

2023 REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In order to prepare an educated younger generation of experts, professionals, and potential leaders, the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation supports Armenian and Armenian Studies university students and researchers from all over the world through its scholarship programme.

This report presents the 2023 results with the following five 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. [Higher Education Scholarships for Armenian Students in/from Developing Countries](#)
5. [Support to Armenian Students in Portugal](#)

BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

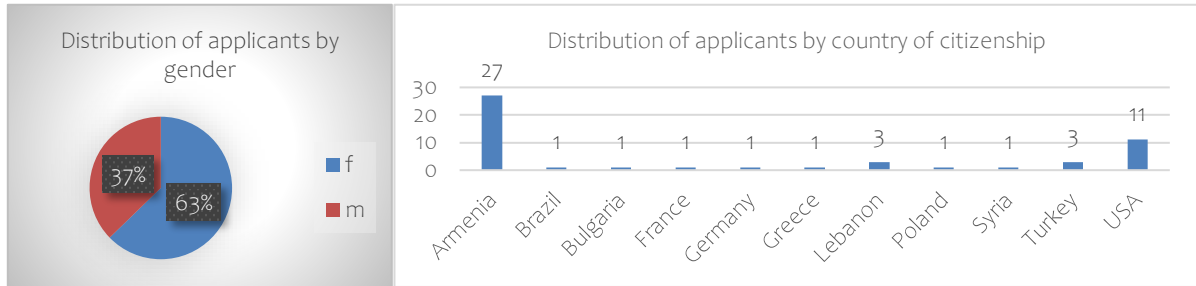
1. [Armenian Studies Scholarship](#)

The Armenian Studies Scholarship application cycle was open from 1 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 goal is to foster better understanding and knowledge about the most recent developments in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as the Diaspora, and to build stronger theoretical, empirical and/or applied research.

In 2023, as in 2022, research proposals from the social sciences that focused on the contemporary (i.e., post-Soviet) period were accepted in this scholarship category, in line with the Foundation's policy of privileging research on current issues. Research projects with high policy relevance and practical use were especially welcomed and the following disciplines were particularly encouraged: Political Science/International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology, Current History, Social Psychology, International Law, Human Rights, Peace and Conflict Studies, International Development and Humanitarian Studies, Diaspora, Refugee and Migration Studies, Cultural Studies, and other closely related disciplines.

In 2023, the Department received 51 applications, 33% of these were received on the last day of application.

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

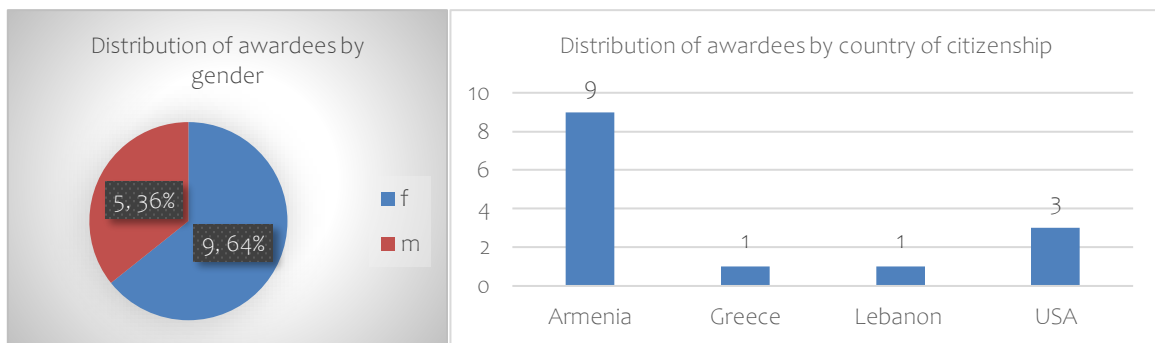


14 scholarships were granted to students from Armenia, Greece, Lebanon, and United States of America (USA), six of them for a Master’s degree, four for PhD degree, and four for Post Doc.; scholarship amounts ranged from 7,000 to 25,000 EUR per year and the maximum period granted was three years.

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.

