



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP

Creating Global Professionals

2021-2023 Requests for Proposals for the African Flagship Languages Initiative

RFP Questions and Answers

FUNDING AND COST OF ATTENDANCE

Q: Should the proposed operational budget reflect student tuition and living expenses during the Summer and Fall sessions?

Students will receive funding through the Boren Awards to apply to tuition, fees, flights, and other routine expenses. These costs should be included in Appendix B, the student cost of attendance (COA), instead of the proposed operational budget.

Q: Are there any expectations, restrictions, or guidelines about the staff level of effort that should be proposed for the administration of the domestic and abroad portions of the program?

The administrative staff of these intensive programs welcome students from a host of universities in the US to a central location and prepare them for their domestic and overseas programs. Applicants should think critically about the different types of staffing needed for academic side, but also for safety and security, student support, oversight, administration, logistical and grant roles.

Q: Should costs for the participant assessments be included in the operational budget or in the COA?

Costs of assessment for mandatory OPIs and Flagship reading and listening tests should not be included either the operational budget or the COA. Though integrated into the structure of the program as outlined in the RFP, they will be arranged for separately. Costs for proposed additional assessments should be included in the operational budget.

Q: Is there a negotiated cap on the indirect costs that the university can charge?

No, there is no negotiated cap on the indirect costs, though applicants must include details of the institution's NICRA rate in their proposal. However, applicants are asked to show institutional commitment, which can be shown in variety of ways including reduced indirect costs.

Institutional commitment through the integration of the program into the wider university allows for the maximization use of resources.

Q: Are the target COAs listed on page 11 specifically for student expenses?

Yes. The target COAs are expenses specific for the student to pay, which will be covered through the Boren award.

Q: Are the target COAs the maximum amount that student will receive for their expenses?

This is not a firm line but should be the goal for the COA. The majority of program expenses are meant to be covered on the operational budget to provide language partners, instruction, and other supports around language learning. The program aims to keep the costs for the student low.

Q: Should the COA include airfare overseas?

Yes.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Q: Are there standard assessments that should be used, or should applicants create their own based on the proposed curriculum?

All students will be required to take an Oral Proficiency Interview and Flagship-developed tests for reading and listening prior to being admitted to the program, before the overseas program, and after the completion of the entire program. There are no mandates on assessment during the program, but applicants are asked to describe any additional assessment plans and how they are integrated into the program.

Q: Does the curriculum need to be fully developed at the time of application, or would a general overview be sufficient?

It would be beneficial to the proposal to have a detailed, comprehensive curriculum.

Q: Should a U.S. citizen Resident Director be included in each location: Summer Intensive, Overseas Swahili, and Overseas French locations?

The requirement for an American citizen to serve as resident director is applicable to the overseas portion of the program only.

Q: Approximately how many hours per day are students engaged in learning activities?

Though there are no required hours per day outlined in the RFP, these are very intensive programs. One year of language study should be covered in the intensive summer 8-week period. Reviewers will consider what is proposed and how curriculum is covered.

Q: Is there an optimum arrangement for credit transfer during the overseas portion of the program?

There is no optimum arrangement. The proposed arrangements should be thought through carefully as far as curriculum and credit transfer back to home institutions. Please keep in mind that this program is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Credit arrangements will likely have implications for choosing a partner institution.

Q: Can the French program include a basic knowledge of the local language of the place where students will be spending time in the Fall?

Yes.

Q: Can the proposal include plans for the Akan/Twi, Wolof and Zulu summer students to go to specific locations in the Fall?

Students will have already proposed their Fall study abroad locations as part of their Boren applications that have been reviewed and approved by a selection panel. Though applicants may advise Akan/Twi, Wolof, and Zulu students regarding specific programs, students are not required to attend a specific Fall program.

Q: Must the Fall overseas programs of French and Swahili to be offered in the same country/location?

No, the programs may be in the same or different locations.

Q: Do programs for all the languages need to take place at the same location in the summer?

The expectation is that the summer program will take place on the campus of the applicant institution.

Q: Can past successful proposals be shared with applicants?

No.