



## Open Call: Fulbright Specialist Program

### Computer Science and Information Technology Open Project

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) is seeking a highly qualified professional to serve as a Specialist for a 33-day project, “Strengthening FPUNA’s Digital Resilience” to take place in Paraguay.

The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP), part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. Grant benefits include international round-trip economy class airfare, transit allowance, all applicable visa fees, a daily honorarium, enrollment in a limited health benefits program, lodging, meals, and in-country transportation.

**Host Institution:** Universidad Nacional de Asuncion – Facultad Politecnica

**Project Title:** “Strengthening FPUNA’s Digital Resilience” (P010183)

**Proposed Timeframe:** The project may be completed between May and September, 2025.

**Location of Project:** San Lorenzo, Paraguay

#### Project Description:

Despite its increased importance as a matter of national policy, cybersecurity, both as an academic specialization and in its practical application, is under prioritized by the Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA). The Facultad Politecnica, the branch of the UNA that houses the cybersecurity, computer science, artificial intelligence and informatics programs, currently has only six professors who teach cybersecurity to a class of more than one thousand students of different disciplines. Of these six professors, none possesses a doctorate in any related field, and only four possess a master's degree. Resources are similarly strained in the university’s department of cybersecurity, where two cybersecurity specialists are responsible for the Facultad Politecnica’s entire cybersecurity operations. In both the academic department and university bureaucracy, cybersecurity efforts are understaffed and underfunded, meaning that students, professors, and technicians lack up-to-date technology and training on best-practices. In addition to scarce funds and staffing dedicated to cybersecurity efforts, management of technology, cybersecurity, transparency, and anticorruption efforts are fragmented across the UNA system of more than 40,000 students and thousands of faculty and staff. Each of these individuals in their use of personal and institution technology and networks is vulnerable to attack, and the majority lack any robust cybersecurity training or familiarity with the university’s cybersecurity technicians or resources. As a practical matter, this patchwork management of cybersecurity between departments, colleges, and between students, faculty, and administration, stunts the UNA’s ability to prevent, identify, and respond to attacks. As both the University community and its vulnerabilities to cyber attacks grow, it is essential that the University receive the training and recommendations of a Fulbright Specialist.

#### Project Activities:

First, the Facultad would encourage the specialist to deliver a public talk or workshop centered around the current best practices in cybersecurity. This talk, which would be open to the general public, would be general enough in scope to be understood by students, specialists, and any member of the public with interest in the subject, regardless of background or cybersecurity experience. The University, as part of its “University Extension” program, incorporates the academic work done at the UNA into public-facing events, trainings, and talks, aimed at the general public, and would likewise incorporate this talk into its



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public programming. Ideally, this would be the first activity conducted by the Fulbright Specialist, as a means to introduce them to the UNA faculty, students, and administrators with whom they will be working more closely.

Second, the Specialist will lead two training workshops for UNA faculty and technicians. The training designated for faculty members will provide a more specialized overview of the current best practices, threats, and technology in the cybersecurity space, as well as review pedagogical methods to incorporate this information into the current university curriculum. In the training with technicians, the Specialist will review the same current best practices, threats, and technology, while also providing a practical training on applying these best practices. Although the principal focus of these trainings is cybersecurity best practices, the UNA encourages incorporating discussions of transparency and anti-corruption where relevant.

In the third activity, and the most elaborate of the three, the Specialist will serve as a consultant to the Facultad Politecnica and UNA more broadly by hosting a series of three “town hall” or roundtable-style discussions with members of the student body, of the faculty, and of university administration to discuss current capabilities and weaknesses in the UNA’s cybersecurity. Following these discussions, the Specialist will work alongside current cybersecurity students to make formal policy recommendations to University administration, incorporating the Specialist’s expertise and providing students practical experience.

### Preferred Qualifications

In addition to a comprehensive knowledge of cybersecurity, I would prioritize choosing a candidate who is comfortable explaining and teaching key concepts of cybersecurity in a clear and engaging manner. In addition to effective communication skills, knowledge of academic standards and processes is necessary to ensure alignment with institutional expectations for research, teaching, and student assessment. Lastly, the Specialist for this project must have Level 4 (Full Professional Proficiency) Spanish linguistic ability.

### How to Apply

Applicants must meet all program eligibility criteria, including U.S. citizenship. A complete list of U.S. applicant eligibility criteria can be found at <https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/eligibility-specialists>.

**Applicants must submit a CV and a completed “Submission of Interest Form” (<https://bit.ly/3AfgGOJ>) via email to [fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org](mailto:fulbrightspecialist@worldlearning.org) no later than Monday, February 24, 2025 to be considered as a candidate.**

Please note that if you are selected as a potential candidate for this project, **you will be required to submit an official application to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster** in order to serve as the Specialist for this project. If you are interested in applying to the Roster in the meantime, please let our team know and we would be happy to help you with setting up your Roster account. For more information regarding this process and the program, visit <https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/application-specialists/>.



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