

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding.

Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: August 12, 1998.

James D. Whitten,

Acting Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP)**

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to pursue objectives in specified fields and themes within the humanities, the social or environmental sciences, law, or business administration in partnership with overseas institutions of higher education. Awards will be made to support educational partnerships with the general goal of strengthening civil society through projects on the rule of law, journalism and media studies, or civic education; or with the general goal of assisting with the development of a foundation for international trust through projects on business relations or environmental cooperation.

Partner institutions may pursue these goals through exchanges of teachers or administrators for any appropriate combination of teaching, lecturing, college or university teacher and curriculum development, collaborative research, and outreach, for periods

ranging from one week (for planning visits) to an academic year. Also eligible as activities to support the pursuit of these objectives in the FY99 program are the establishment and maintenance of Internet and/or e-mail communication facilities as well as interactive distance-learning programs at foreign partner institutions in conjunction with eligible projects. Applicants may propose other project activities not listed in this paragraph that are consistent with the overall goals and activities of the College and University Affiliations Program.

One-way projects that provide technical assistance from one institution to another are strongly discouraged. Substantial project benefits must accrue to all partner institutions, although the benefits may differ significantly for each institution.

The program awards up to \$120,000 for a three-year period to defray the costs of travel and per diem, educational materials, and some aspects of project administration. Grants awarded to organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Grants are subject to the availability of funds for Fiscal Year 1999.

Proposed projects must be eligible in terms of country(ies)/locations and themes as described in the section entitled "Eligibility" below.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Fulbright-Hays Act.

Projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. The POGI, a document describing College and University Affiliation Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation, is included in the Solicitation Package.

Announcement Title and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the

College and University Affiliations Program and reference number E/ASU-99-02.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, December 11, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on December 11, 1998, but received on a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure compliance with the deadline.

Approximate program dates: Grants should begin on or about August 1, 1999.

Duration: August 1, 1999—July 31, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Academic Programs; Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division; College and University Affiliations Program (CUAP), (E/ASU), Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547, phone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433. Send a message via Internet to: affiliat@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

To Receive a Solicitation Package via Fax on Demand: The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System," which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify "College and University Affiliations Program Officer" on all inquiries and correspondence. Prospective applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the College and University Affiliations Program staff or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 10 copies of the complete application, including the documents specified under Tabs A

through I in the "Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation" (POGI) section of the Solicitation Package, should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref: E/ASU-99-02, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th St., SW, Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to U.S. Information Service (USIS) posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time needed to make the comments of overseas posts available in the Agency's grant review process.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, projects must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Pub. L. 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal, in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Eligibility

U.S. Partner and Participant Eligibility: In the United States, participation in the program is open to accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, including graduate schools. Applications from consortia of U.S. colleges and universities are eligible. Secondary U.S. partners may include non-governmental organizations as well as non-profit service and professional organizations. The lead U.S. institution in the consortium is

responsible for submitting the application. Each application from a consortium must document the lead institutions' authority to represent the consortium. With the exception of outside evaluators on contract with the U.S. institution, participants representing the U.S. institution who are traveling under USIA grant funds must be teachers, post-baccalaureate teaching assistants, or staff from the participating institution(s) and must be U.S. citizens. Post-baccalaureate teaching assistants are eligible for USIA-funded participation in this program only if they are working as part of a team directed by a college or university teacher.

Foreign Partner and Participant Eligibility: Overseas, participation is open to recognized, degree-granting institutions of post-secondary education, which may include established, internationally recognized independent research institutes. Secondary foreign partners may include relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as non-profit service and professional organizations. Participants representing the foreign institutions must be teachers, post-baccalaureate teaching assistants, or staff who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the country of the foreign partner and who are qualified to hold a valid passport and U.S. J-1 visa.

Ineligibility: A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible if:

- (1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Solicitation Package;
- (2) It is not received by the deadline;
- (3) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;
- (4) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;
- (5) The foreign country or geographic location is ineligible;
- (6) It involves a request to fund exchanges between the United States and more than one country, with the exception of the trilateral partnerships between the United States and two foreign institutions specified below (see the section on eligible countries/locations for complete details);
- (7) The theme or academic discipline is not listed as eligible in the RFP, herein;
- (8) the amount requested of USIA exceeds \$120,000.

Eligible Themes, Academic Disciplines, and Countries/Locations

Eligible Themes

Proposals submitted in response to this request should be designed to

strengthen civil society through projects on the rule of law, journalism or media studies, or civic education; or to assist with the development of a foundation for international trust through projects to encourage business or environmental cooperation. Outreach from academic institutions to larger communities of citizens and practitioners is especially encouraged.

The range of projects for which proposals are encouraged within these themes is suggested in the following descriptions:

(1) Rule of Law projects may include as goals the promotion of democratic and civic values; the expansion of citizens participation in government at all levels; the encouragement of analytical approaches to the development and evaluation of public policy or government performance; or the education of citizens and legal specialists about their civil rights and civic responsibilities. These projects may also focus on the balance between individual rights and group rights; conflict resolution; reconciliation and compromise within the democratic process; the reasonable discussion of social and political issues and policy options; and the practice of majority rule in the context of minority rights.

