these applications were sent on the last day.

The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender* and country of citizenship:

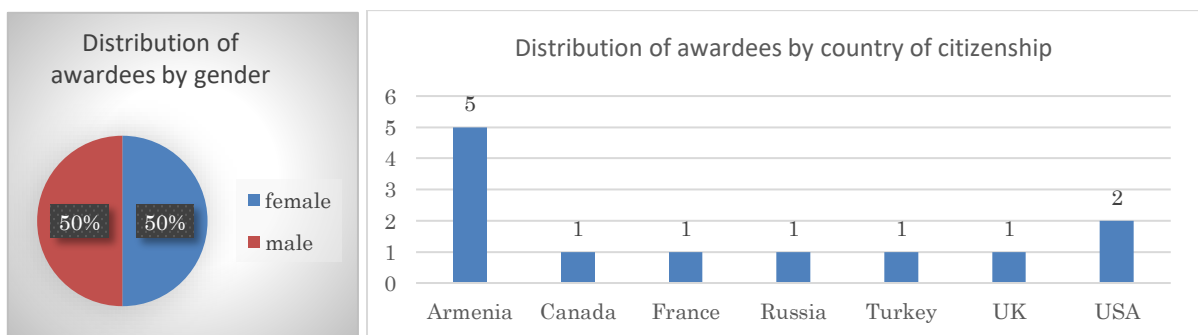


12 scholarships were granted to students from Armenia, Canada, France, Russia, Turkey, UK, and USA. Two of these scholarships were for a Master’s degree, three for Post Doc, and the other seven were for students pursuing their PhD degrees. Each scholarship’s amount ranged from 4,600 to 22,000 EUR per year, and three years was the maximum period granted.

The decisions were made based on the following criteria:

- Excellence of application (reference letters, grades, etc.).
- Originality and relevance of topic.
- Gender, geographic, and disciplinary balance.
- In deciding the final sums, financial need was taken into account, as well as the existence of other sources of funding.

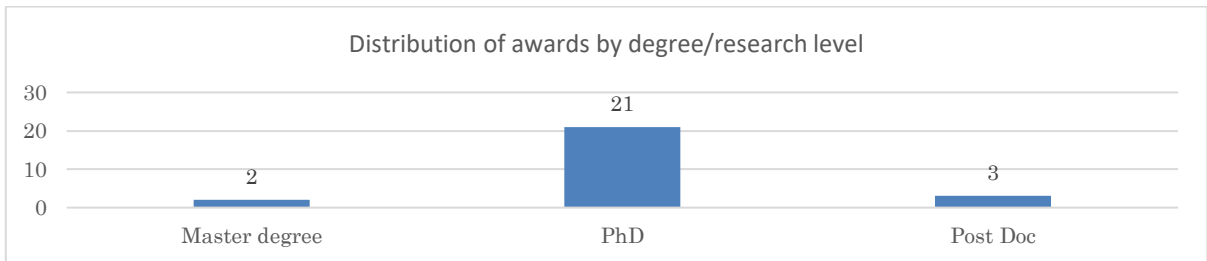
The charts below show the distribution of awardees by gender and country of citizenship:



Apart from these, 14 PhD scholarships (four from 2016, four from 2017, and six from 2018) were renewed in 2019.

The chart below shows the distribution of the 12 new and 14 renewals from previous years by research level:

* The male and female categories of gender identification are based on the identification documents of applicants.



The table below shows the total amount spent for the Armenian Studies Scholarship category in 2019:

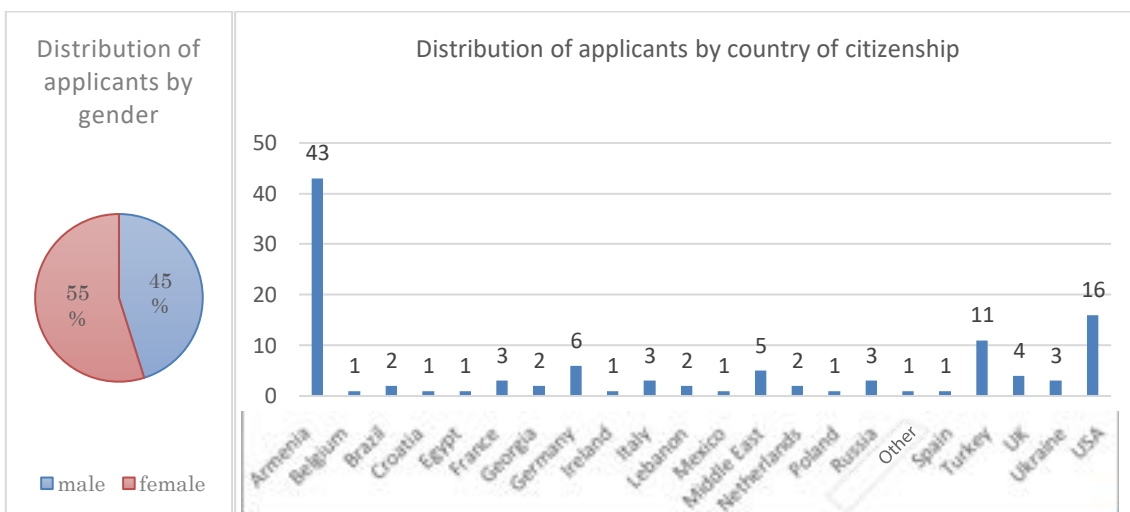
Armenian Studies Scholarship	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
New scholarships	162,896	12
Renewals	149,500	14
Total	312,396	26

2. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies

This category of scholarships was open for applications throughout the year; it gives qualified students, academics, and researchers in Armenian Studies (outside of Armenia) the possibility to participate in activities related to their fields of study, encouraging academic interaction and exchange of knowledge and ideas. Applications were evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as were the amounts allocated and the duration of the grants. Decisions were based on the academic relevance of the proposed events or research trips to the candidates' topics of research, their qualifications, the quality of their proposals, the international importance of the conferences/seminars, and the letters of reference received.

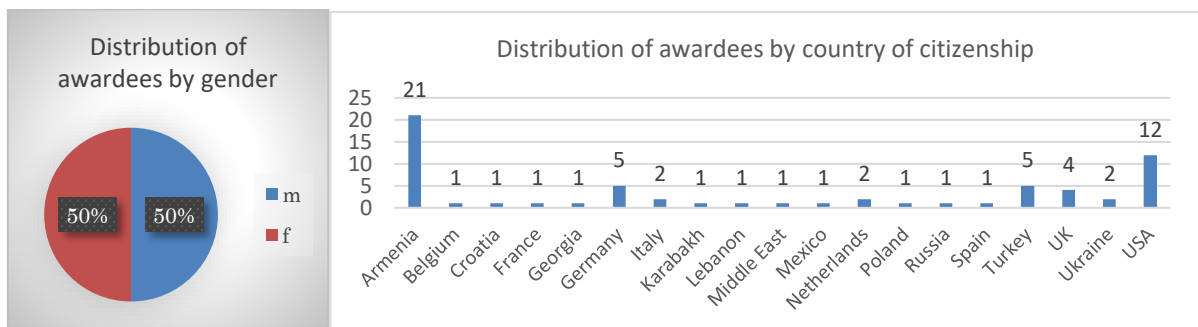
In 2019, the Department received 113 applications.

The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender and country of citizenship:



The Department awarded 59 grants: 24 were students and researchers undertaking research and field work trips, 23 were participants in international conferences, one was both a research trip and to attend a conference, and 11 grants were for attending summer or winter courses. In addition, within the framework of the Department’s grants to the Chair of Armenian Studies at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, five new students were given scholarships for an Armenian Studies Master’s degree at the university.

