

# 2020 REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Scholarship Programme of the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is the oldest initiative of the Department, with roots going back to 1956. The programme continues to have a major impact globally on the education of Armenian youth and on the field of Armenian Studies. Its aim is to provide support to Armenian and Armenian Studies university students and researchers.

Scholarships are awarded through a competitive selection process to highly motivated students and academically meritorious young students who are best placed to make meaningful contributions to the development of their fields of study and to their Armenian communities.

This report presents the 2020 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](#)

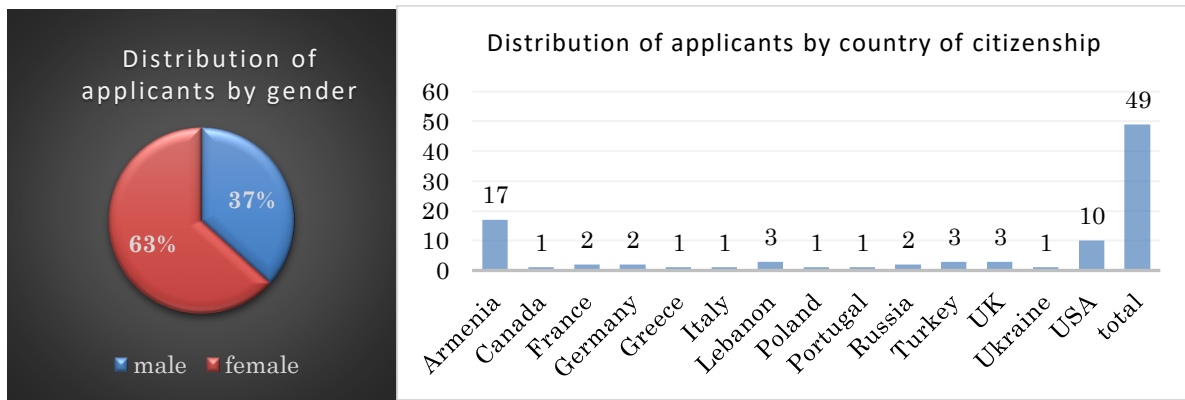
## BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

### 1. [Armenian Studies Scholarship](#)

The Armenian Studies Scholarship application cycle was open from 2 March to 15 May; its aim is 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 category 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 2020, the Department received 49 applications, 26% of these applications were sent on the last day and 20% on the penultimate day.

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

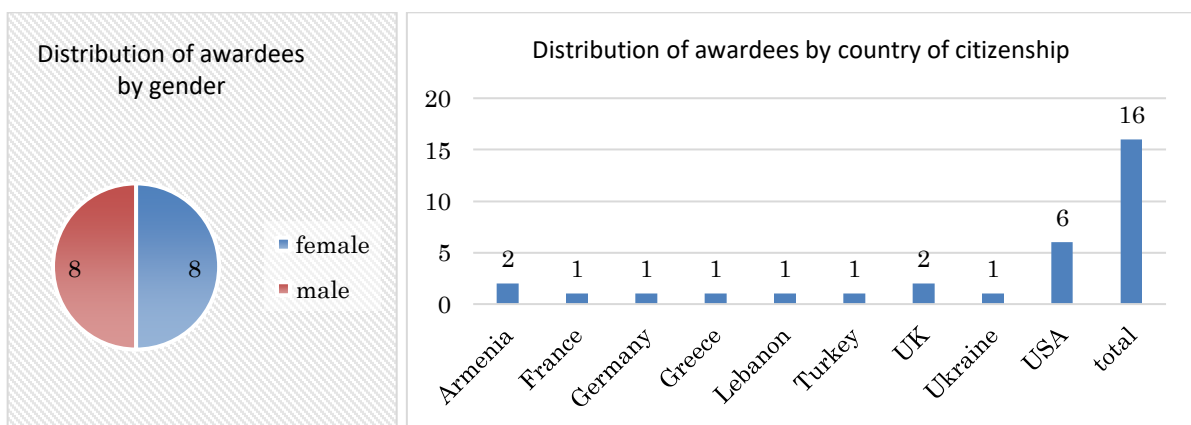


In 2020, 16 scholarships were granted to students from Armenia, France, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, Turkey, the UK, Ukraine, and USA, three of them were for a Master’s degree, eight for a PhD degree, and five for a Post Doc.; scholarship amounts ranged from 3,000 to 25,000 EUR per year, and three years was the maximum period granted.

