

PROJECT OBJECTIVES, GOALS, AND IMPLEMENTATION (POGI)

FY 2015 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Southeast Asia

Funding Opportunity Number: ECA-ECAAE-15-008

Study of the U.S. Branch, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The POGI guidelines apply specifically to the request for grant proposal (RFGP) issued by the **Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Study of the U.S. Branch**, for the **FY 2015 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Southeast Asia**. Proposals must conform to the solicitation letter, the Guidelines stated in this document, and the standard Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI). Applications not adhering to the conditions set forth herein may be deemed technically ineligible. These guidelines are specific to the program mentioned above and are IN ADDITION TO the Standard Guidelines outlined in the PSI. If there is a perceived disparity between the standard and program specific Guidelines and the program information supplied in the RFGP, the RFGP is to be the dominant reference.

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SECTION 1.

STATEMENT OF WORK

A. Recipient Responsibilities:

1. Designing and implementing one or two five-week academic programs in the United States for undergraduate students from selected countries from Southeast Asia (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam);
2. Coordinating logistical and administrative arrangements for participants such as pre-departure information, airport pick-up and drop-off, domestic travel, oversight of the overall program and all participants, medical treatment, and the disbursement of program funds;
3. Conducting an evaluation program that links outcomes of the project to stated program goals and objectives;
4. Managing all Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and other funds for this activity, including submitting required quarterly and final financial and program reports to ECA;
5. Informing and consulting with ECA about any program or participant problems, emergencies, or other issues as well as the progress of necessary corrective action;
6. Providing participants with follow-on guidance and resources and facilitating continued interaction among participants and U.S. students after the conclusion of the Institute(s);

B. Department of State Responsibilities:

1. Providing advice and assistance to the recipients and Institute staff;
2. Coordinating all communications with participating U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Fulbright Commissions. U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Fulbright Commissions will recruit and nominate participants. The Study of the U.S. Branch will make final selections and forward the final list of participants to the recipient institutions. The recipients will not participate in the selection of participants;
3. Issuing participant DS-2019 forms for this program and issuing the participants' J-1 visas;
4. Enrolling the participants in an accident and sickness health benefits program for the duration of the Institutes and issuing health benefits identification cards for each participant. The program office will instruct the recipients how to access informational brochures and claim forms;
5. Arranging and purchasing international round trip travel for participants and disbursing international travel allowances prior to departure to the United States;
6. Monitoring the program through regular communication with the recipients and possibly one or more site visits; and,
7. Conducting a formal debriefing session with the participants during their Washington, D.C. visit.

SECTION 2. PROGRAM SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

A. Overview

In support of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State invites proposal submissions for the design and implementation of up to nine (9) five-week Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Southeast Asia on: Civic Engagement, Environmental Issues, and Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. Applicants may submit a proposal to implement up to two institutes. Each program should be designed for groups of up to 22 students from the ten Southeast Asian countries as specified in the Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP). Proposals should present an integrated and imaginatively designed academic residency and integrated educational travel program, as well as community service activities, leadership development, cultural activities, and robust opportunities to interact with a diverse group of Americans. Each Institute should focus on one of the three themes referenced above while also illuminating the history and evolution of U.S. society, culture, and values.

All aspects of the program, including presentations and other class work, readings, writing assignments, leadership training, community service, and site visits should be integrated so as to illuminate the overall Institute theme, and contribute to the understanding of the United States. The conception and structure of the Institute programs are the responsibility of the recipients. It is essential that proposals provide a full, detailed, and comprehensive narrative describing how the applicant and/or host institutions will achieve the objectives of the Institute.

B. Program Dates

The Institutes will be five weeks in length implemented in early fall 2015 or winter 2016. Applicants should indicate in their proposal if they wish to implement the Institute(s) in the fall or winter and provide proposed dates.

