

and to give participants further grounding in American studies, so that textbooks, curricular materials, and course sin foreign universities will benefit.

USIA is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, consortia of college sand universities, and other not-for-profit academic organizations that have an established reputation in American studies and related sub-disciplines, and that can demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate-level programs for foreign educators. *Applicant institutions must have a minimum of four years of 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 a related discipline. 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, 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 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-96-08.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received the U.S. Information Agency by 5:00 p.m. Washington D.C. time on Friday, February 9, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked February 9, 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 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., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, Attn: Program Officer Ilaya Rome; telephone number (202) 619-4557; fax number (202) 619-6790; internet address irome@usia.gov. Please specify USIA Program Officer Ilaya Rome 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 from 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 13 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AAS-96-08, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, S.w., Washington, D.C. 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 Study of the U.S. Summer Institute:

Focus on U.S. Society is intended to provide foreign university teachers of social studies and/or American studies with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the U.S., especially its society, culture, and values, past and present, through an in-depth examination of key social institutions. It is intended to encourage and support participants' 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 at least one but no more than two other regions of the U.S.). The program should offer participants a specially-designed series of lectures, presentations, discussions, and site visits, each related to the central program theme.

Institute Objectives

- To conduct an intensive, academically rigorous program that presents an in-depth view of the evolution and current role of key U.S. social institutions;
- To offer a multi-dimensional view of contemporary U.S. society that will enable participants to better understand the nature of American social structure, social change, and cultural values; and
- To enhance teaching about the United States 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 better informed and more thoughtful picture of the U.S. to students and colleagues, thus contributing to broad-based foundation that supports future study, research, and teaching about the United States.

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 have expressed interest in enhancing the understanding of the U.S. in their home countries and institutions. Participants will be experienced in fields of social sciences and in the teaching of courses where there is significant U.S. content involved. 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