The charts below show the distribution of the 64 awardees by gender and by their 19 countries of citizenship:



The table below shows the total amount spent for the Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies in 2019:

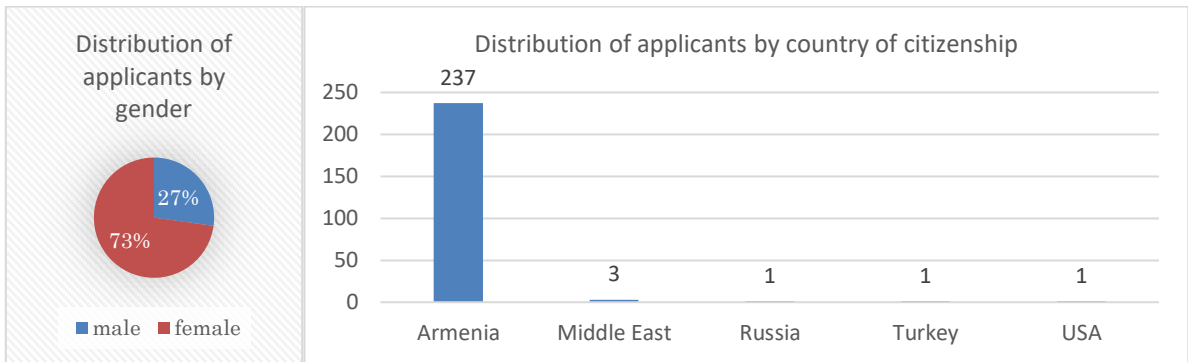
Short Term Grant Armenian Studies	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	113,166	59
Masters at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University	25,000	5
Total	138,166	64

3. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants to Students in Armenia

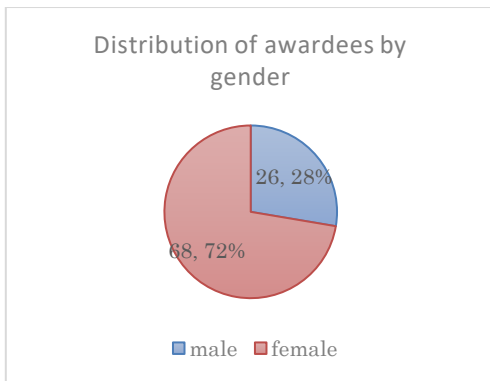
The Short Term Conference and Travel Grants to students and young academics in Armenia enable qualified students, early-career academics and researchers in Armenia to present their work at international conferences and workshops abroad, or to take part in short duration training programmes, encouraging academic interaction and exchange of knowledge. Applications were accepted throughout the year and the selection was based on the contribution of the proposed conference or activity to the candidate’s research, on the importance of the event, on the topic to be presented, and on the recommendation letters.

In 2019, the Department received 243 applications.

The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender and country of citizenship:



94 grants were awarded to Armenian citizens for participation in conferences or research programmes outside of Armenia. The chart below shows the distribution of awardees by gender:



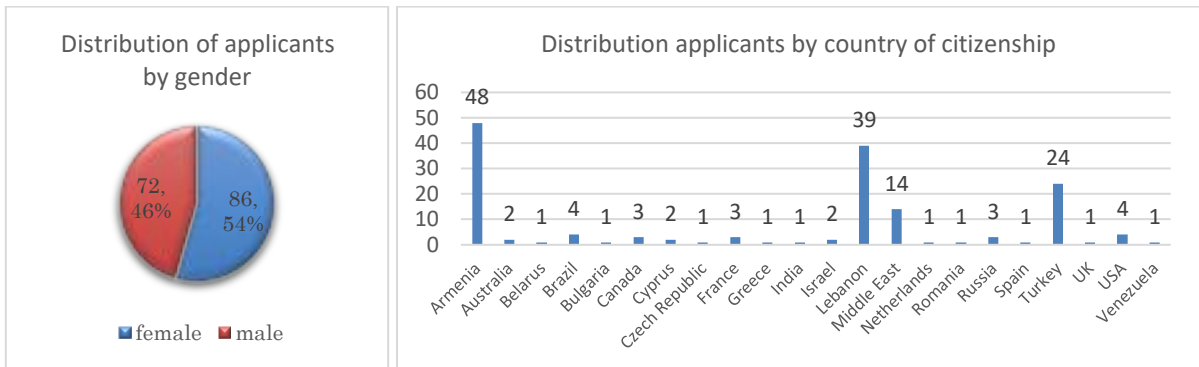
The amounts ranged from 410 to 2,035 EUR and the global expenditure for the 94 scholarships was 95,088 EUR. The table below shows the total amount spent for the Short Term Conference and Travel Grants in 2019:

Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	95,088	94

4. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship

This scholarship category gives young students of Armenian origin from less developed countries the opportunity to undertake full-time undergraduate studies. Within this category, the Department received 158 applications during the months of April, May, and June. 21% of these applications from 21 countries, were submitted on the last day, and 13% on the day before the deadline.

The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender and country of citizenship:

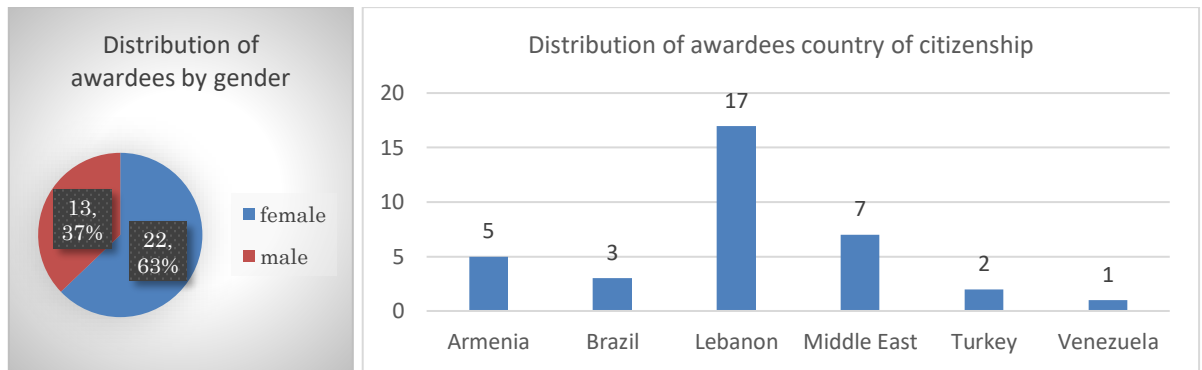


89% of applications were valid, 11% were invalid and/or incomplete; within the valid applications, 53% presented an average grade of 80% or more.

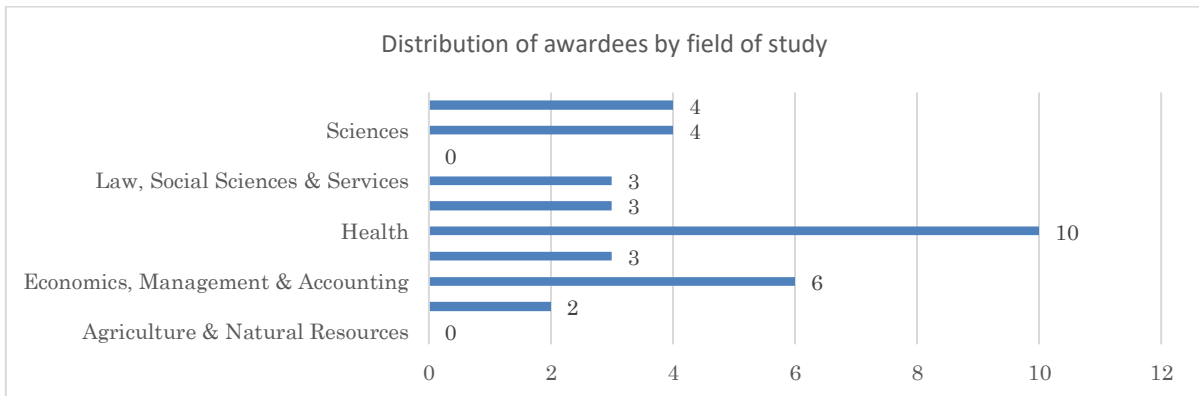
The Department selected 35 applications based on merit. The amounts of the scholarships ranged from 1,500 to 4,000 USD per year. The subjects included: Architecture, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Dental Surgery, Economics, Engineering, Languages, Hospitality Management, Literature, Mathematics, Medicine, Nursing, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Political Science, Social Communication, and Special Education.

