

the applicant institution to see if the institution is participating in e-Application, or has requested a waiver.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karla Ver Bryck Block or Sara Starke, International Education and Graduate Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Suite 6000, Washington, DC 20006-8521. Telephone: (202) 502-7632 or via Internet: ddra@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

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Program Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2452(b)(6).

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.017A]

Office of Postsecondary Education; International Research and Studies Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Purpose of Program: The International Research and Studies Program provides grants to conduct research and studies to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and other international fields.

For FY 2004, we encourage applicants to design projects that focus on the invitational priorities in the Priorities section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals.

Applications Available: August 26, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: November 3, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$2,053,000 for International Research and Studies new awards for FY 2004. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$30,000—\$170,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$108,053 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards: 19.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Page Limit: The application narrative, section C, is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the narrative to the equivalent of no more than 30 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" × 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, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions. However, you may single space all text in charts, tables, figures and graphs. Charts, tables, figures, and graphs presented in the application narrative do 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.

The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; the one-page abstract; or the appendices. However, you must include your complete response to the selection criteria in the application narrative in section C.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 82, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99; (b) the regulations in 34 CFR part 655; and (c) the regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 660.

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

Priorities

Invitational Priorities: We are particularly interested in applications that meet the following invitational priorities.

Invitational Priority 1

Research, surveys, studies, or development of instructional materials that are nonbiased, factually accurate and solicitous of diverse views, and that serve to enhance international understanding for use at the elementary and secondary education levels, or for use in teacher education programs.

Invitational Priority 2

The development of instructional materials that are nonbiased, factually accurate and solicitous of diverse views on the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia or the languages spoken in these regions.

Invitational Priority 3

Studies assessing the outcomes and effectiveness of programs authorized under title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and related programs supported under section 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets the invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

Application Procedures: The Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-277) and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999