

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3558]

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program; Conference for Bidders

SUMMARY: The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces a Conference for Bidders, inviting for discussion organizations that are interested in submitting a Proposal to administer the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. The conference will take place at 2:00 p.m., February 6, 2001 at the following location: SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20547.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Interested organizations should contact Amy Forest at (202) 619-5434 prior to February 5, 2001 to schedule their attendance at the Conference.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program was announced in the **Federal Register**, Volume 66, Number 11, on January 17, 2001.

Dated: January 19, 2001.

Helena Kane Finn,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3559]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Junior Faculty Development Program

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Exchange Programs/ European Programs Branch of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the *Junior Faculty Development Program* (JFDP). Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to place approximately 128 visiting faculty from Russia and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union at U.S. universities in a one academic year (nine months) teacher training and curriculum development program. The grantee organization will support and oversee the activities of the faculty throughout their stay in the United States, including their undertaking a practical internship at the end of the academic program (an additional two months). In addition, the grantee organization will recruit and select candidates for the JFDP in the

following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Program Information*Overview*

The Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) offers fellowships to approximately 128 university instructors from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Selected through an open, merit-based competition, JFDP Fellows attend U.S. universities for one academic year to work with faculty mentors and to audit courses in order to develop new curricula and approaches to teaching in their fields of study. The JFDP encourages its Fellows to develop professional relationships with the American academic community, and to forge ties between their American colleagues and colleagues in their home countries, and to share their experiences and knowledge with American students and professors. Throughout their stay in the United States, JFDP Fellows attend conferences and seminars, and participate in two-month practical internships after completing the academic component of the program. The goals of the program are to allow U.S. scholars and scholars from the participating countries to exchange ideas on curriculum design and teaching, and to increase collaboration and cooperation between universities in the United States and former Soviet Union. Participation in the JFDP is restricted to university instructors from Russia and the NIS in the following fields of study: American studies, arts management, architecture & urban planning, business administration, cultural anthropology, economics, education administration, environmental studies, history, journalism, law, library science, linguistics, literature, philosophy, political science, psychology, public administration, public policy and sociology.

Programs must comply with J-1 Visa regulations. Subject to the availability of funds, it is anticipated that this grant will begin on or about July 1, 2001. Please refer to Solicitation Package for further information.

Budget Guidelines

Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000.

Applicants must submit a comprehensive budget for the entire program. The Bureau anticipates awarding one grant in the amount of \$4,071,000 to support the program and administrative costs required to implement this program. The Bureau encourages applicants to provide maximum levels of cost sharing and funding from private sources in support of its programs. There must be a summary budget as well as breakdowns reflecting both administrative and program budgets. Applicants may provide separate sub-budgets for each program component, phase, location, or activity to provide clarification.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) Overseas recruitment and selection of candidates
 - (2) Participant travel expenses, stipends, accident and sickness insurance, visa fees, professional development costs
 - (3) Orientations, participant conferences
 - (4) Host university fees
 - (5) Alumni and follow-on activities
- Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Announcement Title and Number: All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number *ECA/A/E/ EUR-01-08*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Office of Academic Exchanges, ECA/A/E/ EUR, Room 246, U.S. Department of State, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, tel. (202) 205-0525, fax (202) 260-7985, exchanges@pd.state.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify Bureau Program Officer Sheila Casey on all other inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

To Download A Solicitation Package via Internet: The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/RFGPs>. Please read all information before downloading.

Deadline for Proposals: All proposal copies must be received at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs by 5