Decisions were made 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.

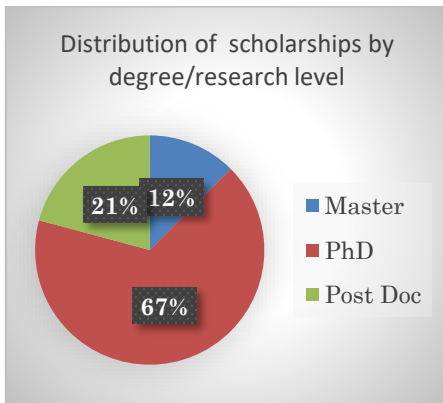
The charts below show the distribution of awardees by gender and country of citizenship:



In addition, five scholarships from 2018 and three from 2019 were renewed in 2020.

The chart below shows the distribution by research level of the 16 new and eight renewals from the previous year:

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



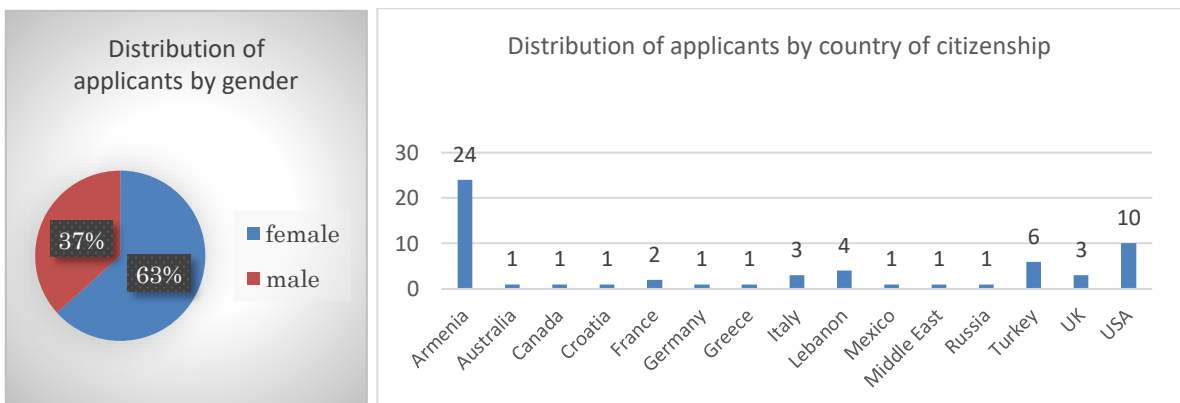
The table below shows the total amount spent for the Armenian Studies Scholarship in 2020:

Armenian Studies Scholarship	Expenditure (In EUR)	Quantity
New Scholarships	226,750	16
Renewals	111,000	8
Total	337,750	24

## 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. 60 applications were received and 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.

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

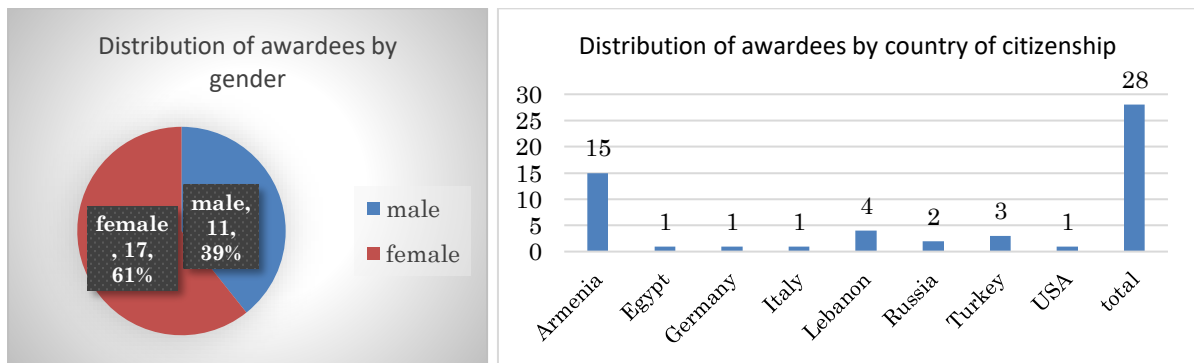


In 2020, 25 grant recipients were selected, seven of which could not use their grant mostly related to the cancelation of events due to the COVID 19 pandemic. From the 18 grant

awardees selected, 12 were students and researchers undertaking research and field work trips, five were for courses, and only one was a participant in an international conference.