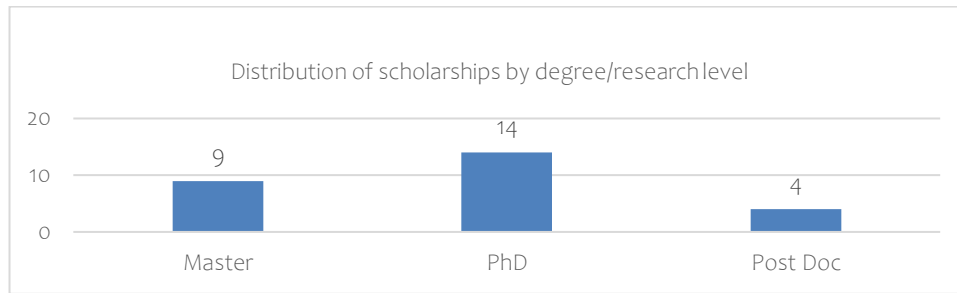
The charts below show the distribution of awardees by gender and the four countries of citizenship:



In addition, 13 scholarships were renewed in 2023 (three scholarships from 2021 and ten from 2022).

The chart below shows the distribution of the 14 new awardees by research level and the 13 awards from the previous years:

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



Seven of our former scholarship awardees (one from 2014, one from 2016, one from 2018, and one from 2019) defended their PhD theses in 2023.

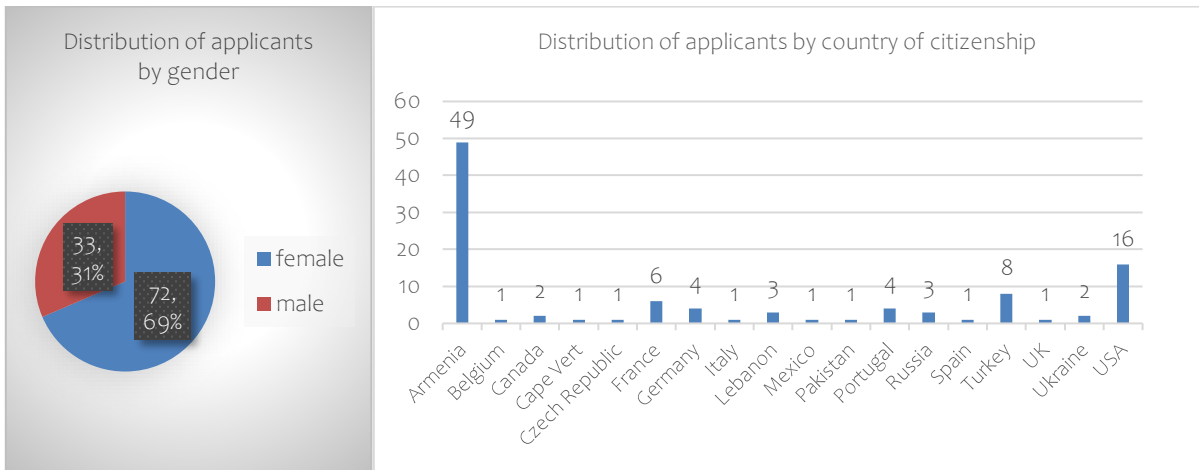
The table below shows the total amount spent for the Armenian Studies Scholarship in 2023:

Armenian Studies Scholarship	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Regular Scholarship Programme - New	200,000	14
Renewals	208,850	13
Total	408,850	27