Furthermore, in 2019, the Department received two donations from former scholarship awardees — one in the amount of 10,000 USD and the other in 3,000 EUR — which enabled the selection of six students (included in the number of 35 awardees mentioned above).

The charts below show the distribution of the awardees by gender and country of citizenship:



The chart below shows the distribution of the new scholarships by field of studies:



In 2014, the Department supported the project “Special Education Needs for Children in Lebanon”, and in 2015, support was given to the Centre for Children with Special Needs in Beirut, thus an urgency of the need of experts who work in Special Education was detected. As such, in addition to the regular scholarship programme, in 2016 the Department launched a different call for applications for candidates who wanted to pursue studies in Special Education at Lebanese universities. Within this extra call for applications, seven awardees were selected to study at the Haigazian University.

In 2019, three new scholarships were awarded in the amount of 4,500 USD for 3.5 years and another scholarship from 2018 was renewed.

A scholarship was also awarded to a student to participate in a two-week leadership educational programme for young people active in their communities, provided by Altemus, an independent, all-volunteer non-profit organization registered in Belgium. In 2019, the activity took place in Portugal.

As part of the renewal of the scholarships awarded in previous years, 43 scholarships were renewed in 2019.

The table below presents the amounts awarded in each granting process, as well as the totals for the 83 awardees:

Undergraduate Studies Scholarship	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Regular Scholarship Programme - New Scholarships	93,811	35
Regular Scholarship Programme - Renewals	106,573	43
Special Education Lebanon - New	11,845	3
Special Education Lebanon - Renewals	4,554	1
Altemus Programme	520	1
Total	217,303	83

5. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal

Within the framework of this scholarship programme, the Department supports Armenian students enrolled in higher education institutions in Portugal. The evaluation of applications was made on a case-by-case basis, throughout the year.

In 2019, the Department received five applications and selected four new grantees. All applicants were women, three from Armenia, one from Russia, and one from Turkey. Moreover, four grantees from 2018 renewed their scholarships.

The following table shows the amounts spent under Support to the Armenian Students in Portugal category:

Armenian Students Portugal	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity	F	M
Undergraduate Students - New	10,950	3	3	0
Undergraduate Students - Renewal	10,600	2	1	1
PhD Students - Renewal	8,000	2	2	0
Total	29,550	7	6	1