Moreover, within the framework of the Department’s grants to the Chair of Armenian Studies at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, five students were given scholarships for an Armenian Studies Master’s degree at the university, and another five had their scholarship renewed for the academic year 2020-2021.

The charts below show the distribution of the 28 awardees by gender and by their eight countries of citizenship:



The table below shows the total amount spent with the Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies in 2020:

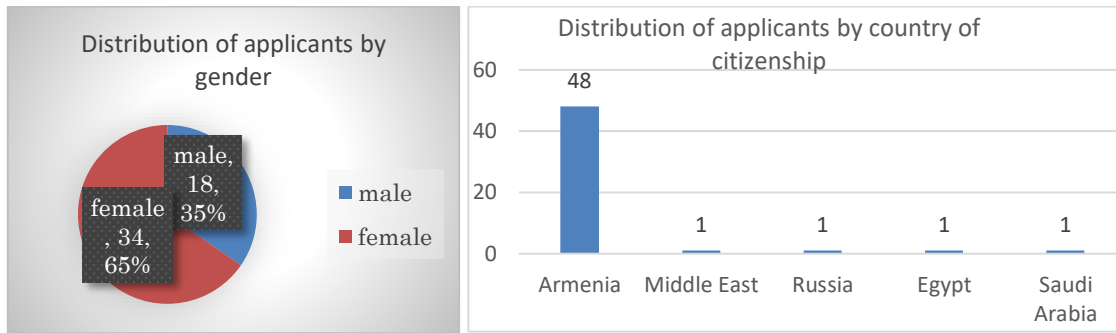
Short Term Grant Armenian Studies	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	50,838	18
Master Pázmány Péter Catholic University	38,000	10
Total	88,838	28

### 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 candidates’ research, on the importance of the event, on the topic to be presented, and on the recommendation letters.

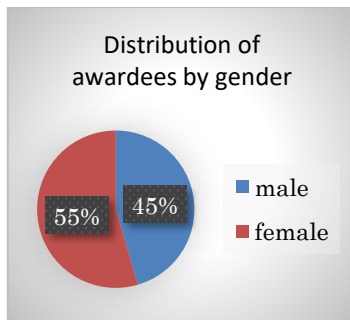
In 2020, the Department received 52 applications.

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



In 2020, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, only 11 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 736 to 1,036 EUR, and the global expenditure for the 11 scholarships was 10,298 EUR.

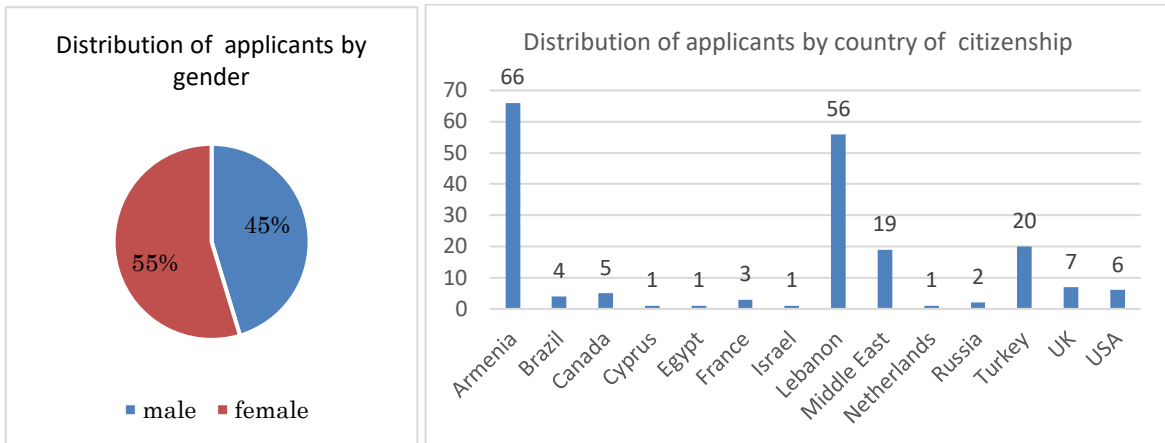
The table below shows the total amount spent for the Short Term Conference and Travel Grants in 2020:

Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	10,298	11

#### 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 192 applications during the months of April, May, and June. 20% of these applications from 15 countries, were submitted on the last day, and 15% on the day before the deadline.