2. Short Term Grants for Armenian Studies

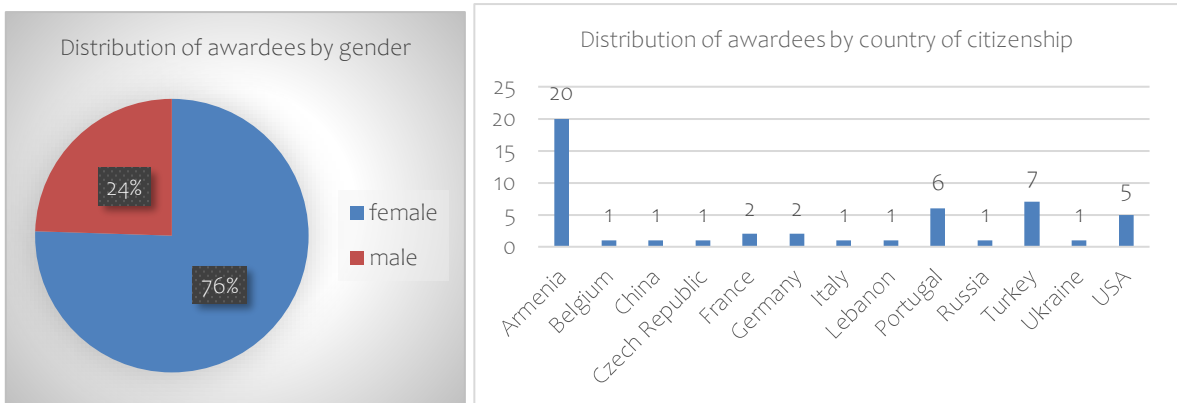
This category of scholarships was open for applications throughout the year; it gives qualified students, academics, and researchers in Armenian Studies (outside of Armenia) the possibility to participate in activities related to their field of studies, encouraging academic interaction and exchange of knowledge and ideas. In 2023, the Department received 105 applications, which were evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as well as the amounts, and the duration of the grants. The decisions were based on the academic relevance of the proposed events or research trips to the candidates' topics, 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 the 18 countries of citizenship:



In total, 49 grant recipients were selected in 2023, among which four were for participation in the Armenian Language and Culture summer course organized by the Association Padus-Araxes, and seven were for participation in the Armenian Language course at the Languages Institute of Nova University of Lisbon (ILNOVA).

The charts below show the distribution of the 49 awardees by gender and by the 13 countries of citizenship:



The table below shows the total amount spent for the Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies in 2023:

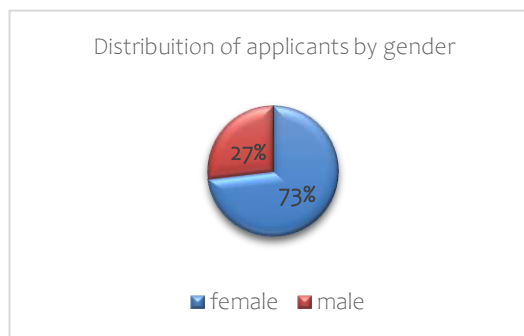
Short Term Grant Armenian Studies	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Grant Armenian Studies	113,032	38
Summer Course Padus-Araxes	5,416	4
Armenian Language Course at ILNOVA	2,345	7
Total	120,793	49

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.

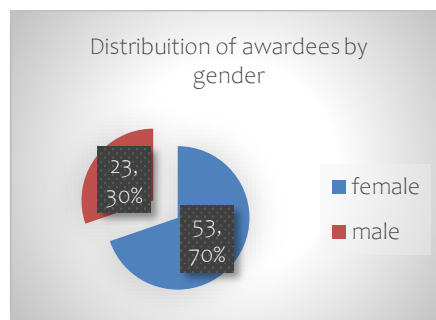
In 2023, the Department received 186 applications.

The chart below shows the distribution of the applicants by gender:



In 2023, 79 grants were awarded for participation in conferences or research programmes outside Armenia.

The chart below shows the distribution of the 76 awardees by gender:



The amounts ranged from 680 to 1,530 EUR and the global expenditure for the 76 scholarships was 73,605 EUR.

The table below shows the total amount spent for the Short Term Conference and Travel Grants in 2023:

