U.S. Department of Education

Fulbright-Hays – Faculty Research Abroad (FRA)
2024 Federal Register – Overview

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: The Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad (FRA) Fellowship Program provides grants to colleges and universities to fund fellowships for faculty members seeking to improve their area studies and foreign language skills by conducting research abroad. The program is designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the study of modern foreign languages and area studies in the United States.

ABSOLUTE PRIORITY: A research project that focuses on one or more of the following geographic areas: Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, South Asia, the Near East, Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere (excluding the United States and its territories).

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITIES: We award an additional 1 point to an application that meets Competitive Preference Priority 1; an additional 2 points to an application that meets Competitive Preference Priority 2.

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITY 1 (1 point): Focus on Less Commonly Taught Languages. A research project that focuses on any modern foreign language except French, German, or Spanish.

COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE PRIORITY 2 (2 points): Thematic Focus on Academic Fields. Applications that propose dissertation research projects in modern foreign languages and area studies with an academic focus on any of the following academic fields: science (including climate change), technology, engineering (including infrastructure studies), mathematics, computer science, education (comparative or international), international development, political science, public health (including epidemiology), or economics.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AWARDS AND AMOUNTS
Estimated Available Funds: $750,000
Estimated Range of Awards: $25,000 – $40,000
Estimated Average Size of Awards: $30,000
Estimated Number of Awards: 25

PROJECT PERIOD: The institutional project period is 18 months. Faculty may request funding for a period of no less than three months and no more than 12 months.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION: Applications are divided into 7 categories based on the world area focus of their research projects, as described in the absolute priority listed in this notice. Language and area studies experts in discrete world area-based panels will review the student applications. Each panel reviews, scores, and ranks its applications separately from the applications assigned to the other world area panels. However, all fellowship applications will be ranked together from the highest to lowest score for funding purposes.
SELECTION CRITERIA
The maximum score for all criteria, including the two competitive preference priorities, is 103 points.

QUALITY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (70 POINTS)

1. The statement of the major hypotheses to be tested or questions to be examined, and the description and justification of the research methods to be used (20 points);
2. The relationship of the research to the literature on the topic and to major theoretical issues in the field, and the project’s importance in terms of the concerns of the discipline (10 points);
3. The preliminary research already completed or plans for research prior to going overseas, and the kinds, quality and availability of data for the research in the host country or countries (10 points);
4. The justification for overseas field research, and preparations to establish appropriate and sufficient research contacts and affiliations abroad (10 points);
5. The applicant’s plans to share the results of the research in progress with scholars and officials of the host country or countries and the American scholarly community (5 points);
6. The objectives of the project regarding the sponsoring institution’s plans for developing or strengthening, or both, curricula in modern foreign languages and area studies (15 points).

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE APPLICANT (30 POINTS)

1. The overall strength of applicant’s academic record (teaching, research, contributions, professional association activities) (10 points);
2. The applicant’s excellence as a teacher or researcher, or both, in his or her area or areas of specialization (5 points);
3. The applicant’s proficiency in one or more of the languages (other than English) of the host country or countries of research (5 points);
4. The extent to which the applicant’s academic record demonstrates steps taken to further improve advanced language proficiency to overcome any anticipated language barriers relative to the proposed research project (5 points);
5. The applicant’s ability to conduct research in a foreign cultural context, as evidenced by the applicant’s previous overseas experience, or documentation provided by the sponsoring institution, or both (5 points).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, April 16, 2024