C. Program Administration

Proposals should discuss the applicant's capacity to successfully manage this international exchange program, including institutional strengths such as past projects, faculty, libraries, and relevant resources. Proposals should include a staffing pattern that details how staff will share responsibilities. The recipient must designate an **academic director** to be present throughout the program to ensure the integration of all aspects of the academic program. The academic director will plan and implement the program, oversee its day-to-day management, and monitor program participants. The academic director should address the group on a regular basis in order to ensure that topics, presentations, and activities are tied together and woven into "the bigger picture."

In addition, an **administrative director** or coordinator should oversee all program support services, including budgetary, logistical, and other administrative arrangements. Other staff may be designated as appropriate. Graduate student assistants may be employed to carry out clerical duties and to assist with the day-to-day concerns and needs of participants, but should not be the principal point of contact for

participants' administrative concerns.

D. Participants and Recruitment

Each Institute will host up to 22 participants. Participants will be drawn from the ten ASEAN countries in Southeast Asia (Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam). ECA determines the participating countries, in consultation with other elements of the Department of State. ECA reserves the right to amend or modify the list of participating countries should conditions change or if other countries are identified as priorities.

The participants will be highly motivated undergraduates from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied, and may include sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Recruitment of participants will be focused on historically underserved groups and ethnic minority communities. Every effort will be made to recruit participants who are from non-elite or underprivileged backgrounds, from both rural and urban sectors, and who have had little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country. The Department of State will make every effort to select a balanced mix of male and female participants. All participants will be fluent in English.

E. Academic Residency Program

The Institute should include a four-week academic residency component. The academic residency component should be a specially designed and well-integrated seminar that imaginatively combines lectures, panels, seminar discussions, readings, debates, site visits, and regional travel into a coherent program.

Applicants must provide a comprehensive **narrative** describing the program objectives. There also should be **calendar or itinerary** of all program activities. The program description in the narrative and itinerary should be supported by a **bibliography** and a **syllabus** that indicates the subject of each class session and explains how assigned readings and other materials support the session. The readings should relate directly to the Institute theme.

The academic residency component of the program should:

- Be specially designed around one of the three themes and should contribute to a deeper understanding of the United States, while at the same time providing useful skills and concepts for future leaders. The program should not simply replicate an existing lecture course, survey, or seminar designed for American students.
- Consist of a carefully integrated series of lectures, panel presentations, seminar discussions, debates, individual and group classroom activities, and reading assignments.

- Be tailored for the particular group of foreign undergraduate students and include a discussion of relevant issues facing their countries and region. Efforts should be made to encourage active student participation in the educational process. The design of classes should take into account that the participants may have little or no prior knowledge of the United States and varying degrees of experience in expressing their opinions.
- Expose participants to a variety of presenters representing diverse backgrounds, viewpoints, and occupational fields on the topics and issues to be explored. In addition to host colleges or university faculty and professionals from the region where the Institute takes place (e.g., in government, media, religious and civic organizations), course presenters should include outstanding scholars and other professional experts from throughout the United States, as appropriate.
- Include time for discussion at each session and throughout the program to allow for questions and answers and for a collegial exchange of views among participants, presenters, and panelists.
- Include a bibliography of readings for the various program components. It should include at least one survey text or reader, as well as a number of interpretative readings directly related to the Institute themes.
- Include at least one leadership training session per week that should serve to both develop and enhance participants' leadership and collective problem-solving skills, and inspire participants to apply them. These workshops should be creative, highly interactive, and team-oriented. They should require input and contribution from all participants, and provide students with basic leadership skills. The recipient may decide to recruit qualified instructors for these sessions from other organizations.
- Include at least one hands-on volunteer activity per week with local community service organizations to provide the participants the opportunity to experience first-hand the U.S. tradition of grassroots approaches to solving community problems, as well as additional opportunities to meet and interact with diverse Americans outside an academic setting.
- Be intensive, yet leave sufficient free time for pursuing individual interests, socializing with fellow participants and U.S. students, exercising, and relaxing. The program schedule should include adequate time for reading and preparation of class assignments. Supervised cultural and weekend activities (such as group nights at the theater, concerts, sporting events, and city tours) are encouraged and should offer the students opportunities to experience the diversity of the United States, while fostering group cohesion.

