



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IMLS's mission is to promote museum, library, and information services, and to serve the American people. International partnerships should be developed with this in mind, in particular by demonstrating how the knowledge gained by such international activities can directly benefit American museums and libraries.

The following frequently asked questions (FAQs) are designed to assist grantees and potential applicants wishing to involve international partners in their projects. While these FAQs provide general guidance, grantees and potential applicants should consult the guidelines of the relevant IMLS program.

- 1) Does IMLS award grants to non-U.S. libraries and museums?** No. However, non-U.S. libraries and museums may partner with eligible U.S. institutions on an IMLS-funded project. Please note that individuals are not eligible to be IMLS grantees.
- 2) Is a library or museum located overseas eligible for IMLS funding?** Generally, no.
- 3) Can non-U.S. libraries or museums that are partnering on a grant project contribute cost-share to the project?** They are encouraged to participate and contribute fully to the project. Such participation, however, does not count towards the eligible U.S. entity's cost share.
- 4) If a series of workshops or even a single workshop is/are being offered as part of a grant proposal, can any of the workshops be held in non-U.S. locations?** Yes, but the grant applicant should make a strong argument for why the meeting should be held outside the U.S. Please see Item No. 9 below for information on travel outside the U.S.
- 5) Can IMLS fund an educational event for a combination of U.S. and non-U.S. library and museum professionals?** Yes. The applicant should make a strong argument for why non-U.S. individuals would be included.
- 6) Can non-U.S. individuals studying in the U.S. receive internships/scholarships/ fellowships from IMLS grants that have been awarded to eligible U.S. library and museum entities?** Possibly, if the intent of the grant project is to provide better library and museum service to the people of the United States.
- 7) Can a U.S. citizen working for a non-U.S. library or museum receive scholarship/travel/ fellowship funds for IMLS-funded education or continuing education activities?** Yes, as long as the activities are consistent with the criteria of the grant program and scope of the project. It should also be established that the U.S. citizen is acting on his/her own behalf (for example, as a student or independent expert) and not on behalf of a non-U.S. entity.
- 8) Can non-U.S. citizens be presenters or participants for an IMLS-grant activity?** Yes, and grantees may pay reasonable and allowable federal expenses for such services, if they will further the objective of the activity.
- 9) May IMLS grant funds be used for international travel?** Yes, but the grant application should make a strong argument for why travel outside the U.S. is necessary. In addition, all foreign travel must receive prior approval from an IMLS program officer. Such travel must be made on an American-flagged carrier, or as otherwise required under the Fly America Act and other U.S. travel law.