

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul D. Clouse, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the committee, in writing at the Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CEIWR–NDC, 7701 Telegraph Road, Casey Building (Room H221), Alexandria, VA 22315–3868; by telephone at 202–768–3157; and by email at Paul.D.Clouse@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, contact Mr. Steven D. Riley, an Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO), in writing at the Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CEIWR–NDC, 7701 Telegraph Road, Casey Building, Alexandria, VA 22315–3868; by telephone at 703–659–3097; and by email at Steven.D.Riley@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This committee meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”), section 552b of title 5, U.S.C. (commonly known as the “Government in the Sunshine Act”), and sections 102–3.140 and 102–3.150 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Purpose of the Meeting: The Board is chartered to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Army on construction and rehabilitation project investments on the commercial navigation features of the inland waterways system of the United States. At this meeting, the Board will receive briefings and presentations regarding the investments, projects, and status of the inland waterways system of the United States and conduct discussions and deliberations on those matters. The Board is interested in written and verbal comments from the public relevant to these purposes.

Agenda: At this meeting the agenda will include an update on the Users Board Annual Report for 2023; the status of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF); Fiscal Year 2024 funding for Navigation and the 2025 President’s Budget for Navigation; Recap of the 2023 Low Water event; update on the 2025 Capital Investment Strategy; update on Demopolis Lock and Dam; updates of inland waterways modernization projects for Chickamauga Lock and the Kentucky Lock Addition on the Tennessee River, McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Three Rivers, Arkansas, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) Brazos River Floodgates and Colorado River Locks, Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) Lock 25

and LaGrange Lock, Monongahela River Locks and Dams 2, 3 and 4 Replacements, and the Upper Ohio River Montgomery Lock.

Availability of Materials for the Meeting. A copy of the agenda or any updates to the agenda for the April 11, 2024, meeting will be available. The final version will be available at the meeting. All materials will be posted to the website for the meeting.

Public Accessibility to the Meeting: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165, and subject to the availability of space, this meeting is open to the public. Registration of members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Participation is on a first-to-arrive basis. Any interested person may participate in the meeting, file written comments or statements with the committee, or make verbal comments during the public meeting, at the times, and in the manner, permitted by the committee, as set forth below.

Special Accommodations: Individuals requiring any special accommodations related to the public meeting or seeking additional information about the procedures, should contact Mr. Paul Clouse, the committee DFO, or Mr. Steven Riley, an ADFO, at the email addresses or telephone numbers listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Written Comments or Statements: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.105(j) and 102–3.140 and section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments or statements to the Board about its mission and/or the topics to be addressed in this public meeting. Written comments or statements should be submitted to Mr. Clouse, the committee DFO, or Mr. Riley, a committee ADFO, via electronic mail, the preferred mode of submission, at the addresses listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section in the following formats: Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word. The comment or statement must include the author’s name, title, affiliation, address, and daytime telephone number. Written comments or statements being submitted in response to the agenda set forth in this notice must be received by the committee DFO or ADFO at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting so that they may be made available to the Board for its consideration prior to the meeting. Written comments or statements

received after this date may not be provided to the Board until its next meeting. Please note that because the Board operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, all written comments will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection.

Verbal Comments: Members of the public will be permitted to make verbal comments during the public meeting only at the time and in the manner allowed herein. If a member of the public is interested in making a verbal comment at the open meeting, that individual must submit a request, with a brief statement of the subject matter to be addressed by the comment, at least three business (3) days in advance to the committee DFO or ADFO, via electronic mail, the preferred mode of submission, at the addresses listed in the **FOR**

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section. The committee DFO and ADFO will log each request to make a comment, in the order received, and determine whether the subject matter of each comment is relevant to the Board’s mission and/or the topics to be addressed in this public meeting. A 15-minute period near the end of the meeting will be available for verbal public comments. Members of the public who have requested to make a verbal comment and whose comments have been deemed relevant under the process described above, will be allotted no more than three (3) minutes during this period, and will be invited to speak in the order in which their requests were received by the DFO and ADFO.

Thomas P. Smith,

*Chief, Operations and Regulatory Division,
Directorate of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corp
of Engineers.*

[FR Doc. 2024–03730 Filed 2–22–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720–58–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad (FRA) Fellowship Program

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications (NIA) for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad (FRA) Fellowship Program, Assistance Listing Number 84.019A. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1840–0005.

DATES:

Applications Available: February 23, 2024.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 23, 2024.