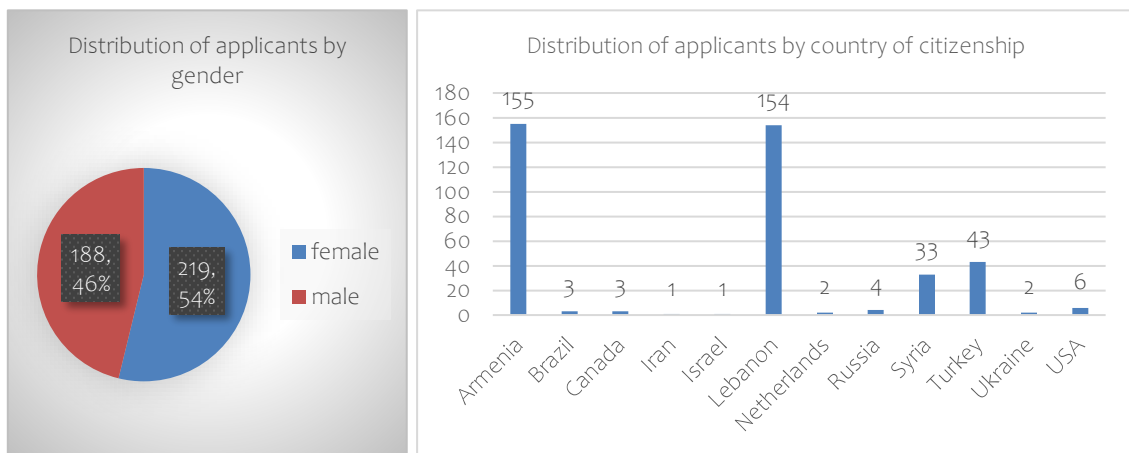
Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	73,605	76

4. Higher Education Scholarships for Armenian Students in Developing Countries

The aim of the Higher Education Scholarships for Armenian Students in/from Developing Countries in 2023 was to encourage students of Armenian origin in/from less developed countries (e.g., Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East) to obtain higher education degrees in any field at a recognized university in their own country of residence or abroad.

The Department received 407 applications during the months of April, May, and June. 27% of these applications, from 12 countries, were submitted on the penultimate and last day.

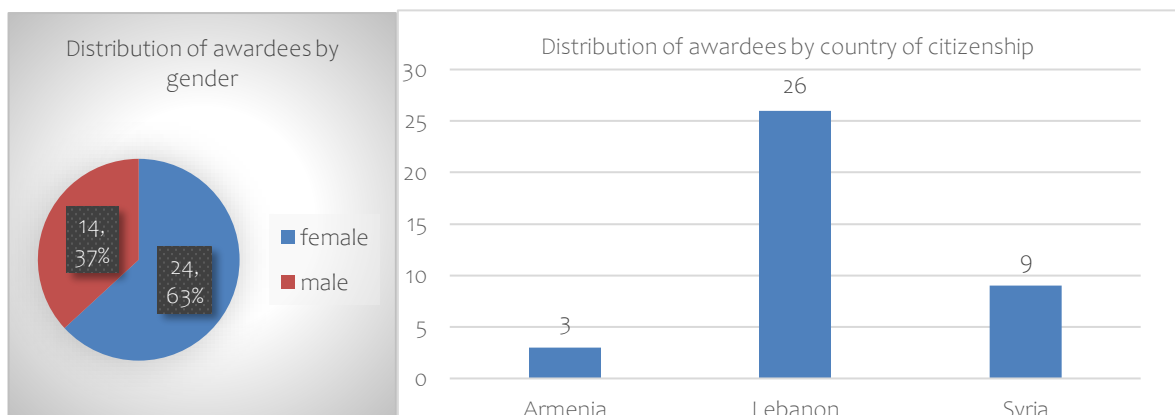
The charts below show the distribution of the applicants by gender and the 12 countries of citizenship:



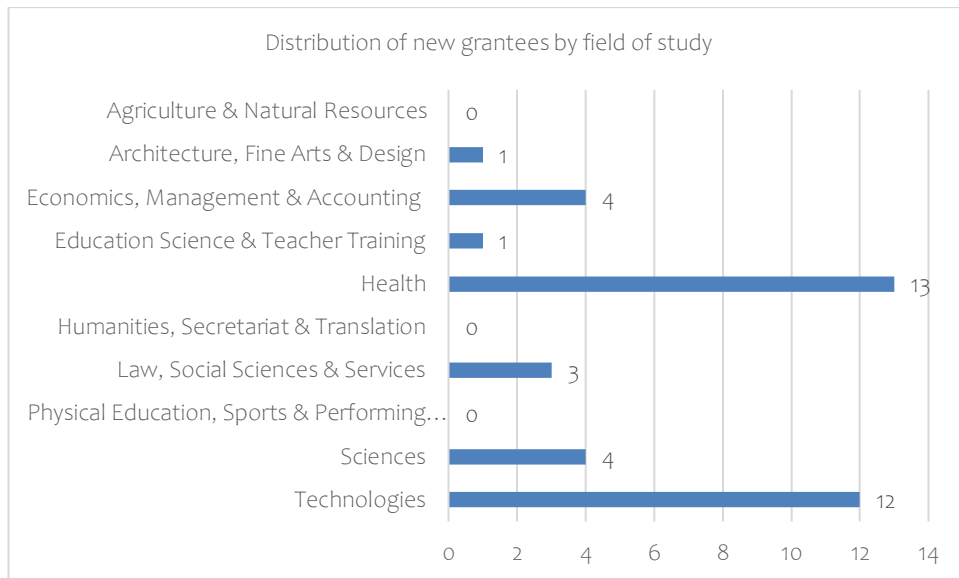
82% of applications were valid applications and 18% were ineligible and/or incomplete, while within the eligible applications, 52% had an average grade of 80% or more.

