

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](mailto: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.

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You may also view this document in PDF at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/HEP/iegps/>.

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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.*

[FR Doc. 03-21814 Filed 8-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**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

(Pub. L. 106–107) encourage us to undertake initiatives to improve our grant processes. Enhancing the ability of individuals and entities to conduct business with us electronically is a major part of our response to these Acts. Therefore, we are taking steps to adopt the Internet as our chief means of conducting transactions in order to improve services to our customers and to simplify and expedite our business processes.

**Note:** Some of the procedures in these instructions for transmitting applications differ from those in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.102). Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, these amendments make procedural changes only and do not establish new substantive policy. Therefore, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A), the Secretary has determined that proposed rulemaking is not required.

We are requiring that applications for grants for FY 2004 under the International Research and Studies Program be submitted electronically using e-Application available through the Department's e-GRANTS system. The e-GRANTS system is accessible through its portal page at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

An applicant who is unable to submit an application through the e-GRANTS system may submit a written request for a waiver of the electronic submission requirement. In the request, the applicant should explain the reason or reasons that prevent the applicant from using the Internet to submit the application. The request should be addressed to: Jose Martinez, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K St., NW., Suite 6000, Washington, DC 20006–8521. Please submit your request no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

If, within two weeks of the application deadline date, an applicant is unable to submit an application electronically, the applicant must submit a paper application by the application deadline date in accordance with the transmittal instructions in the application package. The paper application must include a written request for a waiver documenting the reasons that prevented the applicant from using the Internet to submit the application.

#### **Pilot Project for Electronic Submission of Applications**

In FY 2004, the Department is continuing to expand its pilot project for electronic submission of applications to

include additional formula grant programs and additional discretionary grant competitions. The International Research and Studies Program—CFDA 84.017A is one of the programs included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the International Research and Studies Program, you must submit your application to us in electronic format or receive a waiver.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a soft copy of a grant application to us. The data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We shall continue to evaluate the success of e-Application and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to initiate an e-Application package.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- Your e-Application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

1. Print ED 424 from e-Application.
2. The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.
3. Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.
4. Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260–1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on other forms at a later date.

#### **Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:**

If you are prevented from submitting your application on the application deadline date because the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

1. You must be a registered user of e-Application and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

2. (a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date; or

- (b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the application deadline date.

The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension or to confirm the Department's acknowledgement of any system unavailability, you may contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1–888–336–8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the International Research and Studies Program at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jose L. Martinez, U.S. Department of Education International Education and Graduate Programs Service, 1990 K Street, NW., Suite 6000, Washington, DC 20006–8521. Telephone: (202) 502–7635, or via Internet: [jose.martinez@ed.gov](mailto:jose.martinez@ed.gov).

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**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1125.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

**Sally L. Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[CFDA No.: 84.129C, 84.129E, 84.129F, 84.129Q, 84.129R]

**Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004**

*Purpose of Program:* The Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program provides financial assistance for—

(1) Projects that provide basic or advanced training leading to an academic degree in areas of personnel shortages in rehabilitation as identified by the Assistant Secretary;

(2) Projects that provide a specified series of courses or program of study leading to award of a certificate in areas of personnel shortages in rehabilitation as identified by the Assistant Secretary; and

(3) Projects that provide support for medical residents enrolled in residency training programs in the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

*Eligible Applicants:* State agencies and other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including Indian tribes and institutions of higher education, are eligible for assistance under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program.

*Applications Available:* August 27, 2003.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* October 27, 2003.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* December 26, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$42,629,000 for the Rehabilitation Training program for FY 2004, of which an estimated \$1,100,000 would be allocated for this 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.

**Note:** This competition is being conducted in FY 2003 for grants that will be awarded using FY 2004 funds.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$75,000 to \$100,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$100,000.

*Estimated Total Number of Awards:* 11.

*Maximum Number of Awards, Maximum Awards, and Absolute Priorities:* The maximum number of awards to be made are listed in parentheses following each priority area. We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the amount listed under *Maximum Award* in any project year.

CFDA number	Priority area (maximum number of awards in parentheses)	Maximum award
84.129C .....	Rehabilitation Administration (4) .....	\$100,000
84.129E .....	Rehabilitation Technology (2) .....	\$100,000
84.129F .....	Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment (3) .....	\$100,000
84.129Q .....	Rehabilitation of Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (4) .....	\$100,000
84.129R .....	Job Development and Job Placement Services to Individuals With Disabilities (3)	\$100,000

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

*Project Period:* Up to 60 months.

*Page Limit:* Part III of the application, the application narrative, is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit part III to the equivalent of no more than 35 pages, using 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).

The page limit does not apply to part I, the cover sheet; part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, you must include all of the application narrative in part III. You may include brief appendices, but be advised that peer reviewers are not required to review appendix material.

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, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, and 99. (b) The regulations in 34 CFR parts 385 and 386.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

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

*Selection Criteria:* In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, we use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 385.31 and 386.20. The selection criteria to be used for this competition will be provided in the application package for this competition.

*Priorities:* This competition focuses on projects designed to meet the priorities in the regulations for this program (34 CFR 386.1). The priority