# [***81 FR 39253***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5K1B-W7C0-006W-804V-00000-00&context=)

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Notices

**Reporter**

81 FR 39253 \*

***Federal Register* > *2016* > *June* > *Thursday, June 16, 2016* > *Notices* > *DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -- Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)***

**Title:** **Applications for New Awards; Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program**

**Action:**  Notice.

**Agency**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION > Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

**Synopsis**

*Overview Information:*

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program.

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2016.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.021A.

*Dates:*

*Applications Available:* June 16, 2016.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* August 1, 2016.

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purpose of the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program is to promote, improve, and develop modern foreign languages and area studies at varying levels of education. The program provides opportunities for faculty, teachers, and undergraduate and graduate students to conduct individual and group projects overseas to carry out research and study in the fields of modern foreign languages and area studies. This ***competition*** will support both Fulbright-Hays GPA short-term projects (GPA short-term projects) and Fulbright-Hays GPA long-term projects (GPA long-term projects).

There are three types of GPA short-term projects: (1) Short-term seminar projects of four to six weeks in length designed to increase the linguistic or cultural ***competency*** of U.S. students and educators by focusing on a particular aspect of area study, such as the culture of an area or country of study ([*34 CFR 664.11*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-048X-00000-00&context=)); (2) curriculum development projects of four to eight weeks in length that provide participants an opportunity to acquire resource materials for curriculum development in modern foreign language and area studies for use and dissemination in the United States ([*34 CFR 664.12*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-048Y-00000-00&context=)); and (3) group research or study projects of three to twelve months in duration designed to give participants the opportunity to undertake research or study in a foreign country ([*34 CFR 664.13*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-0490-00000-00&context=)).

GPA long-term projects are advanced overseas intensive language projects that may be carried out during a full year, an academic year, a semester, a trimester, a quarter, or a summer. GPA long-term projects are designed to take advantage of the opportunities in the foreign country that are not present in the United States when providing intensive advanced foreign language training. Only participants who have successfully completed at least two academic years of training in the language to be studied are eligible for language training under this program. In addition, the language to be studied must be indigenous to the host country and maximum use must be made of local institutions and personnel ([*34 CFR 664.14*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-0491-00000-00&context=)).

Applicants may submit only one application under this notice and must identify whether they are applying for a short-term project or a long-term project.

*Priorities:* This notice contains one absolute priority and four ***competitive*** preference priorities. In accordance with [*34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPB0-008H-02BK-00000-00&context=), the absolute priority is from the ***regulations*** for this program ([*34 CFR 664.32*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-0492-00000-00&context=)). ***Competitive*** Preference Priorities 1 and 2 are from the notice of final priorities and definitions (NFP) published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** . ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 3 is from the ***regulations*** for this program ([*34 CFR 664.32*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-0492-00000-00&context=)), and ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 4 is from the notice of final priorities published in the **Federal Register** on September 24, 2010 [*(75 FR 59050).*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5138-DJB0-006W-83JW-00000-00&context=)

*Absolute Priority:* For FY 2016 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this ***competition***, this priority is an absolute priority. Under [*34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPB0-008H-02BK-00000-00&context=), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

*Specific Geographic Regions of the World.*

A group project that focuses on one or more of the following geographic regions of the world: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere (Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean), Eastern and Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Near East.

***Competitive*** *Preference Priorities:* For FY 2016 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this ***competition***, these priorities are ***competitive*** preference priorities.

Under [*34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPB0-008H-02BK-00000-00&context=), we award three additional points to an application that meets ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 1; three additional points to an application that meets ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 2; one additional point to an application that meets ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 3; and up to an additional three points to an application, depending on how well the application meets ***Competitive*** Preference Priority 4. Applicants for short-term projects may address ***competitive*** preference priorities 1, 3, and 4. Applicants for long-term projects may address ***competitive*** preference priorities 2, 3, and 4. An applicant must identify the priority or priorities that it believes it meets and provide documentation supporting its claims.

These priorities are:

***Competitive*** *Preference Priority 1: Applications for GPA Short-term Projects from Selected Institutions and Organizations* (3 Points).

Applications for GPA short-term projects from the following types of institutions and organizations:

. Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)

. Community colleges

. New applicants

. State educational agencies (SEAs)

***Competitive*** *Preference Priority 2: Applications for GPA Long-term Projects from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)* (3 Points).

Applications for GPA long-term advanced overseas intensive language training projects from MSIs.

***Competitive*** *Preference Priority 3: Substantive Training and Thematic Focus on Priority Languages* (1 Point).

Applications that propose GPA short-term or GPA long-term projects that provide substantive training and thematic focus on any of the 78 priority languages selected from the U.S. Department of Education's list of Less Commonly Taught Languages: Akan (Twi-Fante), Albanian, Amharic, Arabic (all dialects), Armenian, Azeri (Azerbaijani), Balochi, Bamanakan **[\*39254]** (Bamana, Bambara, Mandikan, Mandingo, Maninka, Dyula), Belarusian, Bengali (Bangla), Berber (all languages), Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cebuano (Visayan), Chechen, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Gan), Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Min), Chinese (Wu), Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Georgian, Gujarati, Hausa, Hebrew (Modern), Hindi, Igbo, Indonesian, Japanese, Javanese, Kannada, Kashmiri, Kazakh, Khmer (Cambodian), Kirghiz, Korean, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Kurdish (Sorani), Lao, Malay (Bahasa Melayu or Malaysian), Malayalam, Marathi, Mongolian, Nepali, Oromo, Panjabi, Pashto, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese (all varieties), Quechua, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala (Sinhalese), Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tajik, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tibetan, Tigrigna, Turkish, Turkmen, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uyghur/Uigur, Uzbek, Vietnamese, Wolof, Xhosa, Yoruba, and Zulu.

***Competitive*** *Preference Priority 4: Inclusion of K-12 Educators* (Up to 3 Points).

Applications that propose short-term projects abroad that develop and improve foreign language studies, area studies, or both at elementary and secondary schools by including K-12 teachers or K-12 administrators as at least 50 percent of the project participants.

*Definitions:*

The following definitions are from the NFP and are designed to provide clarity for applicants addressing the ***competitive*** preference priorities.

*Minority-serving institution (MSI)* means an institution that is eligible to receive assistance under sections 316 through 320 of part A of title III, under part B of title III, or under title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

*Community college* means an institution that meets the definition in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) ([*20 U.S.C. 1058(f)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=statutes-legislation&id=urn:contentItem:4YF7-GV01-NRF4-41XD-00000-00&context=)); or an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the HEA ([*20 U.S.C. 1001*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=statutes-legislation&id=urn:contentItem:4YF7-GSD1-NRF4-425W-00000-00&context=))) that awards degrees and certificates, more than 50 percent of which are not bachelor's degrees (or an equivalent).

*New applicant* means any applicant that has not received a discretionary grant from the Department of Education under the Fulbright-Hays Act prior to the deadline date for applications under this program.

*State educational agency (SEA)* means the State board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the supervision of public elementary and secondary schools in a State. In the absence of this officer or agency, it is an officer or agency designated by the Governor or State law.

*Program Authority:* [*22 U.S.C. 2452(b)(6)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=statutes-legislation&id=urn:contentItem:4YF7-GW91-NRF4-44PV-00000-00&context=).

*Applicable* ***Regulations****:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative ***Regulations*** (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as ***regulations*** of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as ***regulations*** of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) The ***regulations*** for this program in 34 CFR part 664. (e) The NFP. (f) The notice of final priorities for this program published in the **Federal Register** on September 24, 2010 [*(75 FR 59050).*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5138-DJB0-006W-83JW-00000-00&context=)

**Note:** The ***regulations*** in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education (IHEs) only.

**II. Award Information**

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:* $ 2,792,440.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2017 from the list of unfunded applications from this ***competition***.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

*Short-term projects:* $ 50,000-$ 100,000.

*Long-term projects:* $ 50,000-$ 250,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

*Short-term projects:* $ 80,059.