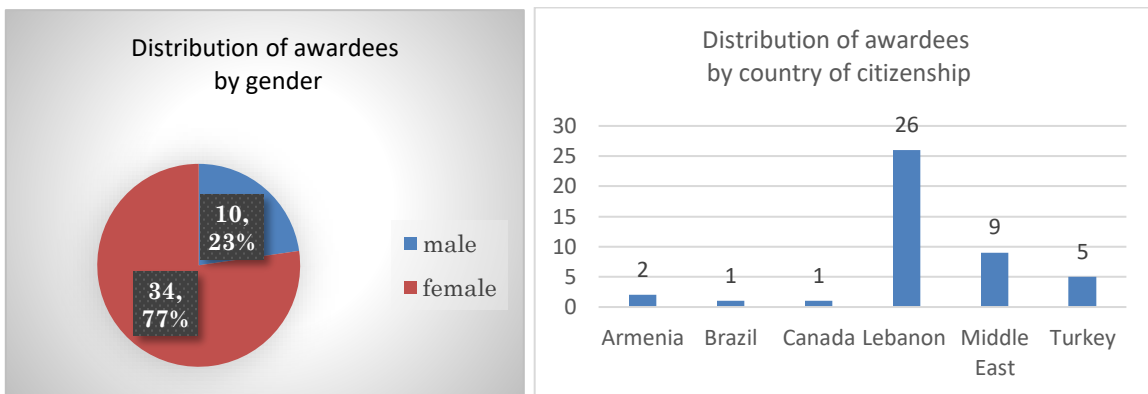
The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender and country of citizenship:



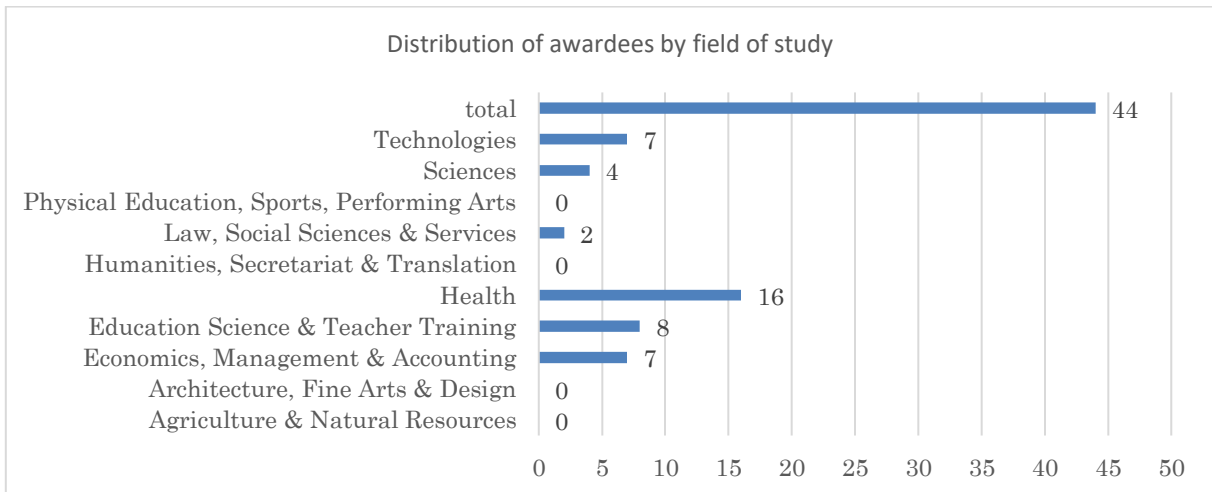
90% of applications were valid, 10% were invalid and/or incomplete; within the valid applications, 58% presented an average grade of 80% or more.

