

Alexandra D'Elia  
Project Title: *A Dança Portuguesa*

### Project Overview

The Portuguese Empire, also known as the Portuguese Overseas (*Ultramar Português*), was not only the first global empire in history, but also the longest-lived of the modern European colonial empires, spanning almost six centuries (1415-2002). The empire spread throughout a vast number of territories that are now parts of sixty sovereign states. One of these Portuguese territories is where my mother was born and raised: Angola. In 1975, the Angolan Revolution forced my mother and her family out of Angola and up to Portugal, specifically a small city called Caldas da Rainha, located just one hour north of Lisbon (Portugal's capital and largest city). Today, my Portuguese family still resides in Caldas da Rainha and Lisbon, and my mother has instilled her Portuguese heritage in me so much that I am now a Portuguese citizen and highly proficient in speaking the language.

With assistance from the Miller Arts Scholars Third Year Arts Award, I will spend the spring semester of 2017 studying abroad in Lisbon at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL), through a language and culture program with CIEE, and I will conduct research on the different dance styles taught and practiced in Portuguese culture. I will take dance classes at a studio called *STEPS: escola de dança e artes do espectáculo*. *STEPS* offers dance classes in many different dance styles: Kizomba, Semba, Funaná, Eastern and Indian dance, Tango, Tap Dance, Forró, Samba, Salsa and Cuban Music. What interests me about this diverse group of classes is that each dance style is unique to a specific Portuguese territory. For example, Semba is a type of music and dance from Angola, while Forró is a type of music and dance from Northeastern Brazil. I will take classes in as many styles as possible (specifically Kizomba, Semba, Funaná, Tango, Tap Dance, Forró), conduct research on the history of the dance and culture it derives from, record myself taking classes, attend and record performances, conduct and film interviews with local dance artists, and create a video documentary as my final project. Throughout this process, I will be careful to receive consent before recording and / or interviewing someone for my documentary.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, I intend to study Media Studies, Foreign Affairs and Portuguese (I am currently in the process of applying to the Media Studies major). Through the Media Studies major, I plan on concentrating my studies in journalism under the mentorship of Wyatt Andrews. I am currently a video news producer with the Cavalier Daily, WUVA Multimedia Journalism, and The Pioneer (the media subsidiary of HackCville). Through these jobs, I have gained experience in every aspect of news making and online media publication - from pitching a story, to reaching out to people, conducting interviews, filming background roll, personal stand-ups, voice-over narrations, editing (using Adobe Premier and Final Cut Pro), and online publication. I will also be taking a class on reporting through the Media Studies Department next fall (preceding my term abroad). Therefore, with this experience and knowledge, I will successfully be able to conduct interviews, film events and classes, and piece together a professional documentary for *A Dança Portuguesa*.

This project also ties in my other areas of interest - Foreign Affairs, Portuguese and Dance. I will be taking many Foreign Affairs classes through CIEE's program at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, and I will be taking such classes in Portuguese while also being immersed in the Portuguese culture and language as a resident of Lisbon. I chose Lisbon, Portugal as my research destination because of the familial ties I have with the city. By studying in Lisbon, I will be able to visit my family who I only am able to see upward of once every ten years.

I am very interested in learning about Portuguese culture and politics. The study of movement and dance will give me a better understanding of this culture and its value systems. This project will also deepen my appreciation of Portuguese culture as well as the other cultures that were once part of the Portuguese Empire. *A Dança Portuguesa* perfectly encompasses all of my areas of interests, and that is why I am asking for the assistance of the Miller Arts Scholars Program to help fund this project that will nurture my academic experience. My mentor for this project will be Kim Brooks Mata, but I will also be working closely with Wyatt Andrews on the documentary-making portion of my project.

### CIEE Study Abroad

I will be studying abroad in Lisbon, Portugal through CIEE's Language + Culture Program. I plan on taking classes through both CIEE's Program and also directly through the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. I will receive 15-18 semester credits from the classes I plan to take in communications, foreign affairs, and Portuguese and Brazilian literature. I have already begun the application process for this program. The cost of the program will be covered through the Virginia529 College Savings Plan, which currently covers my tuition here at the University of Virginia. I will stay with a host family in the city of Lisbon, which will be included in CIEE's program fee. CIEE's Language + Culture Program for the spring semester of 2016 lasted fifteen weeks. The dates for next spring's program have not yet been revealed, but I will base my monetary calculations off of the length of the 2016 spring semester program: fifteen weeks.

### Timeline

#### Summer / Fall 2016

- Apply to CIEE Study Abroad Program
- Meet with mentor to share and discuss initial research
- Research:
  - Portuguese history and culture
  - Dance culture in Portugal
  - Kizomba, Semba, Funaná, Tango, Tap Dance, Forró:
    - Study their origin, history and culture

#### Spring 2017

- Study Abroad in Lisbon
  - Conduct project

#### Summer 2017

- Go through footage and choose usable material
- Create story arc for documentary
  - Send story arc to mentor for approval and feedback
- Begin editing documentary

Fall 2017

- Meet with mentor to discuss how time abroad went and provide update on video documentary
- Send draft of video documentary to mentor for feedback
- Finalize video documentary

Spring 2018

- Present video documentary at the Arts Scholars Showcase

### Budget

*STEPS* is a twenty minute commute (via bus) from UNL, where I will be studying. I will need to purchase a monthly bus pass in order to get to my classes. Specifically, I will need to purchase Navegante Urb. 30 Dias, which is the name of the bus pass that routes from UNL to *STEPS*. I will need a total of four monthly bus passes to cover the semester in Lisbon.

