

- Russia: Proposals for partnerships with institutions located in Moscow or St. Petersburg should clearly indicate how those partnerships would have an impact on other regions. Proposals which designate a partner institution in the Russian Far East and in Tomsk are especially encouraged.
- Tajikistan: There is currently a State Department warning advising U.S. citizens of potential danger in traveling in Tajikistan. This situation may change between the time this solicitation is issued and the time that a grant is implemented. Applicants may propose plans for travel by U.S. participants to Tajikistan, but such travel will be subject to prior approval by the Department of State.
- Ukraine: Proposals which designate partner institutions outside Kiev are encouraged;
- Uzbekistan.

Partnerships including a secondary foreign partner in a country not included in the above list are eligible; however, with the exception noted below under the heading "Central and Eastern European Partners," the Bureau will not cover the costs of overseas partners in countries that are not listed as eligible in this section.

Central and Eastern European Secondary Partners: The Bureau encourages proposals that promote regional cooperation between Central European and Eurasian countries and that build upon collaboration between U.S. institutions and their existing partners in Central and Eastern Europe. Funds may be budgeted for the exchange of faculty between foreign partner institutions and institutions of higher learning in Central and Eastern Europe (applicants planning to submit proposals for trilateral partnerships with a partner from Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to contact the program office).

Eligible Fields

The following fields are eligible if proposed projects in these fields will support democratic systems and market economies in the eligible countries:

- The social, political, and economic sciences;
- Business, accounting and trade;
- Journalism and media studies;
- Law;
- Public administration and public policy analysis;
- Library science;
- Education, continuing education, and educational administration, including Teaching English as a Foreign Language (please note, projects

focusing on the Teaching English as a Foreign Language are not encouraged for Russia or Moldova).

U.S. Institution and Participant Eligibility

The lead institution and grant recipient in the project must be an accredited U.S. college or university. Applications from community colleges, institutions serving significant minority populations, undergraduate liberal arts colleges, comprehensive universities, research universities, and combinations of the above are eligible. The lead U.S. organization in a consortium or other combination of cooperating institutions is responsible for submitting the application. Each application must document the lead organization's authority to represent all U.S. cooperating partners. Secondary U.S. partners may include governmental or non-governmental organizations at the federal, state, or local levels as well as non-profit service, community, and professional organizations.

With the exception of translators and outside evaluators, participation is limited to teachers, advanced graduate students, and administrators from the participating U.S. institution(s). Advanced graduate students at the U.S. institution(s) are eligible for support from the project as visiting instructors at a foreign partner institution. Applicants planning to submit proposals with advanced graduate students as participants are encouraged to contact the program office to discuss the rationale for these visits.

Foreign Institution and Participant Eligibility

In eligible countries, participation as a primary partner is open to recognized institutions of post-secondary education. Secondary partners may include independent research institutes, relevant governmental organizations, and private non-profit organizations with project-related educational objectives. Except for translators and outside consultants reporting on the status of project objectives, participation is limited to teachers, administrators, researchers, or advanced students from the participating foreign institution(s). Any advanced student participant must have teaching responsibilities or be preparing for such responsibilities. Foreign participants must be both qualified to receive U.S. J-1 visas and willing to travel to the U.S. under the provisions of a J-1 visa during the exchange visits funded by this Program. Foreign participants may not be U.S. citizens. If proposed participants are alumni of previous partnership projects

or other U.S. government funded programs, the proposal should discuss why their participation in this new program is important to the overall success of the project.

Ineligibility

A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible for consideration if:

- (1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established in this document and in the Solicitation Package;
- (2) It is not received by the deadline;
- (3) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;
- (4) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;
- (5) The foreign country or geographic location is ineligible.

Projects must conform with the Bureau's requirements and guidelines outlined in the solicitation package for this RFGP. Proposals that do not follow RFGP requirements and the guidelines appearing in the POGI and PSI will be excluded from consideration due to technical ineligibility.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number ECA/A/S/U-04-01.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact the Humphrey Fellowships and Institutional Linkages Branch (Freedom Support Educational Partnerships Program with Eurasia); Office of Global Educational Programs; Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; ECA/A/S/U, Room 349; U.S. Department of State; SA-44, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547; phone: (202) 619-5289, fax: (202) 401-1433.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to communicate about their proposals with one of the following regional program officers: Jonathan Cebra (telephone: (202) 205-8379, e-mail: jcebra@pd.state.gov) on all inquiries and correspondence regarding partnerships in the Central Asia or Caucasus regions; Michelle Johnson (telephone: (202) 205-8434, e-mail: johnsonmi@pd.state.gov) on all inquiries and correspondence regarding partnerships with institutions in Russia; Paul Schelp (telephone: (202) 205-8266, e-mail: pschelp@pd.state.gov) on all inquiries and correspondence regarding partnerships with institutions in Belarus, Ukraine, or Moldova.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition