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Solicitation Amendment / Modification

1.	Solicitation No.	06719-ZM
2.	Solicitation Name	Turkish Flagship Language Initiative
3.	Issue Date	June 10, 2019
4.	Closing Date	August 15, 2019
5.	Solicitation Amendment No.	1
6.	Solicitation Amendment Date	July 25, 2019

7. The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 9 below.

8. The hour and dates specified for receipt of proposals/quotations:  is not extended;  is extended as described in Item 9 below.

9. Description of Amendment/Modification:

The purpose of this solicitation amendment is to inform prospective offerors/bidders that the above numbered solicitation is hereby amended to provide responses to questions as follows.



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP  
*Creating Global Professionals*

**2019 Turkish Flagship Language Initiative Request for Proposals**

**Questions and Answers**

**Program Details**

**Q: What are the target proficiency outcomes for students who complete the domestic and overseas components of the TURFLI program?**

A: The proposal should provide an estimate and evaluation for what is possible. Proficiency gains will be different depending on if a student is a beginner or someone with language experience. Optimistically, the Flagship Languages Initiatives have seen an intermediate level or intermediate high ACTFL levels after the fall overseas immersion. Approaching or reaching the advanced level (ILR 2) would be a reasonable working level of Turkish for an area expert starting a federal career. The program provides OPI testing.



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**Q: Is there a specific requirement for classroom contact hours during the intensive summer program?**

A: Contact hours are not specified in the RFP, but this should be an intensive, immersive program. Though not a mandated minimum, this typically means that students are engaged in language activities eight hours per day, five days per week.

**Q: Can the language courses include non-Boren students during the intensive summer program?**

A: TURFLI students can be in classes with non-TURFLI students. It is possible that there would be additional elements for the TURFLI students depending on the designed program and what the existing Turkish program offers.

**Q: Is it allowable to hold the overseas portion of the program in a European location with large Turkish-speaking populations?**

A: Options within the security criteria outlined in the RFP and within the Boren program policies of [approved countries](#) would be supported. Western European countries are not eligible for funding, but Eastern European countries could be a viable option.

**Q: Is a university in North Cyprus a viable option for the TURFLI program?**

A: As stated on page 2 of the RFP, students must be able to obtain a study visa issued by a country officially recognized by the United States. For this reason, a program designed in North Cyprus would not be allowable.

**Q: Do scholars and fellows need to remain enrolled at the U.S. TURFLI host institution during the overseas component or can they be enrolled directly at the overseas institution only?**

A: Students need to be enrolled continuously in a way that makes sense with a structure for them to receive credit. In addition, Boren scholars and fellows need to be matriculated as a student at a U.S. institution during their time as a Boren awardee.

**Q: Does the TURFLI host institution need to provide an on-site administrative presence at the overseas partner institution during the program?**

A: A Resident Director or an individual who performs similar duties should be included in the proposal. This on-site position can be a home university position, or created in partnership with the overseas institution or study abroad provider.



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**Q: Does the proposed resident director have to be a U.S. citizen?**

A: Though it is not required that the resident director is a U.S. citizen, there are advantages to having a U.S. citizen in the role. It is expected that the person performing those duties be very familiar with and comfortable with U.S. regulations and laws, and have at least a reasonable level of experience working with American students.

**Q: Would it make an application more competitive to offer instruction of the host country language as long as it does not detract from Turkish?**

A: That would be reasonable to propose. It has been helpful to students to learn some survival Kazakh in the Russian Overseas Flagship Program in Kazakhstan. Students in the African Flagship Languages Initiative learning advanced French in Senegal also learn some Wolof.

**Q: What is the required number of weekly contact hours for the overseas program? The RFP also mentions content courses on culture, history, and/or politics as possible enhancements to the overseas component. Would such courses be along the lines of 3-credit semester courses? What are the minimum and maximum number of credits that IIE envisions Boren scholars and fellows being enrolled in while they are overseas?**

A: There is no minimum / maximum number of credit or contact hours required by the RFP, though applicants should consider that one of the evaluation points is maximum exposure to language. In addition, students should receive the appropriate number of credits hours in relation to the work that they complete on the program.

**Application Details**

**Q: Many of the student support services for the overseas portion of the program will need to be put in place after funding is received. Is not having this fully developed by the time of application detrimental to the proposal?**

A: This does not make a proposal ineligible for funding, but it is recommended that all pieces of the program are built out in the application so that reviewers view the plan as feasible. It is recommended that applicants begin discussion with relevant parties on campus to learn what will be needed and create buy-in. Applicants may consider also looking at what models are currently in place at other Flagship Language Initiatives. If student support for the study abroad component is not ready on campus, an applicant might choose to engage with study abroad provider services.



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**Q: It will take time to build out an existing memorandum of understanding (MOU) to include credit transfer. Does the expanded MOU need to be in place at the time of application?**

A: The expanded MOU does not need to be in place at the time of application. Letters of support from both the U.S. and overseas institution may be useful in demonstrating feasibility of the partnership.

**Q: Can one study abroad provider apply with multiple partner universities, and if so, what best practices are recommended in this scenario?**

A: This is allowable. We recommend disclosure to each university that the provider is also applying with another partner. In addition, it is recommended that each planned partnership is distinct and crafted to match the universities' planned program and academics. Lastly, care should be taken to ensure that no information is shared regarding the other institution's application.

**Q: What student expenses are covered by the Boren Awards?**

A: The Boren Award covers program expenses for both the domestic and overseas components including: tuition and required materials, housing, meals (3 meals per day / 7 days per week), and travel costs. The following expenses are NOT covered by the Boren Award, and are the responsibility of the individual student: visa/passport/residency permit, vaccinations, personal or medical expenses.

**Q: Are there any rules or limitations for indirect costs?**

A: The indirect cost rate should not exceed university policy. Indirect costs must be factored into the budget maximum listed in the RFP.

**Q: Are there any major budget restrictions that should be kept in mind?**

A: All budget requirements can be found starting on page 15 of the RFP. There are no limitations regarding the percentage of the budget charged to a specific budget category, but all costs should be directly applicable to the program. For example, if there is already an administrative coordinator for a Turkish summer program on campus that will work on TURFLI, only the portion of their time directly applicable to TURFLI may be charged to the award. This principle is applicable to all budget categories.

**END OF AMENDMENT**