

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 specific program cited above is provided through the Near and Middle East Research and Training Act (Pub. L. 102-138 Section 228 as amended by Pub. L. 103-236 Section 233).

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.

For the purpose of this program, the geographic area refers to the region consisting of countries and peoples covered by the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the U.S. Department of State as of October 1991, and Turkey.

Current eligible locales for overseas research are: Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Funding of proposals for the above places is subject to official security and/or travel restrictions.

NMERTA grantees are not eligible for USIA's health and accident insurance coverage. Grantees are required to provide proof of insurance to the grant-making organizations before fellowship funds can be released. Health and accident, MEDEVAC and repatriation insurance is recommended.

**ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER:** All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/AEN-95-01.

**DATES:** Deadline for proposals: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Friday, April 7, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked April 7, 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 September 1, 1995, and no later than October 1, 1995, and end no later than 24 months thereafter.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Qualified U.S. organizations should write, call, fax or e-mail John Sedlins or Janice Daniel to request a Solicitation Package. The following are our various

contact points: North Africa, Middle East and South Asia Branch, E/AEN, Room 212, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone number (202) 619-5368, fax number (202) 205-2466, internet address JSEDLINS@USIA.GOV or JDANIEL@USIA.GOV. The Solicitation Package includes more detailed award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal's budget. Please specify USIA Senior Program Officer John Sedlins on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the North Africa, Middle East and South Asia Branch or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Branch may not disclose this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and nine copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/AEN-95-01, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants are also encouraged to submit a copy of their proposal on a 3½ inch, ASCII-formatted diskette. A brief cover letter should accompany the diskette indicating the software used in preparing the proposal.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 broadcast sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

**Overview:** Pursuant to the Agency's authorizing legislation, (the Fulbright-Hays Act, Public Law 87-256), programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social and cultural life.

Support is offered for two categories. Organizations may address one or both categories, but must submit a separate proposal for each category. Special emphasis will be given to the social sciences and humanities.

**Category A—Pre-doctoral students.** Organizations that are awarded funding shall solicit and receive applications from U.S.-citizen, graduate students nationwide who seek to conduct overseas study and research in the eligible locales listed above. Eligible fields of study and research shall be open to students of all disciplines with a new or established interest in topics requiring study or research in the geographic area(s). Eligibility shall be restricted to applicants who have a baccalaureate degree and who are already enrolled in graduate-level academic programs.

**Category B—Postdoctoral scholars.** Organizations that are awarded funding shall solicit and receive applications from U.S.-citizen, postdoctoral scholars nationwide who seek to conduct overseas study and research in the eligible locales listed above. Eligible fields of study and research shall be open to scholars of all disciplines with a new or established interest in topics requiring study or research in the geographic area(s). Eligibility shall be restricted to applicants who have a Ph.D. and who have postdoctoral college or university teaching experience.

**Guidelines:** In preparing a proposal, organizations should address the subjects of program design and scheduling, as well as program administration. At a minimum, a successful proposal should clearly cover publicity, selection process, orientation for participants, and logistical and scheduling measures. A basic plan for post-program follow-up and evaluation should also be included. The proposal must be typewritten and double-spaced and may not exceed twenty (20) pages, including budget attachments.

**Proposed budget:** Applicants must submit a comprehensive, line-item budget for the entire program, the details and format of which are contained in the application packet.

Awards will not exceed \$350,000. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

There must be a summary budget as well as a break-down reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. The budget should list all sources of support for the program including both cash and in-kind contributions. 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.