F. Educational Study Tour

The educational travel program should:

- Be an integral part of the Institute that directly complements and reinforces the academic residency program.

- Be arranged and led by the academic director and principal Institute staff. All staff that will be working on this component as managers or escorts should be clearly identified in the proposal.
- Be approximately one week long, including a final three days in Washington, D.C. It should include a trip to at least one other region within the United States different from the host institution's region. The agenda for these educational visits should include an appropriate mix of professional-level meetings (local, state, and/or federal government offices, international organizations, NGOs, etc.), visits to cultural institutions, and recreational activities.
- Indicate the cities or other destinations to be visited, as well as the specific sites. Day trips or optional weekend excursions to various local and nearby locations, including historical sites, schools, churches, newspapers, etc., are encouraged. Proposals should explain how the site visits and presentations included in the educational travel program relate to the Institute's academic objectives and subject matter.

Please note: The Study of the U.S. Branch may request that the recipient modify the academic residency and/or educational travel program. Similarly, the recipient, in consultation with the Study of the U.S. Branch, may also wish to make program modifications.

G. Logistical Considerations

Housing and meal arrangements are an important dimension of program planning and must be discussed in detail in the proposal. Ideally participants will be housed in dorms or similar designated university housing. Walking distance to daily classes should be taken into account. If possible, participants should have access to kitchen facilities, either in their own rooms or in a common room. ECA recommends providing a combination of a cash allowance for food, which will allow participants to cook or eat at local restaurants, combined with a cafeteria meal plan.

During the travel program, participants may be asked to share double rooms. To the extent permitted by budget limitations, participants should receive up to the USG per diem rate for meals and incidental expenses at the various program locales. See <http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem> for current U.S. government per diem rates.

- Pre-departure materials should be available to participants via an Institute website at least five weeks before the start of the program. For participants who do not have Internet access, the recipient should make arrangements to send hard copies of these materials by express mail to the U.S. Embassy or directly to the participants, as appropriate. In addition, any relevant materials should be sent to the U.S. Embassy prior to the pre-departure orientation session at the Embassy. It is expected that during the program the website will be updated regularly to provide changes in the program schedule, readings, photos of Institute activities, and other useful information.
- An administrative orientation to the United States and to the host institution campus for the participants should address administrative details of the program, identify campus and local

resources, and provide general information that will facilitate the participants' adjustment to daily life in a new cultural environment. Important topics will be security, medical problems, and availability of foods to which participants are accustomed, or which meet specific dietary requirements.

- An academic orientation should provide participants with a concise overview of the program, including principal objectives and major themes. The academic director should also use this opportunity to discuss guidelines for class participation that encourage active participation by all class members, respect for the views of other participants, concise comments and questions that keep the students on-topic, and other ground rules that will promote effective class discussion throughout the program.
- Opening and closing events (e.g., luncheon, dinner or reception) should formally inaugurate the program, inviting interested college/university and community representatives and ECA staff. The end of the program should include a presentation of certificates of participation, remarks, and formal farewells.
- Access to resources should be arranged, including campus libraries, computer and internet facilities, local and national newspapers and periodicals, as well as radio and television. A formal orientation to library services should be conducted during the first week of the program, and computer training and technical support should be provided for those participants who require it.
- Evaluations should be conducted on a regular basis to ensure that academic, administrative, and personal problems are acted upon promptly. At the conclusion of the Institute, a formal evaluation session should permit participants to comment on all aspects of the program.