(2) Media Studies and Journalism projects may focus on the development of media organizations, journalistic ethics and responsibility, investigative journalism, and the development and definition of editorial content and priorities. Projects should be proposed with sensitivity to the relationships of the media with government and the private sector in a democratic society.

(3) Civic Education projects may include such topics as democratic theory and practice; the philosophy and goals of education; the development of learner-oriented teaching methodologies and the training of teachers in their utilization; the importance to a democracy of citizen behavior and social responsibility; and the relationships of public interest groups, educational and religious institutions, governments, and voluntary associations to one another and to society.

(4) Business projects may enable institutions of tertiary education to contribute to economic development and to the extension of relations between and among market economies through trade and investment. Projects in trade and economics may establish or expand mutually beneficial academic programs in business and economics, especially by strengthening educational links to business communities. Projects with the potential for having an adverse

impact on the environment are discouraged.

(5) Environmental Cooperation projects may address environmental issues and public policy approaches to sustainable development in the context of U.S. and global interests. Projects may support the establishment or expansion of environmental policy studies programs through faculty and curriculum development, teaching, or outreach. Within this theme, projects that link the study of free trade and market economics with the environment and sustainable development are encouraged.

Area Studies (including American Studies) are eligible if they address eligible themes in cooperation with one or more of the academic disciplines listed below. Area Studies are understood to include scholarly approaches to the current affairs, politics, society, or culture of the United States or partner country or countries or region(s).

The following two sections list *Eligible Academic Disciplines* (Section A Below) within each eligible theme and *Eligible Countries or Locations* (Section B Below) within six world regions, together with any thematic limitation or emphasis applicable within the region or country. Only those themes and disciplines, countries or locations, and partnership configurations listed are eligible for consideration.

A. Eligible Academic Disciplines

(1) For Rule of Law projects:
Law (Constitutional, Comparative, Administrative, Commercial, Regulatory, and Civil Law; Alternative Dispute Resolution; and Intellectual Property Rights)
Political Science/Government/Public Policy/Public Administration
Conflict Resolution
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(2) For Media Studies and Journalism projects:
Journalism (Broadcast, Print, Electronic)
Communications Law
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here).

(3) For Civic Education projects:
Higher Education Administration, including Financial Management, Community Service and Outreach, University Governance, Private Sector Relations, and Curriculum Development and Modernization
Secondary-Level Curriculum Development and Teacher Training

Sociology
History
Political Science/Government/Public Policy/Public Administration
Social Studies (especially Curriculum Development and Teacher Training)
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields listed here)

(4) For projects in Business:
Economics (Comparative and International)
Business/Business Administration/
Business Management
Financial Management and Markets
International Marketing/International Trade
Commercial Law (including Comparative Law, International Treaties, Intellectual Property Rights)
Area Studies (in combination with one of the academic fields listed here)

(5) For projects on Environmental Cooperation:
Environmental Law and Regulation
Environmental Policy and Resource Management
Environmental Sciences/Natural Resource Sciences
Area Studies (in combination with one or more of the academic fields above)

B. Eligible Countries/Locations

Institutions in the following countries are eligible for a bilateral exchange with a U.S. institution; in addition, trilateral configurations are eligible as noted:

(1) *Africa*: In addition to bilateral proposals, trilateral configurations involving a college or university in the United States and counterpart institutions in any two of the following countries are eligible, but not required:
Benin (Business, especially Economics and Management; and Higher Education Administration projects only, especially those related to Financial Management, Community Service and Outreach, University Governance, Private Sector Relations, and Curriculum Modernization);

Ghana (Rule of Law only);
Malawi (Higher Education Administration projects only, especially those related to Financial Management, Community Service and Outreach, University Governance, Private Sector Relations, and Curriculum Modernization);

Mozambique (Rule of Law, Civic Education, Environment and Sustainable Development projects only);
Rwanda (Rule of Law only);

Senegal (Higher Education Administration projects only, especially those related to Financial Management, Community Service and Outreach, University Governance, Private Sector

Relations, and Curriculum Modernization);

Uganda (Business and Higher Education Administration projects only, especially those related to University Financial Management, Community Service and Outreach, University Governance, Private Sector Relations, and Curriculum Modernization);

Zimbabwe (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education only).

(2) *American Republics*:

Costa Rica (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);
El Salvador (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);
Guatemala (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);
Honduras (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);

Mexico (bilateral projects in Public Administration only; in addition, the program invites proposals for North American Trilateral Linkages that include Mexico and Canada in specified disciplines, as described below);

Nicaragua (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);
Panama (Rule of Law, Business, and Civic Education projects only);

North American Trilateral Exchanges: Projects linking U.S., Canadian, and Mexican institutions are eligible for trilateral affiliations in Teaching Methodology, Business, Public Administration, Trade, Economics, and Environmental Studies.

[**Note:** Eligibility of countries among the American Republics is expected to rotate within a three-year cycle beginning with this solicitation.]

