



January 30, 2023

Dr. Pedro Ferraz de Abreu
Centro de Investigacao de Arquitectura Urbanismo e Design
da Faculdade de Arquitectura
Universidade de Lisboa

Dear Dr. Pedro Ferraz de Abreu,

This letter provides details regarding our invitation to host you at MIT as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning for the Fall 2023 semester. I have attached below a letter from my Department Head, Prof. P. Christopher Zegras, confirming the invitation.

Your on-campus presence during the Fall will greatly facilitate our collaboration on the seminar class and academic symposium that you outline in your Fulbright Visiting Scholar proposal, "Digital Transition and Urban Planning: e-Planning twenty years later." The Fall semester runs from September through mid-January but you should arrive on August 16, 2023, so that we have a few weeks on campus to finalize plans for the seminar class and academic symposium before the semester starts. We will provide office space, MIT internet access, and the like. The seminar series will end in early December, but we will need the last month to consolidate the discussion and conclusions from the Fall activities and finalize our publication. Accordingly, the time period for the Visiting Scholar appointment will be August 16, 2023, through January 15, 2024.

Fall, 2003, will be the 20th anniversary of our first 'e-Planning' Symposium. As you know, you and I organized also the 2023 "International Conference on Information Technologies and Public Participation" (ICPPIT03), that was part of the semester-long seminar you taught, linked to the Symposium sessions we moderated together, that featured guest presentations and panel discussion by MIT faculty and external researchers. I have discussed your proposal with my MIT colleagues Prof. Lawrence Vale and Prof. Bish Sanyal, who participated in the symposium 20 years ago. Both are enthusiastic about participating in Fall 2023 events that would reflect on changes over the twenty years in perspectives on 'e-Planning' and 'urban science,' and also anticipate, and debate, where the future is headed.

As a faculty member in Portugal, you have been quite active over the past two decades in organizing a cross-university e-Planning program that engages social science as well as technology and data science in efforts (primarily in Portugal and Brazil) to improve community life and governance through technology. Your own teaching and research experience nicely complements mine, in what concerns more of a political science and community engagement dimension to 'technology and the city' issues; but also in the rich lessons you learned by facing the methodological and institutional hurdles of building a joint PhD program with several universities that have different scientific cultures and administrative procedures. During the past two decades, I continued to head our Urban

Information Systems group (which we changed from the 1990s name, Planning Support Systems). I have also worked with large-scale land use and transportation models to analyze the effects of emerging mobility technologies on housing markets and urban development. More recently, I have been involved in MIT's new undergraduate major, "Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science."

Collaborating on your proposed Fall 2023 events would be a unique opportunity to build on our complementary academic paths, allow a younger generation of faculty and advanced students in both of our countries to make the most of this 20 year joint legacy, and foster a broader discussion of e-Planning going forward. I am now aged 76 and have begun reducing my time commitment at MIT, and you have begun a similar transition. We cannot count on many future opportunities to join forces on such matters in a manner that can have as strong an academic impact."

Please let me know if you need any further information about the arrangements at MIT in order to complete your proposal to the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Ferreira, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Prof. Joseph Ferreira, Jr.

Enclosure:

Visiting Scholar invitation from Dept. Head (Prof. Zegras)

P. Christopher Zegras
Professor of Mobility and Urban Planning
Department Head

Phone 617.452.2433
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URL web.mit.edu/czegras/www

30 January 2023

Dear Dr. Pedro Ferraz de Abreu,

This letter confirms our invitation to you to join the MIT community as a Visiting Scholar for the Fall 2023 semester. This will provide a good opportunity to carry out your Fulbright proposal, "Digital Transition and Urban Planning: e-Planning twenty years later." Prof. Joseph Ferreira will serve as your MIT Faculty host and your visit will enable collaboration with Prof. Ferreira on a seminar series examining the impact of information technologies on community life and governance. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the MIT e-Planning symposium that both of you organized twenty years ago and the events will provide a welcome opportunity to engage a cross-section of our on-campus community in further discussion and debate about next steps in the digital transformation of urban planning and local governance.

Sincerely,



P. Christopher Zegras, Professor of Mobility and Urban Planning
Head, Dept of Urban Studies and Planning