The Department selected 39 applications based on merit, from which one candidate declined the scholarship. There were two different amounts for the annual scholarships: 650 EUR for Syrian students in Syria, where the tuition fees are low, and 4000 EUR for students in other less developed countries. Study subjects included: Biology, Business, Computer Science, Economics, Education, Engineering (Civil and Environmental, Electronic, Financial, Industrial, Mechanical) Graphic Design, Informatics, Interaction Design, Marketing, Medical Laboratory, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Political Science, Politics and Governance, Psychology, Public Health, Social Work.

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.



88 scholarships were renewed in 2023 as part of the regular Higher Education Studies scholarships awarded in previous years.

The table below shows the amounts spent with the new, former scholarship awards, as well as the totals for the 126 awardees:

Higher Education Scholarship	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity
New scholarships	129,900	38
Renewals	198,709	88
Total	328,609	126

A former scholarship recipient from 1996, made a donation to the Foundation in the amount of 2000 EUR for an Armenian student to pursue higher education.

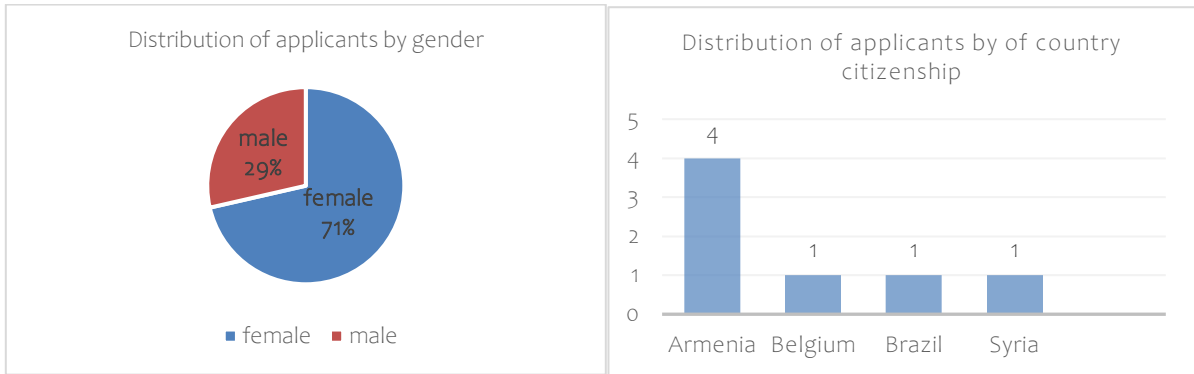
5. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal

Within the framework of this scholarship programme, the Department supports Armenian students enrolled in higher education institutions in Portugal.