Preapplication Webinar and

Applicant Resources: The Department will hold a preapplication meeting via webinar for prospective applicants. Detailed information regarding this webinar will be provided on the Fulbright-Hays FRA website at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsfra/applicant.html>. For additional information about the Department's discretionary grant process, please review the overview and resources at www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/about/grantmaking/index.html. The resources will be especially helpful for individuals who are exploring the Department's funding opportunities for the first time.

ADDRESSES: The addresses pertinent to this competition—including the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application—can be found under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Pamela J. Maimer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 453-6891. Email: FRA@ed.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Full Text of Announcement****I. Funding Opportunity Description**

Purpose of Program: The Fulbright-Hays 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.

Priorities: This notice contains one absolute priority and three competitive preference priorities. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), the absolute priority and Competitive Preference Priorities 1 and 2 are from the regulations for this program (34 CFR 663.21(d)). Competitive Preference Priority 3 is from the Secretary's Notice of Final Supplemental Priorities and Definitions for Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 2021 (86 FR 70612) (Supplemental Priorities).

Absolute Priority: For FY 2024, this priority is an absolute priority. Under 34

CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet this priority.

This priority is:

Specific Geographic Regions of the World.

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: For FY 2024, the following priorities are competitive preference priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), 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; and an additional 3 points to an application that meets Competitive Preference Priority 3, for a maximum of 6 additional points.

These priorities are:

Competitive Preference Priority 1—Focus on Less Commonly Taught Languages (1 point).

A research project that focuses on any modern foreign language except French, German, or Spanish.

Competitive Preference Priority 2—Thematic Focus on Academic Fields (2 points).

A research project conducted 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.

Competitive Preference Priority 3—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities (3 points).

Projects implemented by one or more of the following entities:

(1) Community colleges (as defined in this notice).

(2) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (as defined in this notice).

(3) Tribal College or University (as defined in this notice).

(4) Minority-serving institutions (as defined in this notice).

Definitions: The following definitions are from the Supplemental Priorities.

Community college means “junior or community college” as defined in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

Historically Black Colleges and Universities means colleges and

universities that meet the criteria set out in 34 CFR 608.2.

Minority-serving institution means an institution that is eligible to receive assistance under sections 316 through 320 of part A of title III, under part B of title III, or under title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA).

Tribal College or University has the meaning ascribed it in section 316(b)(3) of the HEA.

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

Note: Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Federal civil rights laws.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474. (d) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 663.21. (e) The Supplemental Priorities.

Note: The open licensing requirement in 2 CFR 3474.20 does not apply to this program.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants redistributed as fellowships to individual beneficiaries.

Estimated Available Funds: The Administration has requested \$10,311,000 for the Fulbright-Hays Overseas programs in FY 2024. We intend to use an estimated \$750,000 for the FRA competition. 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: \$25,000–\$40,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$30,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 25.

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

Project Period: The institutional project period is 18 months. Faculty may request funding for a period of no less than 3 months and no more than 12 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. a. *Eligible Applicants*: Institutions of higher education (IHEs). Eligible faculty members at the IHE submit their individual research narratives and application forms to their home IHE representative, who compiles all research narratives from faculty and incorporates them into the grant application package that the institution submits electronically through the Department's G6 system on behalf of all applicant faculty.

b. *Individuals Eligible to Receive a Fellowship*: A faculty member is eligible to receive a fellowship if the individual—is a citizen or national of the United States, or is a permanent resident of the United States; is employed by an IHE; has been engaged in teaching relevant to their foreign language or area studies specialization for the two years immediately preceding the date of the award; proposes research relevant to their modern foreign language or area studies specialization, which is not dissertation research for a doctoral degree; and possesses sufficient foreign language skills to carry out the dissertation research project.

2. a. *Cost Sharing or Matching*: This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

b. *Administrative Cost Limitation*: In accordance with 34 CFR 663.30(d), the Secretary awards the institution an administrative allowance of \$100 for each fellowship listed in the grant award document.

3. *Subgrantees*: A grantee under this competition may not award subgrants to entities to directly carry out project activities described in its application.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package*: Both IHEs and faculty applicants can obtain an application package via the internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the internet, use the following address: www.G6.ed.gov. To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a TDD or a TTY, call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its website, www.EDPubs.gov, or at its email address, edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this program as follows: Assistance Listing Number 84.019A.