Please note: All participants will be required to return to their home countries immediately upon the conclusion of the program. Travel to visit family or friends elsewhere in the United States will NOT be permitted *before, during, or after* the program, including on unscheduled weekends during the academic residency period. Family or friends may be permitted to visit the participants while the latter are in residence at the host institution, at the discretion of the cooperating organization and in consultation with ECA, provided that such visits will not prove disruptive to the program. At no time will family or friends be permitted to accompany the participants during scheduled program activities, whether such activities are mandatory or optional. Institute staff should arrange to escort all participants to airports for their return travel, and to remain at the airport until the students have checked in and entered the security departure area.

PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Applicants should submit a complete and thorough proposal describing the program in a convincing and comprehensive manner. Since there is no opportunity for applicants to meet with reviewing officials, the proposal should respond to the criteria set forth in the solicitation and other guidelines as clearly as possible.

Proposals should address succinctly, but completely, the elements described below and must follow all format requirements.

NOTE: Proposals submitted through Grants.gov may only be submitted in the following formats:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF)
- ASCII Text
- Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG images)

Proposals should include the following items under the section headings in the GrantSolutions Application Checklist:

Online Forms

- SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance”
- SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs
- SF-424B, “Assurances - Nonconstruction Programs”
- Include other attachments, if applicable, such as indirect agreements, form 990, SF-LLL, etc.

Program Narrative

Executive Summary (One page)

In one double-spaced page, provide the following information about the project:

1. Name of organization/participating institutions
2. Beginning and ending dates of the program
3. Proposed theme
4. Nature of activity
5. Funding level requested from ECA, total program cost, total cost-sharing from applicant and other sources
6. Scope and Goals
 - a. Number and description of participants
 - b. Wider audience benefiting from program (overall impact)
 - c. Geographic diversity of program, both U.S. and overseas
 - d. Fields covered
 - e. Anticipated results (short and long-term)

Narrative

In twenty double-spaced, single-sided pages, provide a detailed description of the project addressing the areas listed below.

1. Vision (statement of need, objectives, goals, benefits)
2. Participating Organizations
3. Program Activities (orientation, academic component, cultural program,

participant monitoring, lessons learned)

4. Program Diversity
5. Program Evaluation
6. Follow-on
7. Project Management
8. Work Plan/Time Frame
 - Calendar of activities/itinerary*
 - Syllabus*
 - Bibliography*

Additional Information to be Submitted

- Detailed Budget
- Summary Budget
- Budget Narrative
- Calendar of activities/itinerary, if applicable
- Letters of endorsement
- *Monitoring and Evaluation Sample Tools (if applicable)*
- Resumes and CVs (resumes of all new staff should be included in the submission; no resume should exceed two pages.)
- First Time Applicant Attachments, if applicable. First time applicant organizations and organizations which have not received an assistance award (grant or cooperative agreement) from ECA during the past three (3) years, must submit as an attachment to this form the following: (a) documentation necessary to verify Non-Profit status; (b) one copy of their Charter OR Articles of Incorporation; (c) a list of the current Board of Directors; and (d) current financial statements. Note: ECA retains the right to ask for additional documentation of those items included on this form.

Please note: Effective January 7, 2009, all applicants for ECA federal assistance awards must include in their application the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees, regardless of amount of compensation). In fulfilling this requirement, applicants must submit information in one of the following ways:

- Those who file Internal Revenue Service Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax," must include a copy of relevant portions of this form.
- Those who do not file IRS Form 990 must submit information above in the format of their choice.

As part of final program reporting requirements, award recipients will also be required to submit a one-page document, derived from their program reports, listing and describing their grant activities. For award recipients, the names of directors and/or senior executives (current officers, trustees, and key employees), as well as the one- page description of grant activities, will be transmitted by the State Department to OMB, along with other information required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), and will be

made available to the public by the Office of Management and Budget on its USASpending.gov website as part of ECA's FFATA reporting requirements.

Application Submission

The RFGP indicates the date the complete proposal is due and the manner in which proposals must be submitted. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this deadline. For further information regarding this program or the competition, please contact Susanna Gransee at (202) 632-9434, ECA/A/E/USS; email: GranseeSM@state.gov.