

other sponsors of education and training programs. Ability to operate advising centers and a Regional Educational Advising Consultancy in each of the aforementioned locations as of the starting date of the grant. This includes demonstration of ability to acquire any and all legal documentation permitting the organization to function in countries mentioned above by the starting date of the grant.

**7. Support of Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (selection of participants, program venue and program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

#### Authorization

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." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

#### Announcement Title and Number

All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/ASA-96-06.

#### Deadline for Proposals

All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, October 16, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked October 16, 1995 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Grants should begin no earlier than January 1, 1996 and end no later than December 31, 1996.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Advising and Student Services Branch,

E/ASA, Room 349, Office of Academic Programs, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone 202-619-5434, fax 202-401-1433, e-mail advise@usia.gov. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the program office and confirm understanding of the terms of this Request for Proposals before requesting a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please specify USIA Program Officer Amy Forest on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Advising and Student Services Branch or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Advising and Student Services Branch 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 ten copies of the complete application, plus one extra copy of the cover sheet, should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASA-96-06, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, 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 USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get overseas posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

#### Diversity Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs 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 overall proposal.

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

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about December 11, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: August 18, 1995.

#### Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95-21217 Filed 8-30-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

#### Winter Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature

**ACTION:** Notice—Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Branch of the Study of the U.S. of 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 for the Winter Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop a six-week graduate-level program designed for a group of 18 foreign university educators from around the world, in order to deepen their understanding of the United States and to give them further grounding in the field of American literature so that curricula and courses in foreign universities will benefit.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of colleges and universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in the discipline of American Studies and/or American Literature and the related

subdiscipline, and can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. Applicant institutions *must have a minimum of four years' experience in conducting international exchange programs*. The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree in American Studies or American Literature. Staff escorts traveling under the USIA cooperative agreement support must be U.S. citizens with demonstrated qualifications for this service.

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." Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

**ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER:** All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS-96-01.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:** All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington DC time on Tuesday, October 10, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked October 10, 1995 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline. The actual program will begin on January 13, 1996 and last until February 24, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request a Solicitation Package, which includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget, applicants should contact: U.S. Information Agency, Office of Academic Programs, Branch of the Study of the United States, E/AAS, Room 256, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Attn: Program Officer Ilaya Rome;

telephone number (202) 619-4557; fax number (202) 619-6790; internet address [irome@usia.gov](mailto:irome@usia.gov). Please specify USIA Program Officer on all inquiries and correspondence. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the office listed above or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, USIA staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until after the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Applicants must read and follow all instructions given in the RFP and the complete Solicitation Package. Proposals must be structured in accordance with these instructions. The original and 12 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-96-01, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

**DIVERSITY GUIDELINES:** Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character, and should be balanced and representative of the diversity and broad range of responsible views present in 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.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Overview**

The Winter Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature is intended to provide foreign university teachers of American studies and/or American literature with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the U.S., especially its society and culture, through an in-depth examination of American literature. This will be accomplished through a six-week residency at a college or university campus in the United States (and an optional study tour segment), where participants are involved in a specially-designed program of lectures, presentations, discussions, and research opportunities focusing on American studies and American literature. The equivalent of one day a week should be

available to participants to pursue individual research interests in American literature, curriculum development projects, or to do assigned readings. The Winter Institute should provide access to leading American scholars and research resources (libraries, archives, databases, etc.). Participants should be paired with faculty mentors. An essential element of the Institute is the exposure to and accumulation of scholarly materials, primary texts and supplementary works, curricular materials and teaching ideas (including Internet and computer resources training). The Winter Institute must provide participants with such materials to take back to their home countries which will be used to contribute to the development of new courses and programs and the modification of existing ones that draw from American Studies and American literature.

##### **Institute Objectives**

- to conduct an intensive, academically stimulating program that presents a multi-dimensional view of the United States, using American literature as the focus;
- to draw from a variety of academic disciplines to enhance the program design in such a way as to deepen participants' understanding of the complexity of U.S. society, culture and institutions, in both a historical and contemporary sense;
- and, to enhance teaching about the U.S., and of American literature in particular, in foreign universities by making appropriate scholarly resources, pedagogical materials, and ideas available to participants.