2. *Submission Dates and Times*: Submit applications for grants under the program electronically using G6.ed.gov. For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, please refer to *Other Submission Requirements*.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

3. *Intergovernmental Review*: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

4. *Funding Restrictions*: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

5. *Recommended Page Limit*: The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 10 pages and the bibliography to no more than two pages and (2) use the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 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, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger, or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurance and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the biography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the application narrative.

6. *Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), and System for Award Management*

(SAM): To do business with the Department, you must—

- a. Have a UEI number and a TIN;
- b. Register both your UEI number and TIN with SAM, the Government's primary registrant database;
- c. Provide your UEI number and TIN on your application; and
- d. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2 to 5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The SAM registration process can take approximately seven business days, but may take upwards of several weeks, depending on the completeness and accuracy of the data you enter into the SAM database. Thus, if you think you might want to apply for Federal financial assistance under a program administered by the Department, please allow sufficient time to obtain and register your DUNS/UEI number and TIN. We strongly recommend that you register early.

Note: Once your SAM registration is active, it may be 24 to 48 hours before you can submit an application through G6.

If you are currently registered with SAM, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS/UEI number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your registration annually. This may take three or more business days.

Information about SAM is available at www.SAM.gov. To further assist you with obtaining and registering your DUNS/UEI number and TIN in SAM or updating your existing SAM account, please visit <https://sam.gov/content/help>.

7. *Other Submission Requirements*:

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically unless an IHE qualifies for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications*.

Submit applications for grants under the Fulbright-Hays FRA Fellowship Program, Assistance Listing Number 84.019A, electronically using the G6 system, accessible through the

Department's G6 site at: www.G6.ed.gov. While completing the electronic application, both the IHE and the faculty applicant will be entering data online that will be saved into a database. Neither the IHE nor the faculty applicant may email an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

Please note the following:

- The process for submitting applications electronically under the Fulbright-Hays FRA Fellowship Program requires several steps. The following is a brief overview of the process; however, all applicants should review the detailed description of the application process in the application package. In summary, the major steps are:

(1) IHEs must email the name of the institution and the full name and email address of the project director to FRA@ed.gov. We suggest that applicant IHEs submit this information no later than 2 weeks prior to the application deadline date to ensure that they obtain access to G6 well before that date;

(2) Faculty applicants must complete their individual applications and submit them to their home IHE project director using G6;

(3) Persons providing references for individual faculty applicants must complete and submit reference forms to the IHE's project director, using G6; and

(4) The IHE's project director must officially submit the IHE's application, including all eligible individual faculty

applications, reference forms, and other required forms, using G6.

- The IHE must complete the electronic submission of the grant application by 11:59:59 p.m., eastern time, on the application deadline date. G6 will not accept an application for this competition after 11:59:59 p.m., eastern time, on the application deadline date. Therefore, we strongly recommend that both the IHE and the faculty applicant begin the application process early and not wait until close to the application deadline date to prepare their applications. The table below shows the days and times that the G6 website will be available.

G6 HOURS OF OPERATION IN EASTERN TIME

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Unavailable from 03:00 p.m.–11:59 p.m.	Unavailable from 12:00 a.m.–06:00 a.m.	Available 24 hours ...	Unavailable from 09:00 p.m.–11:59 p.m.	Unavailable from 12:00 a.m.–06:00 a.m.	Available 24 hours ...	Available 24 hours.

- Faculty applicants will not receive additional points because they submit their applications in electronic format, nor will we penalize an IHE or faculty applicant if the applicant qualifies for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submits an application in paper format.

- IHEs must upload all application documents electronically, including the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- Both IHEs and faculty applicants must upload the narrative sections and all other attachments to their application as files in a read-only flattened Portable Document Format (PDF), meaning any fillable documents must be saved and submitted as nonfillable PDF files. Do not upload any interactive or fillable PDF files. If you upload a file type other than a read-only, nonmodifiable PDF (e.g., Word, Excel, WordPerfect) or submit a password-protected file, we will be unable to review that material. Please note that this will likely result in your application not being considered for funding. The Department will not convert material from other formats to PDF.

- Prior to submitting your electronic application, please redact any personally identifiable information (SSN, birthdate, etc.). You may wish to

print a copy of your application package for your records.

- After the individual faculty applicant electronically submits their application to the IHE, the faculty applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgment from the G6 system. After the person designated to provide a reference submits the reference electronically to the Department on behalf of a faculty applicant, they will receive an electronic confirmation from the G6 system. After the applicant IHE submits its application, including all eligible individual faculty applications to the Department, the applicant IHE will also receive an automated acknowledgment from G6 that will include a unique PR/Award number for the IHE's application.

