

part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

#### Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: July 3, 2003.

**C. Miller Crouch,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### [Public Notice 4396]

#### **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Resolution Program**

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Academic Exchange Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Resolution Program. Public and private accredited, post-secondary educational institutions meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to develop and implement a U.S.-based graduate level academic program in conflict resolution for up to 15 participants from the Middle East and North Africa.

#### **Program Information**

##### *Overview*

The Bureau created the Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Resolution Program in 2000 to enhance non-governmental efforts to resolve political, social and sectarian conflicts within the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia.

The program is intended to provide participants with the analytical tools and practical skills necessary to transform diverse problems into viable solutions in order to foster sustainable peacebuilding efforts. The Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Resolution Program operates through a merit-based, open competition that selects talented individuals early in their professional careers who are engaged in the political, economic, social, and/or educational

transformation of conflicts in their communities.

The Bureau's Office of Academic Exchange Programs administers the Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Resolution Program with the assistance of cooperating agencies. The Office of Academic Exchange Programs is responsible for allocation of funding, policy guidance and administrative oversight. Applicants for the scholarships are recruited, screened, and nominated by Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright binational commissions. The cooperating agencies are responsible for program administration activities, including providing services in the following broad categories: Program planning and management; J-visa sponsorship and tracking; supervision and support services; special programs management; and reporting and evaluation.

The Bureau is seeking detailed proposals from colleges, universities, and consortia of colleges and universities that have an established reputation in the field of conflict transformation, conflict management, or conflict resolution. The lead institution in a consortium must have an accredited U.S. college or university and is responsible for submitting the grant proposal. Each proposal must document the lead institution's authority to represent all cooperating partners.

The proposed program should offer participants a choice between a non-degree, graduate certificate or master's degree; provide a substantive practical training component; and capstone experience. Participants should be well integrated into the campus community and academic program.

Applicant institutions must demonstrate expertise in conducting graduate programs for foreign students, and must have a minimum of four years experience in conducting international exchange programs. Bureau guidelines stipulate that awards to organizations with less than four years experience in conducting international exchanges are limited to \$60,000. As it is expected that the budget for this program will exceed \$60,000, organizations that cannot demonstrate at least four years experience will not be eligible under this competition.

The project director or one of the key program staff responsible for the academic program must have an advanced degree related to an area of conflict resolution. Programs must conform with Bureau requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. Bureau programs are subject to the availability of funds.

#### *Guidelines*

Pending availability of fiscal year 2004 funding, program activities should take place during period from August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2006. Participants will be recruited from the Middle East and North Africa and will be expected to begin their program in Fall 2004. The projected number of program participants is up to 15. The total Bureau budget for this program should not exceed \$500,000.

The duration of an individual scholarship under the Fulbright Foreign Student Conflict Program should not exceed two years. Participants are expected to return to their home country upon completion of this program. Where there are compelling circumstances, at the discretion of the project director and the Bureau's program officer, students may receive a limited extension to complete their degrees. Summer periods may be used for a mix of academic professional and cultural enrichment activities.

Pending the successful administration of this program, and the availability of funds, the Bureau reserves the right to renew this grant in fiscal year 2005 to conduct a similar program for a group of up to 15 program participants from South Asia.

#### *Requirements and Implementation*

The proposal should respond to, and describe, the following major requirements:

##### **A. Academic Program**

The academic component should provide participants with a choice between a non-degree graduate certificate and master's degree in the field of conflict transformation, conflict management, or conflict resolution. The academic program should give participants a multidimensional view of applied conflict resolution in addition to the theoretical framework of sustainable peacebuilding. Participants should be enrolled full-time and considered in academic residence during the program. Proposals may also include English master's training for selected participants whose existing English skills need to be strengthened or refreshed. The academic program should not exceed 24 months in duration.

##### **B. Practical Training/Internship**

The proposal must demonstrate the applicant's ability to facilitate professional development opportunities, access to a strong internship network, and ability to place participants in internships that are germane to conflict resolution. The practical training must