*Long-term projects:* $ 185,025.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any GPA short-term project application that proposes a budget exceeding $ 100,000 for a single project period of 18 months. We will reject any GPA long-term project application that proposes a budget exceeding $ 250,000 for a single budget period of 24 months.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 20.

*Short-term projects:* 15.

*Long-term projects:* 5.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:*

*Short-term projects:* Up to 18 months.

*Long-term projects:* Up to 24 months.

**III. Eligibility Information**

1. *Eligible Applicants:* (1) IHEs, (2) State departments of education, (3) Private nonprofit educational organizations, and (4) Consortia of these entities.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

**IV. Application and Submission Information**

1. *Address to Request Application Package:* You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address: [*www.Grants.gov*](http://www.Grants.gov). To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: [*www.EDPubs.gov*](http://www.EDPubs.gov) or at its email address: [*edpubs@inet.ed.gov*](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov)*.*

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program or ***competition*** as follows: CFDA number 84.021A.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (*e.g.,* braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) by contacting the person listed under **For Further Information Contact** in section VII of this notice.

2. *Content and Form of Application Submission:* Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

*Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the application narrative (Part III) to no more than 40 pages, using the following standards:

. A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

. Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, *except* titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions. Charts, tables, figures, and graphs in the application narrative may be single spaced and will count toward the page limit.

. Use a font that is either 12 point or larger, or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch). However, you may use a 10-point font in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

. Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier **[\*39255]** New, or Arial. An application submitted in any other font (including Times Roman and Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

. The 40-page limit does not apply to Part I, the Application for Federal Assistance face sheet (SF 424); the supplemental information form required by the Department of Education; Part II, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524); Part IV, assurances, certifications, and the response to section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA); the table of contents; the one-page project abstract; the appendices; or the line-item budget. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative (Part III). If you include any attachments or appendices not specifically requested, these items will be counted as part of the application narrative for purposes of the page-limit requirement.

We will reject your application if you exceed the page limit.

3. *Submission Dates and Times:*

*Applications Available:* June 16, 2016.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* August 1, 2016.

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the *Grants.gov* Apply site (*Grants.gov*). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to Other Submission Requirements in section IV of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under **For Further Information Contact** in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

4. *Intergovernmental Review:* This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the ***regulations*** in 34 CFR part 79.

5. *Funding Restrictions:* We specify unallowable costs in [*34 CFR 664.33*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH00-008H-0493-00000-00&context=). We reference additional ***regulations*** outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable* ***Regulations*** section of this notice.

6. *Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer Identification Number, and System for Award Management:* To do business with the Department of Education, you must--

a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);

b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the System for Award Management (SAM) (formerly the Central Contractor Registry), the Government's primary registrant database;

c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and

d. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet at the following Web site: [*http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform*](http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform)*.* A DUNS number can be created within one to two business days.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow two to five weeks for your TIN to become active.

The SAM registration process can take approximately seven business days, but may take upwards of several weeks, depending on the completeness and accuracy of the data you enter into the SAM database. Thus, if you think you might want to apply for Federal financial assistance under a program administered by the Department, please allow sufficient time to obtain and register your DUNS number and TIN. We strongly recommend that you register early.

**Note:** Once your SAM registration is active, it may be 24 to 48 hours before you can access the information in, and submit an application through, *Grants.gov*.

If you are currently registered with SAM, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your registration annually. This may take three or more business days.

Information about SAM is available at [*www.SAM.gov*](http://www.SAM.gov)*.* To further assist you with obtaining and registering your DUNS number and TIN in SAM or updating your existing SAM account, we have prepared a *SAM.gov* Tip Sheet, which you can find at: [*http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/sam-faqs.html*](http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/sam-faqs.html)*.*

In addition, if you are submitting your application via *Grants.gov*, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (2) register yourself with *Grants.gov* as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following *Grants.gov* Web page: [*www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html*](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html)*.*

7. *Other Submission Requirements:*

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications.*

Applications for grants under the Fulbright-Hays GPA Program, CFDA number 84.021A, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide *Grants.gov* Apply site at *Grants.gov*. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not email an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement *and* submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.*

You may access the electronic grant application for the Fulbright-Hays GPA Program at [*www.Grants.gov*](http://www.Grants.gov). You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (*e.g.,* search for 84.021, not 84.021A).

Please note the following:

. When you enter the *Grants.gov* site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.

. Applications received by *Grants.gov* are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted and must be date and time stamped by the *Grants.gov* system no later than 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not accept your application if it is **[\*39256]** received--that is, date and time stamped by the *Grants.gov* system--after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from *Grants.gov*, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the *Grants.gov* system after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

. The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through *Grants.gov*.

. You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through *Grants.gov* that are included in the application package for this program to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the *Grants.gov* system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to *Grants.gov* under News and Events on the Department's G5 system home page at [*www.G5.gov*](http://www.G5.gov)*.* In addition, for specific guidance and procedures for submitting an application through *Grants.gov*, please refer to the *Grants.gov* Web site at: [*www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html*](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html)*.*

. You will not receive additional point value because

you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

. You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: The Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

. You must upload any narrative sections and all other attachments to your application as files in a read-only, non-modifiable Portable Document Format (PDF). Do not upload an interactive or fillable PDF file. If you upload a file type other than a read-only, non-modifiable PDF (*e.g.,* Word, Excel, WordPerfect, etc.) or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material. Please note that this could result in your application not being considered for funding because the material in question--for example, the project narrative--is critical to a meaningful review of your proposal. For that reason, it is important to allow yourself adequate time to upload all material as PDF files. The Department will not convert material from other formats to PDF.

. Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

. After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from *Grants.gov* an automatic notification of receipt that contains a *Grants.gov* tracking number. This notification indicates receipt by *Grants.gov* only, not receipt by the Department. *Grants.gov* will also notify you automatically by email if your application met all the *Grants.gov* validation requirements or if there were any errors (such as submission of your application by someone other than a registered Authorized Organization Representative, or inclusion of an attachment with a file name that contains special characters). You will be given an opportunity to correct any errors and resubmit, but you must still meet the deadline for submission of applications.

Once your application is successfully validated by *Grants.gov*, the Department will retrieve your application from *Grants.gov* and send you an email with a unique PR/Award number for your application.

These emails do not mean that your application is without any disqualifying errors. While your application may have been successfully validated by *Grants.gov*, it must also meet the Department's application requirements as specified in this notice and in the application instructions. Disqualifying errors could include, for instance, failure to upload attachments in a read-only, non-modifiable PDF; failure to submit a required part of the application; or failure to meet applicant eligibility requirements. It is your responsibility to ensure that your submitted application has met all of the Department's requirements.

. We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

*Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System:* If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through *Grants.gov*, please contact the *Grants.gov* Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a *Grants.gov* Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the *Grants.gov* system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please contact the person listed under **For Further Information Contact** in section VII of this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with *Grants.gov*, along with the *Grants.gov* Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the *Grants.gov* system and that the problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

**Note:** The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the *Grants.gov* system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to *Grants.gov* before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the *Grants.gov* system.

*Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement:* You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the *Grants.gov* system because--

. You do not have access to the Internet; or

. You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the *Grants.gov* system;

*and*

. No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevents you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the **[\*39257]** application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement for Fulbright-Hays GPA to: Reha Mallory, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 3E213, Washington, DC 20202. FAX: (202) 453-7502.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. *Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.*

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.021A), LBJ Basement Level 1, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202-4260.

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

(1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.

(2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing

stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.

(3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.

(4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

(1) A private metered postmark.

(2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

**Note:** The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

We will not consider applications postmarked after the application deadline date.

c. *Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.*

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.021A), 550 12th Street SW., Room 7039, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

**Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:** If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the ***competition*** under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

**V. Application Review Information**

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this program are from [*34 CFR 664.31*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5RWB-NH20-008H-04WS-00000-00&context=) and are as follows: (a) Plan of operation (20 points); (b) Quality of key personnel (10 points); (c) Budget and cost effectiveness (10 points); (d) Evaluation plan (20 points); (e) Adequacy of resources (5 points); (f) Potential impact of the project on the development of the study of modern foreign languages and area studies in American education (15 points); (g) The project's relevance to the applicant's educational goals and its relationship to its program development in modern foreign languages and area studies (10 points); and (h) The extent to which direct experience abroad is necessary to achieve the project's objectives and the effectiveness with which relevant host country resources will be utilized (10 points). Additional information about these criteria is in the application package for this program.

2. *Review and Selection Process:* We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant ***competition***, the Secretary may consider, under [*34 CFR 75.217(d)(3)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPB0-008H-02GP-00000-00&context=), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a ***competitive*** grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education ([*34 CFR 100.4*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5KS0-F5W0-008H-023P-00000-00&context=), [*104.5*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5R5H-J1H0-008H-043K-00000-00&context=), [*106.4*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5KS0-F5W0-008H-024V-00000-00&context=), [*108.8*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5KS0-F600-008H-02PT-00000-00&context=), and [*110.23*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5KS0-F5W0-008H-025B-00000-00&context=)).

For FY 2016, GPA short-term project applications will be reviewed by separate panels according to world area. GPA long-term projects will be reviewed by one panel across world areas. A rank order from highest to lowest score will be developed for each of the two types of projects and will be used for funding purposes.

3. *Risk Assessment and Special Conditions:* Consistent with [*2 CFR 200.205*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5HDM-DHF0-008G-Y2NJ-00000-00&context=), before awarding grants under this ***competition*** the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under [*2 CFR 3474.10*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5F34-Y1R0-008G-Y1F9-00000-00&context=), the Secretary may impose special conditions and, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

**VI. Award Administration Information**

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may notify you informally, also.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable* ***Regulations*** section of this notice.

We reference the ***regulations*** outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable* ***Regulations*** section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this ***competition***, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the ***competition***. This does not apply if you have an exception under [*2 CFR 170.110(b)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5F2R-48P0-008G-Y31V-00000-00&context=). **[\*39258]**

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under [*34 CFR 75.118*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPC0-008H-02S7-00000-00&context=). Grantees are required to use the electronic data instrument International Resource Information System (IRIS) to complete the final report. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under [*34 CFR 75.720(c)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=administrative-codes&id=urn:contentItem:5GMB-DPC0-008H-02SK-00000-00&context=). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to [*www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html*](http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html)*.*

4. *Performance Measures:* Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the following measures will be used by the Department to evaluate the success of the GPA short-term program the percentage of GPA participants who disseminated information about or materials from their group project abroad through more than one outreach activity within six months of returning to their home institution. The long-term program, *i.e.,* advanced overseas intensive language projects, will be evaluated by the percentage participants who increased their reading, writing, and/or listening/speaking foreign language scores by one proficiency level. The efficiency is the cost per GPA participant who increased his/her foreign language score in reading, writing, and/or listening/speaking by at least one proficiency level.

The information provided by grantees in their performance reports submitted via IRIS will be the source of data for this measure. Reporting screens for institutions can be viewed at: [*http://iris.ed.gov/iris/pdfs/gpa\_director.pdf*](http://iris.ed.gov/iris/pdfs/gpa_director.pdf) and [*http://iris.ed.gov/iris/pdfs/gpa\_participant.pdf*](http://iris.ed.gov/iris/pdfs/gpa_participant.pdf)*.*

**VII. Agency Contact**

**Text**

If you use a TDD or a TTY, call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**VIII. Other Information**

*Accessible Format:* Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (*e.g.,* braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under **For Further Information Contact** in section VII of this notice.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register** . Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal ***Regulations*** is available via the Federal Digital System at: [*www.gpo.gov/fdsys*](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys)*.* At this site, you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or PDF. To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: [*www.federalregister.gov*](http://www.federalregister.gov)*.* Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: June 13, 2016.

**Lynn B. Mahaffie,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, Delegated the Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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**Contacts**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Reha Mallory, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 3E213, Washington, DC 20202. FAX: (202) 453-7502 or by email: [*reha.mallory@ed.gov*](mailto:reha.mallory@ed.gov)*.*

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