- Within 3 working days after submitting its electronic application, the applicant IHE must—

(1) Print the SF 424 from G6;

(2) Have the Authorizing Representative sign this form;

(3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right-hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the SF 424; and

(4) Email the signed SF 424 to FRA@ed.gov.

- We may request that you provide hard copies with original signatures for other forms in the application at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability: If an IHE is prevented from electronically submitting its application on the application deadline date because the G6 system is unavailable, we will grant

the IHE an extension until 11:59:59 p.m., Eastern Time, the following business day to enable the IHE to transmit its application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. We will grant this extension if—

(1) The IHE is a registered user of the G6 system and the IHE has initiated an electronic application for this competition; and

(2) G6 is unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:59 p.m., eastern time, on the application deadline date.

We must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting the IHE an extension. To request a time extension due to G6 unavailability or to confirm our acknowledgment of G6's unavailability, an IHE may contact either (1) the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-Grants help desk at 1-888-336-8930. If G6 is unavailable due to technical problems with the system and the application deadline is extended, an email will be sent to all registered users who have initiated a G6 application. The deadline date extensions described in this section apply only to the unavailability of the G6 system.

b. Submission of Paper Applications. We discourage paper applications, but if electronic submission is not possible (e.g., you do not have access to the internet), (1) you must provide a prior written notification that you intend to submit a paper application and (2) your paper application must be postmarked by the application deadline date.

The prior written notification may be submitted by email or by mail to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. If you submit your notification by email, it must be received by the Department no later than 14 calendar days before the application deadline date. If you mail your notification to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than 14 calendar days before the application deadline date.

If you submit a paper application, you must have, and include on your application, a DUNS/UEI number and mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, OFO/G6 Functional Application Team, Mail Stop 5C231, Attention: 84.019A, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202–4260.

The IHE must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

We will not consider applications postmarked after the application deadline date.

Note for Mail Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail your application to the Department—

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and in Item 11 of the SF 424 the ALN, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
- (2) The G6 Functional Application Team will notify you of the Department's receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this competition are from the regulations for this program in 34 CFR 663.21 and are as follows:

(a) *Quality of proposed project (70 points).* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the research project proposed by the applicant. The Secretary considers—

(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); and

(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).

(b) *Qualifications of the applicant (30 points).* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the qualifications of the applicant. In coordination with any priorities established under paragraph (d) of this section, the Secretary considers one or more of the following—

(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); and

(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).

2. *Review and Selection Process:* We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d)(3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary requires various assurances, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

For FY 2024, faculty applications are divided into seven categories based on the world area focus of their research projects, as described in the absolute priority listed in this notice. Foreign language and area studies experts on discrete world area-based panels will evaluate the faculty applications. Each panel reviews, scores, and ranks its assigned applications separately from the applications assigned to the other world area panels. At the conclusion of the panel review process, however, all faculty applications will be ranked together from the highest to lowest score for funding recommendation purposes.

If there are applications on the rank order slate with the same average score, the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board's policy governing veteran's preference will be used in the tiebreaker and selection process. Veteran's preference will be used first to determine which application to recommend for funding. This means that in instances where two or more applications have the same average score on the rank order slate, and there are insufficient funds to support all of the equally ranked applications, the veteran's application will be given preference.

For applications that have tied average scores but are not subject to the veteran's preference, the Department will use the average score assigned on the Technical Review Forms for the "Quality of the proposed project" selection criterion. If a tie still exists, the average score for selection criterion

(a)(1) under “Quality of proposed project” (20 points) will be used as the tiebreaker. A final tiebreaker, should it become necessary, will use the average score assigned for the “Qualifications of the applicant” selection criterion.

3. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:* Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition, the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. *Integrity and Performance System:* If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds \$10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed \$10,000,000.

5. *In General:* In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget’s guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with—

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based

on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify the IHE’s U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send the IHE a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify the IHE informally.

If a faculty application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify the IHE.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of its binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

4. *Performance Measure:* For the purpose of Department reporting under 34 CFR 75.110, the Department will use the following performance measure:

FRA Measure: The percentage of Fulbright-Hays FRA fellows who increased their foreign language scores in speaking, reading, or writing by at least one proficiency level.

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

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Nasser H. Paydar,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, March 21, 2024; 5:30 p.m.–7 p.m. CDT.