##### **Guidelines**

The institute should be specifically designed for experienced foreign university-level teachers and should not duplicate courses designed for American graduate-degree candidates. Although it is important that the topics and readings of the institute be clearly organized, the institute should not simply replicate a lecture course or a graduate seminar. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and faculty presentations, it should facilitate the development of a collegial atmosphere in which institute faculty and participants discuss relevant concepts, issues and texts in American studies and American literature. Themes and issues prevalent in the U.S. that have relevance to other societies contribute to the mutual understanding facilitated through this type of program. Please keep in mind that pluralism and issues reflecting the diversity of the

United States are important to the Agency, and their incorporation into the proposal submission will make it more competitive.

At the outset, the program should review the recent history and current status of American literature as an academic discipline, surveying major schools of interpretation and examining the current debates within American literature and literary studies generally. The program should also explore how American literature has informed and been informed by the interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of the U.S. represented by the field of American Studies.

While the structure of the institute is entirely the responsibility of the organizers, a thematic approach would help to focus the main body of the program, American Literature, an enormously heterogeneous field. The best proposals will express a high level of thematic articulation in addition to demonstrating clearly the means by which these themes will be concretely communicated to participants for discussion and reflection. It is extremely important for the institute organizers to devise a way to integrate all aspects of the program, from the assigned reading, to lectures, discussions, and field trips. Throughout the program there should be exposure to the many facets of the United States, such as history, society, demographics, and institutions (political, cultural, educational, media). Readings should serve as examples to illustrate broader themes in American civilization. There should be a balanced mix of traditional and contemporary approaches. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for further elaboration of the thematic approach.

#### **Other Guidelines to Consider**

The institute program should ideally bring in outside presenters (representatives from academia, community organizations, media, government) in addition to the core faculty of the host institution. Presenters must be fully briefed about the institute, its goals, general themes, readings, and especially the background and needs of the participants themselves. Information about presenters and how they will be utilized should be included in the proposal submission.

A residential program of a minimum of four weeks on a college/university campus is mandatory. A minimum of two to three days in Washington, D.C. should also be included in the program. This should include a half-day session at the United States Information Agency. If a study tour is arranged in addition to the residential and

Washington, DC segment, it must be directly supportive of the academic program content. Day trips to various locations (historical sites, classrooms, community centers) are also encouraged if such trips will further enhance understanding and enrich the participants' experience. The selected grantee organization will be asked to consult closely with USIA in the planning of the Washington itinerary.

Details of the academic and tour programs may be modified in consultation with USIA's Branch for the Study of the U.S. following the grant award.

The selected grant organization will be responsible for most arrangements associated with this program. This includes the organization of a coherent progression of activities, arrangement of all domestic travel, lodging, subsistence, and ground transportation for participants, orientation and briefing of participants, preparation of any necessary support materials (including a pre-program mailing to participants), and working with program presenters to achieve maximum program effectiveness. Participants will be nominated by U.S. Information Service posts abroad, and selected by the staff of USIA's Branch of the Study of the U.S. in Washington, DC. USIA will cover all international travel costs directly.

#### **Participants**

The majority of participants selected will be university teachers, administrators, department chairs, curriculum developers and textbook writers who are interested in using American literature as a means to further the understanding of the U.S. in their countries. Nominees will demonstrate a willingness and ability to use American literature and other topics of the institute in their teaching and professional work. Candidates from the Southern Hemisphere will be given the highest priority, in order to accommodate their reverse academic calendar.

#### **Additional Information**

Confirmation letters from U.S. co-sponsors noting their intention to participate in the program will enhance a proposal. Proposals incorporating participant/observer site visits will be more competitive if letters committing prospective host institutions to support these efforts are provided.