The Department selected 48 applications based on merit. The amounts of the scholarships ranged from 1,000 to 4,000 USD per year. The subjects included: Architecture, Banking and Finance, Biology, Biotechnology Engineering, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English Language Teaching, English Literature, Food Engineering, Graphic Design, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medical Laboratory, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physics, Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, and Stomatology.

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 study:



In 2020, 41 undergraduate studies scholarships from previous years were renewed.

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, in 2020, four scholarships from 2019 were renewed.

The table below presents the amounts awarded in each granting process, as well as the totals for the 89 awardees:

Undergraduate Studies Scholarship	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Regular Scholarship Programme - New Scholarships	98,140	44
Regular Scholarship Programme - Renewals	118,806	41
Special Education Lebanon - Renewals	16,698	4
Total	233,644	89

## 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 the applications was made on a case-by-case basis, throughout the year.

In 2020, the Department received five applications for this category. Four of them were from Armenia and one from Portugal, three males and two females. All were awarded a grant within this scholarship category. Apart from this, three grantees from previous years renewed their scholarships.

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

Armenian Students in Portugal	Expenditure (€)	Quantity	F	M
Undergraduate Students - New	24,400	5	2	3
Undergraduate Students - Renewal	13,720	3	3	0
Total	38,120	8	5	3

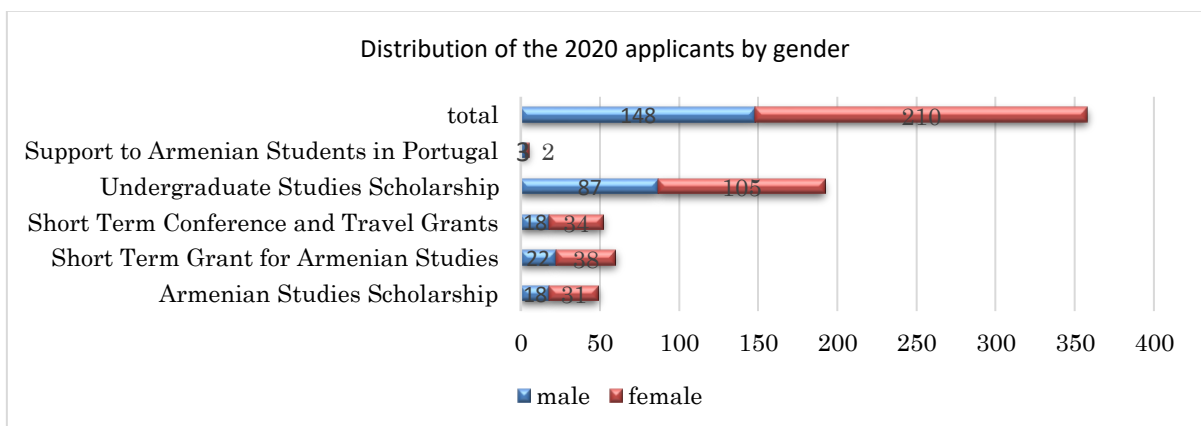
## 6. Emergency Scholarship

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 possible limits. In 2020, despite all the difficulties caused by COVID 19 and the Beirut port explosion, the Department did not receive any applications under the Emergency Scholarship category.

The Armenian Communities Department has also been supporting Armenian students from the Middle East studying at universities in Armenia, a three-way partnership between the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and the Government of Armenia (Ministry of the Diaspora). Students were supported from 2013 onwards, and in 2020, the total amount of the Department's contribution for this programme was 23,000 USD.

