Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 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 as 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.

Announcements Name and Number: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AAS–96–02.

Deadline for Proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, January 29, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked January 29, 1996 but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposal submissions arrive by the deadline. Tentative program dates are June 29 to August 9, 1996. Participants will likely be booked to arrive in the U.S. on or about June 28, and depart on August 10, 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 Richard Taylor; telephone number (202) 619-4557; fax number (202) 619-6790; internet address rtaylor@usia.gov. Please specify USIA Program Officer Richard Taylor 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.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet: The Solicitation Package may be downloaded form USIA's website at http://www.usia.gov, or from the Internet Gopher at gopher.usia.gov, under "New RFPs on Educational and Cultural Exchanges."

Submissions: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the RFP and the complete Solicitation Package. The original and 14 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-96-02, 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 Summer Institute for the Study of the U.S.: Focus on American Literature is intended to provide foreign university teachers of American literature and/or American studies with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the U.S., especially its society, culture, values and institutions, past and present, through an in-depth examination of American literature. It is intended to encourage and support their efforts to improve the quality of teaching and curricular materials about the United States at universities abroad.

The program should be six weeks in length, including a residency segment at a U.S. college or university campus (a minimum of four weeks in length), and a study tour segment (a maximum of two weeks in length, including visits to one or two other regions of the U.S.). If desired, and if and only if it is supportive of the academic program content, the program can conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C. (including a program debriefing at USIA).

The program should offer participants a specially-designed series of lectures, presentations, discussions, and site visits, each related to a central program theme in American studies and/or American literature.

Institute Objectives

- —To present an intensive, academically stimulating program that presents a multi-dimensional view of the United States, using American literature as the main vehicle, through an integrated series of lectures, readings, interactive discussions, research and independent study opportunities, and site visits.
- —To deepen participants' understanding U.S. society, culture, values 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.
 Participants should return home with an ability to communicate a deeper and more informed view of the U.S. to students and colleagues.

Participants

The program should be designed for a total of 18 highly-motivated foreign university educators, including 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 home institutions and countries. They will have demonstrated a willingness and ability to include American literature and aspects of American civilization in their teaching and professional work.

Participants will be drawn from all regions of the world, and will be fluent in the English language.

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 United States in Washington, D.C. USIA will cover all international travel costs directly.

Guidelines

The conception and structure of the institute program is entirely the responsibility of the organizers. However, as the possibilities are quite numerous for the design of a program focusing on aspects of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions, as seen through literature, an overarching institute theme should be chosen to