#### **Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements**

Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations. Visas will be issued by USIS posts abroad. USIA insurance will

be provided to all participants, unless otherwise indicated in the proposal submission. Grantee organization will be responsible for enrolling Winter Institute participants in the chosen insurance plan. Please indicate in the proposal if host institutions have any special tax withholding requirements on participant or staff escort stipends or allowances.

#### **Proposed Budget**

Budget award may not exceed \$160,000. Administrative costs should be as low as possible and should not exceed \$47,000. The U.S. recipient should try to maximize cost-sharing in all facets of the program and to stimulate U.S. private sector (foundation and corporate) support. Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. For better understanding or further clarification, applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity in order to facilitate USIA decisions on funding. Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions for the Winter Institute.

#### **Review Process**

The USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will also be reviewed by the Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Area Offices and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA grants officer.

#### **Review Criteria**

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered, and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Overall quality.
  - A. The content, significance, definition, organization and academic rigor of the proposed program (including the follow-on tour, if

selected) and its appropriateness to program objectives.

B. Evidence of careful planning.

C. The program should be representative of current expert knowledge in the field, and should be consistent with the requirements of the Bureau's legislative charter, meeting the highest professional qualitative standards of achievement.

2. Institutional capacity and adequacy of proposed resources.

Faculty, library and other research and scholarly resources, housing, transportation, meal facilities, access to media resources, and other institutional support should be adequate, accessible, and appropriate, and should promote a collegial setting.

3. Support of Diversity.

Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration (program venue, program evaluation) and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

4. Experience.

Experience of professionals and staff assigned to the program with foreign educators; institution's track record with international exchange programs.

5. Evaluation and follow-up.

A. Adequacy of plans for evaluation during and after the institute by the grantee institution.

B. Adequacy of provisions made for "multiplier effect," i.e., future follow-up and networking between grantees and the host institution or other appropriate U.S. scholars or scholarly organizations.

6. Administration and Management. Evidence of strong on-site administrative and managerial capabilities (with specific discussion of how managerial and logistical arrangements will be undertaken).

7. Resources. Availability of local and state resources for the orientation, academic program segment, and follow-on tour.

8. Cost effectiveness. The overhead and administrative components of grants, as well as salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. In-kind contributions and cost-sharing should be maximized.

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

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about December 1, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: August 22, 1995.

#### Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 95-21291 Filed 8-30-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Information Collections Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposals for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

**OMB Number:** 2900-0013

**Title and Form Number:** Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes, VA Form 2008.

**Type of Information Collection:**

Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

**Needs and Uses:** The form is used by the public to obtain a burial flag for a deceased veteran.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households—State, Local or Tribal Government.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 125,000 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 15 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** One time.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 500,000 respondents.

**OMB Number:** 2900-0059

**Title and Form Number:** Statement of Person Claiming to Have Stood in Relation of Parent, VA Form 21-524.

**Type of Information Collection:**

Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Needs and Uses:** The form is used to secure information about the relationship of a claimant to the veteran in claims for Pension Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 4,000 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 2 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 2,000 respondents.

**OMB Number:** 2900-0077

**Title and Form Number:** Court-Appointed Fiduciary's Account, VA Form 27-4706c.

**Type of Information Collection:**

Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Needs and Uses:** The form is used to provide the court appointed fiduciary of a VA beneficiary an acceptable format for providing accountings to the appointing court. The information is used to determine whether VA benefits have been properly managed.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households—State, Local or Tribal Government

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 10,633 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 30 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 5,616 respondents.

**OMB Number:** 2900-0107

**Title and Form Number:** Certificate as to Securities, VA Form 27-4709.

**Type of Information Collection:**

Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Needs and Uses:** The form is used to verify the existence of savings bonds or other securities listed as assets on an accounting required by State or Federal law or regulation.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households—Business or other for-profit—Not-for-profit institutions—State, Local or Tribal Government

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 2,450 hours (2,100 annual reporting hours and 350 annual recordkeeping hours).

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 13 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 4,316 respondents.

**OMB Number:** 2900-0115

**Title and Form Number:** Supporting Statement Regarding Marriage, VA Form 21-4171.