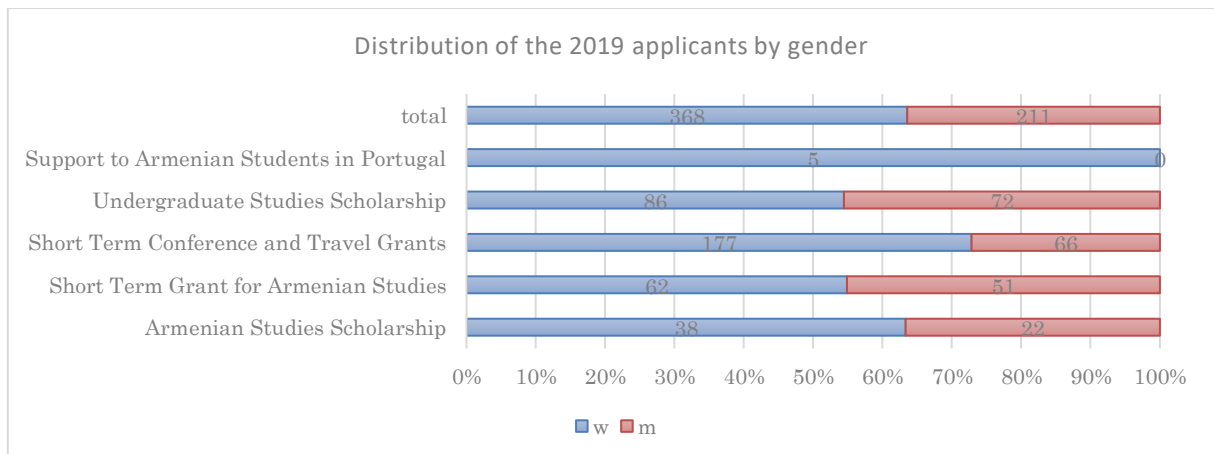
6. Emergency Scholarship

The aim of this scholarship category is to respond to emergency situations helping Armenian students who face severe crisis, enabling them to continue their education. Within this category, one scholarship in the amount of 5,000 USD, was awarded.

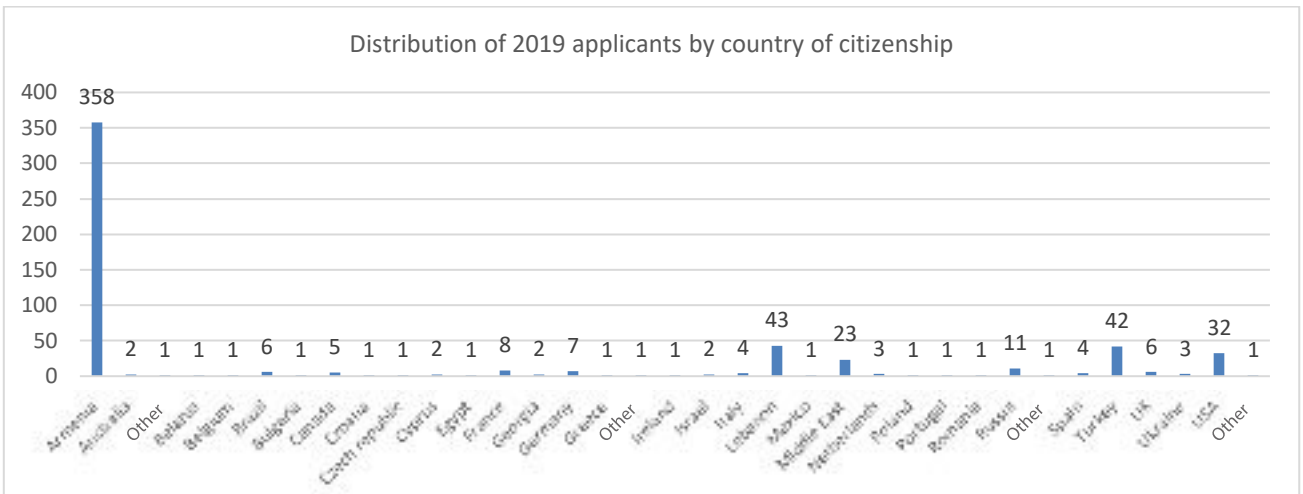
In addition, the Armenian Communities Department co-sponsored a programme of aid to Armenian students from the Middle East studying at universities in Armenia, a four-way partnership between the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Saint Sarkis Charity Trust in London, and the Government of Armenia (Ministry of the Diaspora). Students were supported from 2013 onwards, and in 2019, the total amount of the Department's contribution for this programme was 61,000 USD.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Considering the 579 applications received in 2019, the charts below show the gender and country of citizenship distribution of the candidates:

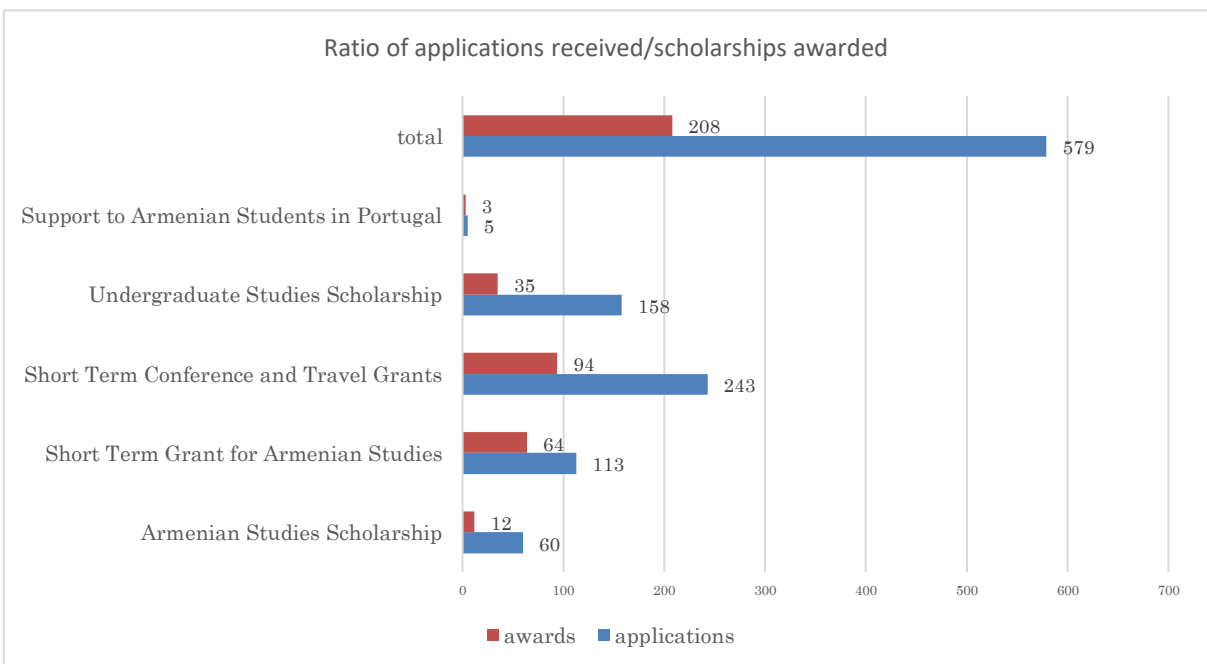


— 64% of the candidates were female and 36% were male.



— 62% of the applicants were from Armenia, 7% from Lebanon, 7% from Turkey, 6% from USA and the other 36% distributed over 32 other countries.

The overall percentage of awards in relation to the applications received was 36% as per the chart below:



— 36% of the applications received were granted a scholarship.

In sum, in 2019, the Department awarded 275 scholarships including renewals (excluding the students from the refugee students in Armenia programme), including renewals, in a total amount of 813,984 EUR.

The chart below shows the amounts, number of scholarships, the gender distribution within each scholarship category and the totals:

Scholarship Programme 2019	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity	M	F
1. Armenian Studies Scholarship	312,396	26	11	15
2. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	138,166	64	32	32
3. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	95,088	94	26	68
4. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship	217,303	83	29	54
5. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal	29,550	7	6	1
6. Emergency Scholarships	4,387	1	0	1
Phasing out - Global Excellence Scholarship	65,000	6	4	2
Phasing out - Western Armenian Teacher Education Scholarship	12,633	2	1	1
Total	874,523	283	109	174

Finally, seven of the grantees from previous years defended their PhD theses in 2019.