(3) *East Asia and the Pacific*:

China (Civic Education and Rule of Law only);
Indonesia (Civic Education and Rule of Law only, especially Public Policy or Public Administration);

Laos (Rule of Law, especially Public Administration; Business; and Civic Education only, especially Teacher Training);

Philippines (Rule of Law, especially Administration of Justice; and Civic Education only);

Taiwan (Journalism and Media Studies only, with special interest in issues of journalistic ethics and responsibility);

Thailand (Rule of Law and Civic Education only, with special interest in projects framing either of these themes in the context of American Studies);

Vietnam (Rule of Law, with special interest in Public Administration or Intellectual Property Rights; Civic Education; and Business only).

(4) *Eastern and Central Europe and the Newly Independent States*: The following countries are eligible for

bilateral partnerships; in addition, trilateral configurations between a college or university in the United States and counterpart institutions in two countries within any one of the following three subregions are eligible, but not required. (Not every country in every subregion is eligible. Cross-subregional trilateral affiliations are ineligible.) For all countries listed, eligible themes are limited to Business and the Rule of Law, with special interest in Public Administration and Public Policy.

Baltics: Estonia, Lithuania;
Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and
Hercegovina, Macedonia, Serbia/
Montenegro;

Central Europe: Czech Republic,
Slovakia.

[**Note:** In addition, institutions interested in partnerships with institutions of tertiary education in countries of the Newly Independent States should consult a separate request for proposals that will be announced by the Office of Academic Programs for the N.I.S. College and University Partnerships Program. For information about this program, contact the Office of Academic Programs; Advising, Teaching, and Specialized Programs Division (NISCUPP), (E/ASU), Room 349, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547, phone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433.]

(5) *North Africa, Near East, and South Asia:* The following countries are eligible for bilateral affiliations; in addition; trilateral proposals by U.S. colleges or universities for collaboration with counterpart institutions in two countries *within* any one of the following three *subregions* are eligible but not required. (Not every country in every subregion is eligible. *Cross-subregional* trilateral affiliations are ineligible.) Any eligible theme for discipline may be proposed for any country. Applicants are invited to contact USIS posts in the early stages of proposal development, especially in cases where the U.S. institution lacks recent experience in the region.

Gulf: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen;

Near East/North Africa: Israel, Gaza, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon (proposals for linkages with Lebanese institutions that include distance education and/or Internet to facilitate two-way communication are encouraged), Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt;

South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

(6) *Western Europe and Canada:*

Turkey is eligible only for projects in the Rule of Law or Civic Education that hold potential for developing and strengthening democratic institutions;

United Kingdom (only Northern Ireland is eligible).

In addition, projects are solicited for the following trilateral configurations:

U.S./Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland Partnerships: United Kingdom (only Northern Ireland) is eligible for trilateral affiliations with the United States and the Republic of Ireland for projects in Cross-Cultural Communications or Conflict Resolution only.

North American Trilateral Exchanges. Projects linking U.S., Canadian, and Mexican institutions are eligible for trilateral affiliations in Teaching Methodology, Business, Public Administration, Trade, Economics, and Environmental Studies.

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Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: August 13, 1998.

James D. Whitten,

Acting Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Program Title: Multi-Regional and Regional Projects for International Visitors; Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Office of International Visitors (IV) of the United States Information Agency's (USIA) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for assistance awards. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may submit proposals to develop one or more groups (three projects per group) of thematically linked projects for Multi-

Regional and Regional Groups of International Visitors traveling in the United States for period of 21 to 30 days. Groups will be comprised of from 12 to 30 American Embassy contacts in the fields of economics, trade, the judiciary, and journalism.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on the due date indicated for submission of proposals for each project series described below. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on the proposal due date but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the due date which has been established for each available project series.

Program Information: USIA seeks proposals from non-profit organizations for development and implementation of four sets of three professional programs for USIA-sponsored International Visitor participants. A separate proposal is required for each project. Each series will be focussed on a broad substantive theme. Interested organizations should submit one proposal for each set of linked projects, but within the "Narrative" and "Detailed Budget" sections (Tabs C and D on the Proposal Submission Checklist found at the end of the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI)) applicant should treat each of the three projects individually with a separate detailed project proposal and budget.

More detailed descriptions of the MRPs and RPs will be included in the Solicitation Package under "Preliminary Project Summaries." Participants in the projects will be foreign leaders or potential leaders selected by U.S. embassy committees abroad. Each group will typically consist of from 12 to 30 foreign visitors in addition to the two to three American English language escort officers (ELEOs) or foreign language Escort Interpreters (E/T's) selected by USIA, who accompany them. Most projects will be 21 to 30 days in length. Most projects will begin in Washington, DC, with an orientation and overview of the issues and a central examination of federal policies regarding these issues. Well-paced project itineraries include programs in four or five communities. Project itineraries will ideally include urban and rural small communities and diverse geographical and cultural regions of the U.S., as appropriate to the project theme. Projects should provide opportunities for participants to experience the diversity of American society and culture. Depending on the size and theme of the project, the