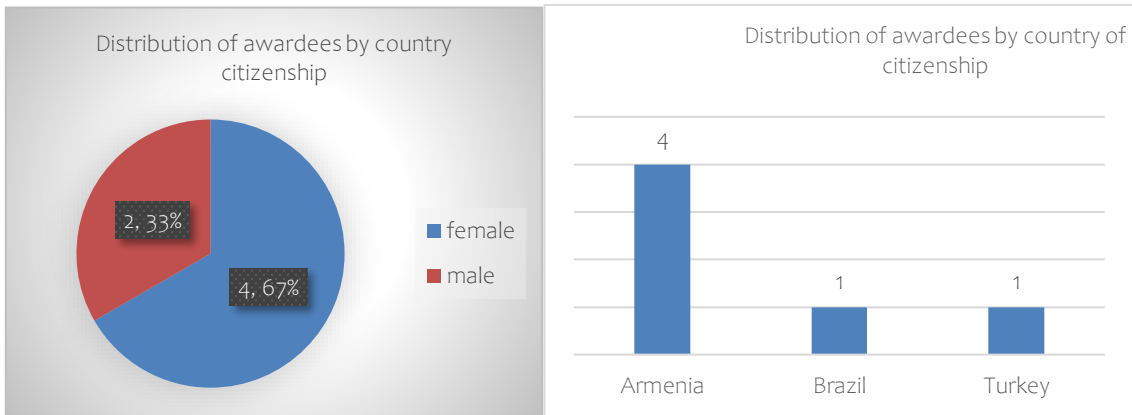
The evaluation of applications was made on a case-by-case basis, throughout the year.

In 2023, the Department received seven applications for this category.

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



As shown by the charts below, four students from Armenia, one from Brazil and one from Turkey were awarded a grant within this programme. Some of these awardees were applicants from 2017 and 2018. In addition, one grantee from 2021 and three grantees from 2022 renewed their scholarships in 2023.

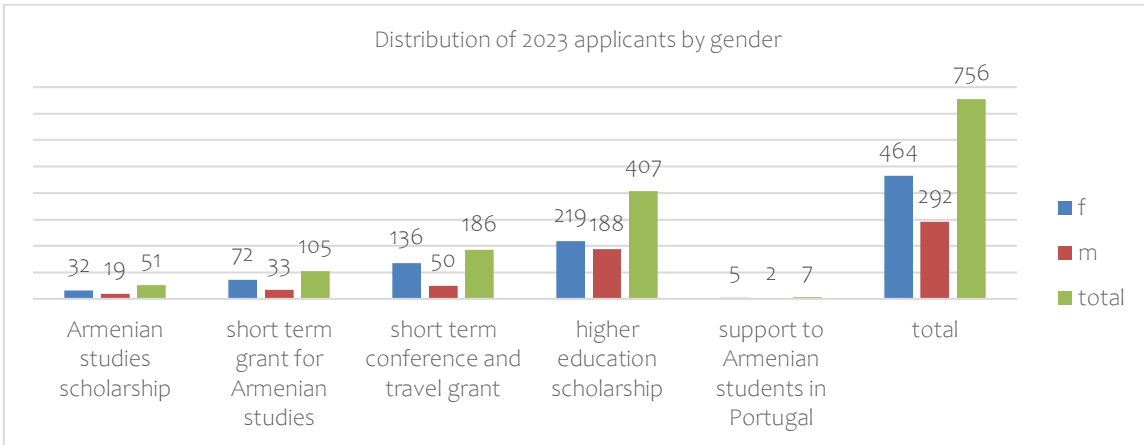


The following table shows the amount spent under Support to the Armenian Students in Portugal category:

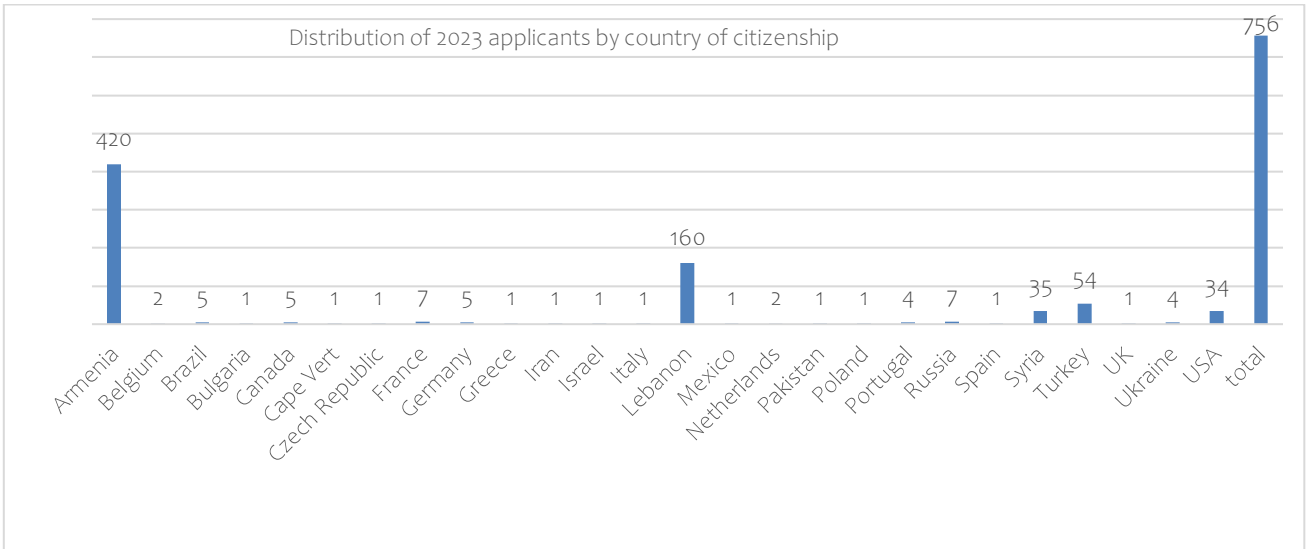
Armenian Students in Portugal	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity	F	M
Higher Education - New	31,000	6	4	2
Higher Education - Renewals	13,600	4	1	3
Total	44,600	10	5	5