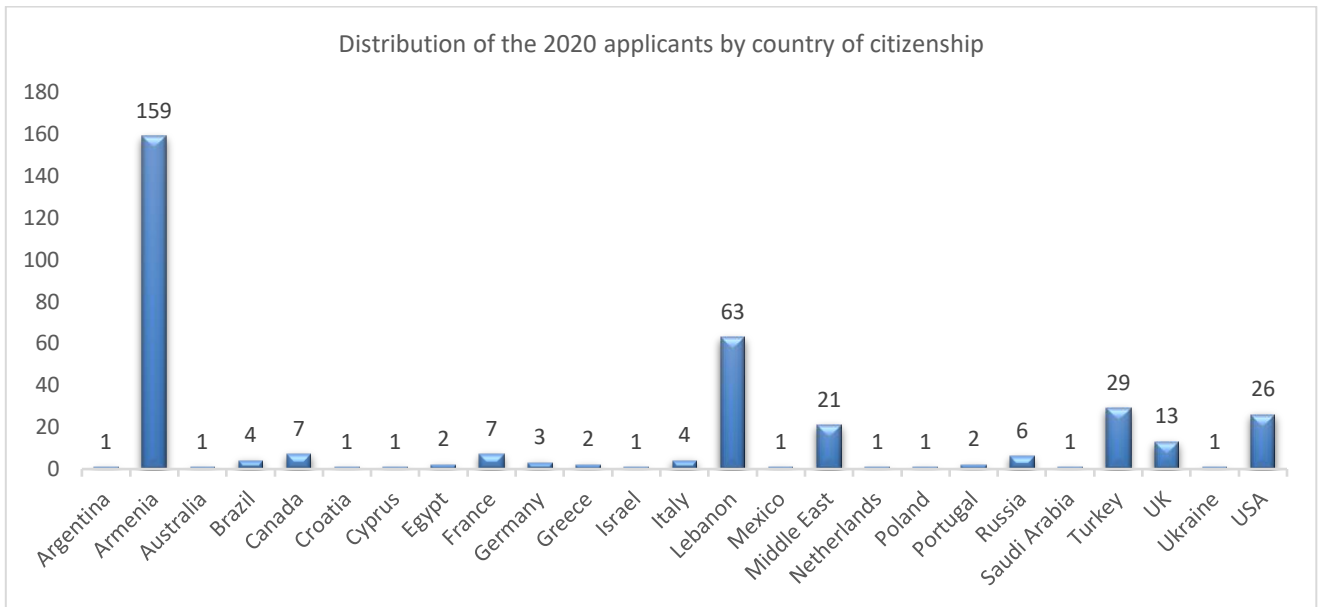
## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Considering the 358 applications received in 2020, the charts below show the gender and country of citizenship distribution of the candidates:



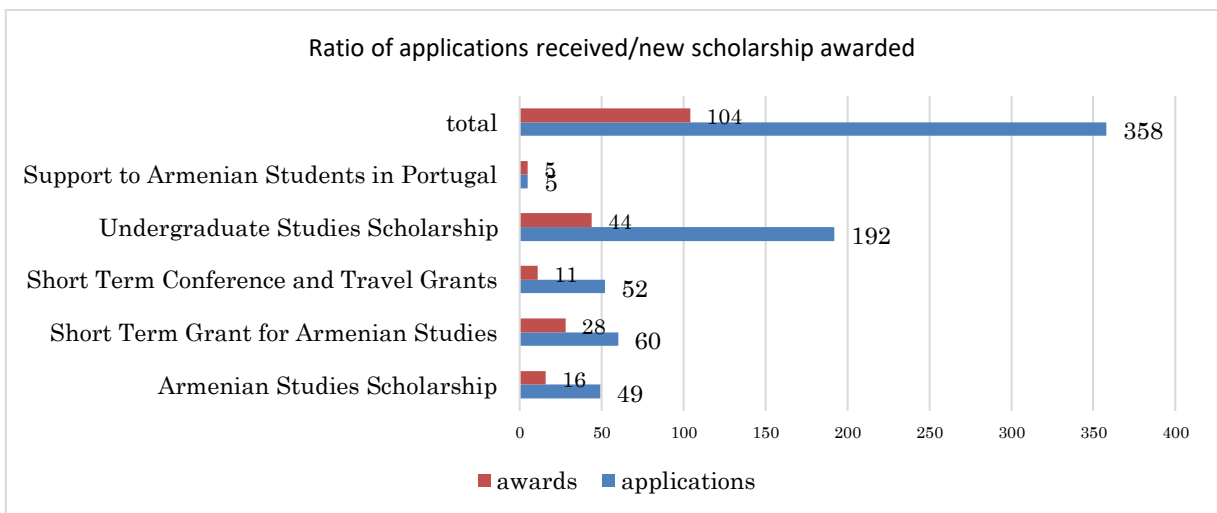
— 59% of the candidates were female and 41% were male.