For transportation, I request the following funds:

**Transportation: \$240**

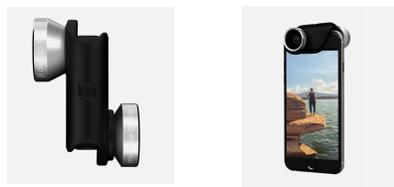
I plan on taking five classes per week at *STEPS*. To cover the entire fifteen weeks of my stay, I will need to purchase two 30-class packs (to cover the first twelve weeks) and one 15-class pack (to cover the remaining three weeks).

After careful calculation, I have come to request the following amount to fund the dance classes at *STEPS*:

**Classes: \$400**

In order to produce a high-quality, professional video documentary, I will need the correct equipment. I am concerned about drawing too much attention to myself with big, expensive equipment. Therefore, I will use the 12-megapixel iSight camera on my iPhone 6s and enhance my field-of-view with an attachable 4-in-1 lens. The iSight camera on the iPhone 6s has an added state-of-the-art sensor, an image signal processor, advanced pixel technology, and Focus Pixels, improving local tone mapping, and optical image stabilization. The high-quality iPhone 6s camera paired with the Olloclip 4-in-1 lens will capture great footage for my documentary. The Olloclip 4-in-1 lens is an award-winning lens for iPhone 6/6s that delivers the most versatile and premium mobile lens experience in a compact, easy-to-use design. It features four advanced optic quick-change lenses (fisheye, wide-angle, macro 10x and 15x) that weigh in less than an ounce. The 4-in-1 Lens will enhance the field-of-view beyond my iPhone's built-in camera, which I believe will be vital to fully capture the experience and document interviews, classes, performances and the city.

Below are photos of the Olloclip 4-in-1 Lens.



For the Olloclip 4-in-1 Lens, I request the following funds:

**iPhone 6s Olloclip 4-in-1 Lens: \$90**

To capture the most stable footage, I will need a tripod for my iPhone 6s. The GripTight GorillaPod Stand is a sturdy and flexible tripod for my iPhone 6s. It offers adaptability, as I can use it to wrap the legs around trees and poles, or just to get the balance I will need on uneven surfaces. This tripod will allow me to capture better perspectives; its wrappable joints secure the phone to objects and allow for adaptable camera positioning for precise control in photo or video composition. This tripod will be vital for shooting stable and complicated shots. Nobody likes a shaky video and a bad angle.

Below are photos of the GorillaPod Stand.



For the GorillaPod Stand, I request the following funds:

**GorillaPod Stand: \$40**

While in Portugal, I will need to store all of my footage on a hard drive. At the end of every day, I will transfer all of my recorded material to a portable hard drive, specifically, Seagate's Expansion 1TB External USB 3.0 Portable Hard Drive. I believe I will need one terabyte of storage to hold all of my footage from the entire semester. I would much rather have space left over on my hard drive by the end of the semester than having filled my entire hard drive at some point during the semester, forcing me to buy another one while abroad. I understand that between my dance classes, interviews, performances, and landscape footage of Lisbon, I will be recording hours worth of footage per week. In fear and anticipation for the worst; a hard drive being stolen, lost or broken, I will be purchasing two hard drives as a precaution.

For two of Seagate's Expansion 1TB External USB 3.0 Portable Hard Drives (1TB), I request the following funds:

**Two Hard Drives: \$120**

I request the following funds for my plane ticket to Lisbon:

**Airfare: \$1,500**

As mentioned before, housing (with a host family) is included in CIEE's program fee. By living with a host family, I will have all breakfasts and seven meals per week included in the program fee. Once again, the entire program fee will be covered by the Virginia529 Savings Plan, which currently covers my college tuition expenses. I will cover all other miscellaneous items: food, cultural events, weekend traveling, family visits, etc., through my own funds and the help of my parents and family. I project the amount of money that my family and I will be spending out-of-pocket on this trip will be upwards of \$3,000. Including the expenses listed below, I estimate my trip to cost a total amount around \$5,390. I realize that the requested amount below is greater than the \$1,500 Third Year Arts Award maximum; I would appreciate the maximum support deemed reasonable by the advisory committee to help make this project possible.

**I project the overall trip budget to be as follows:**

<b>Transportation</b>	\$240
<b>Classes</b>	\$400
<b>Ollclip 4-in-1 Lens &amp; GorillaPod Stand</b>	\$90
<b>GorillaPod Stand</b>	\$40
<b>Two Hard Drives</b>	\$120
<b>Airfare</b>	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,390</b>