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Considering the 756 applications received in 2023, the charts below show the distribution by gender and the 26 countries of citizenship of the candidates:

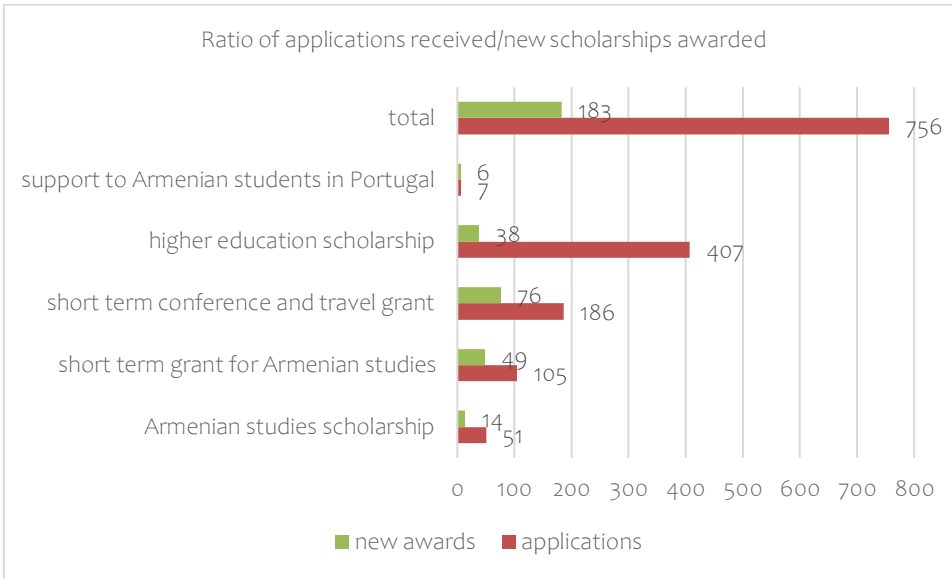


— 61% of the candidates were female and 39% were male.