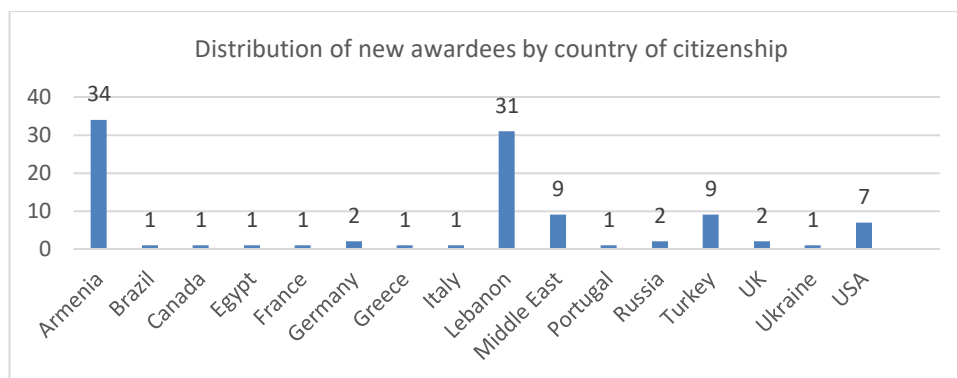
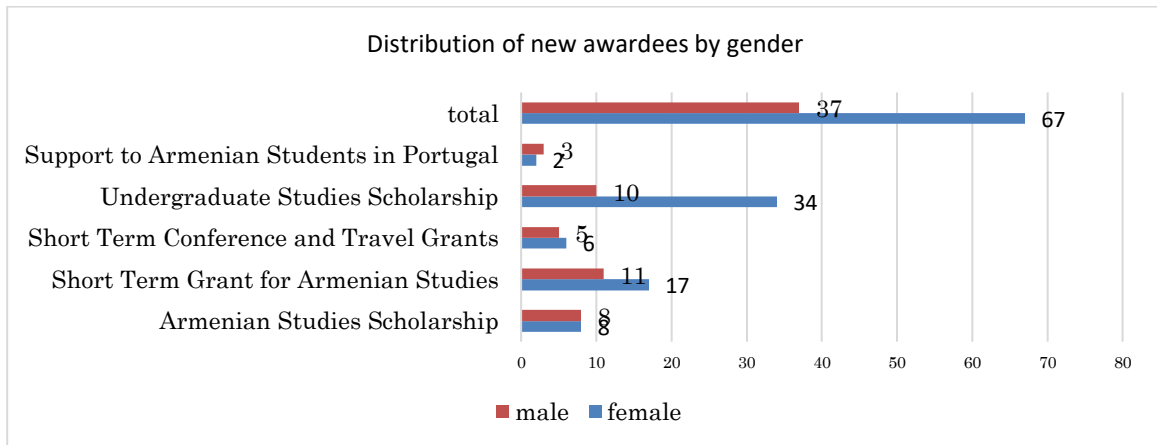
— From the 26 countries, 44% were from Armenia, 18% from Lebanon, 8% from Turkey, 7% from USA, and the other 23% distributed by 22 countries.

The overall percentage of awards in relation to the applications received was 29%:



— 29% of the applications received were granted a scholarship.

The following two charts show the distribution of the new 104 awardees by gender and country of citizenship:



In sum, in 2020, the Department awarded 104 new scholarships—165 including renewals but excluding the Armenian students receiving aid from the emergency scholarship envelope administered by the AGBU)—in a total amount of 742,390 EUR.

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

Scholarship Programme 2020	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity	F	M
1. Armenian Studies Scholarship	337,750	24	12	12
2. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	88,838	28	17	11
3. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	10,298	11	6	5
4. Undergraduate Studies Scholarship	233,644	89	61	28
5. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal	38,120	8	5	3
6. Emergency Scholarships	0	0	0	0
Phasing out - Global Excellence Scholarship	15,000	2	2	0
Phasing out - Teacher Education Scholarship	18,740	3	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>742,390</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>60</b>

Finally, two of the previous Armenian Studies Scholarship awardees and one Global Excellence Scholarship awardee from previous years (2016, 2017, 2018) defended their PhD theses in 2020.