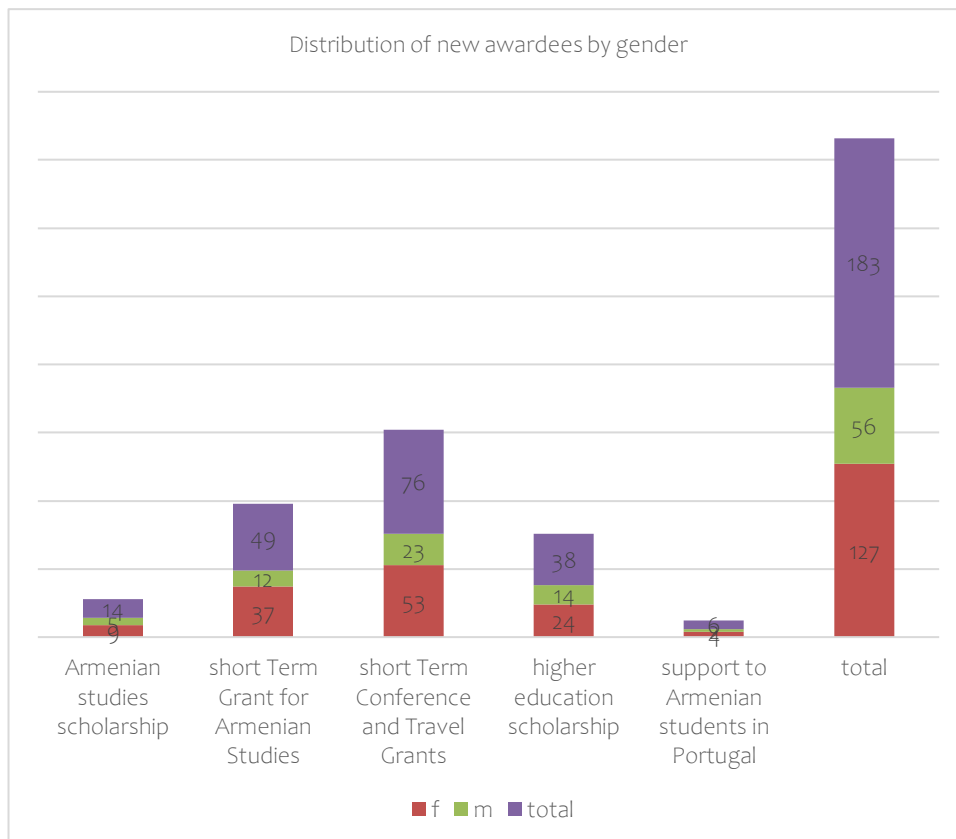


— From the 26 countries, 55% were from Armenia, 21% from Lebanon, and the other 24% distributed over 24 other countries.

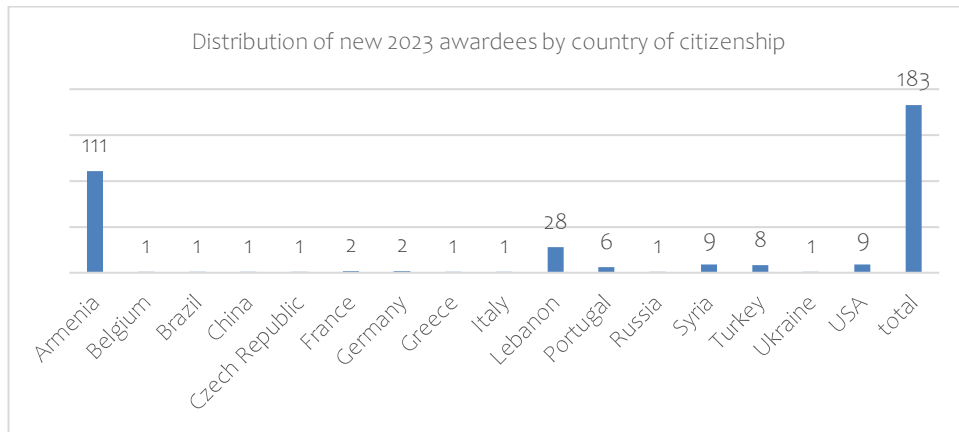
As shown in the chart below, the overall percentage of new awards in relation to the applications received was 24%:



The two following charts show the distribution of the new 183 awardees by gender and the 16 countries of citizenship:



— 69% of the new awardees were female and 31% were male.



— 61% of the new awardees were from Armenia, 15% were from Lebanon, and the other 24% were from 14 different countries.

In sum, in 2023 the Department awarded a total number of 288 scholarships in a total amount of 976,457 EUR.

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

Scholarship Programme 2023	Expenditure (in EUR)	Quantity	F	M
1. Armenian Studies Scholarship	408,850	27	16	11
2. Short Term Grant for Armenian Studies	120,793	49	37	12
3. Short Term Conference and Travel Grants	73,605	76	53	23
4. Higher Education Scholarship	328,609	126	72	54
5. Support to Armenian Students in Portugal	44,600	10	5	5
Total	976,457	288	183	105

Finally, seven Armenian Studies Scholarship awardees and one that was awarded a Global Excellence Scholarship defended their PhD theses in 2023.