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Solicitation Amendment / Modification

1.	Solicitation No.	05182026/ET/01
2.	Solicitation Name	RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS FLAGSHIP SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAM (ROTC FSLP)
3.	Issue Date	05/18/2026
4.	Closing Date	07/02/2026
5.	Solicitation Amendment No.	1
6.	Solicitation Amendment Date	06/18/2026

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.

2026-2027 ROTC Flagship Summer Language Program

RFP Questions and Answers - Final

GENERAL

Q: Is this grant offered every year?

A: This is the first year this program is being competed. The initial award is for one year, for the period of September 15, 2026 to September 14, 2027. There is the potential of two additional Option Years contingent upon additional funding. Future awards for this grant cycle are subject to the availability of funding.

Q: Should the submission in SLATE be from a specific person? (i.e., the PI, the ORA representative, etc.)

A: The submission in Slate should be from a person authorized by your institution to submit a proposal. If the person submitting the proposal is not the PI, there are fields on the form to include the PI's name and contact information. All proposal submissions must include a transmittal letter from the applicant institution's Sponsored Projects/Research Office;



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however, the application itself does not need to be submitted by someone from this office.

Q: How exposed is Flagship funding to the annual Congressional appropriations process?

A: The initial award is for one year, for the period of September 15, 2026 to September 14, 2027. There is the potential of two additional Option Years, contingent upon funding.

Q: Will this initiative include an in-person annual meeting? And if so, should we budget for the director, coordinator, and ROTC representative to attend?

A: There will be an in-person ROTC FSLP orientation and onboarding meeting (details to be shared with selected applicants). Applicants should budget for a director and coordinator to attend the in-person orientation in Washington, DC. The initial year of this award will not include a spring annual meeting so that should not be included in the budget.

Q: Should we include CVs of the relevant persons in the proposal appendices?

A: Please do not include CVs or any other unrequested materials in submitted proposals. It is required to provide a list of key personnel who will be supporting the proposed programming.

Q: Will there be a national website similar to the PGO website in the past, or a similar website where we can collectively advertise our programs?

A: There will be a centralized webpage that will list the programming and eligibility information. The programs should plan to have an individual program page specific to their institution that outlines the program details for their institutional program.

Q: What information needs to be included in the transmittal letter from the applicant's sponsored projects office (OSP)?

A: Consult with your sponsored projects office on what information to include. Typically, a transmittal letter will contain the name of the proposed program, the Principal Investigator, and the signature of an authorized OSP official.



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Q: Can the institution of higher education (IHE) employ international students or teachers in the program?

A: There is no provided guidance regarding this question. Please consult your OSP and/or Human Resources department.

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

Q: May an institution apply for more than one language?

A: Applicant institutions may submit multiple proposals. Each proposed language program requires its own separate, freestanding proposal that meets all proposal requirements. Proposals must be fully independent of any other proposals submitted by your institution during this open competition.

Q: If an IHE is not a host university of an ROTC program, is it still eligible to apply?

A: No, only universities with at least one active, on-campus ROTC program may apply.

Q: If an applicant decides to offer three levels (elementary, intermediate, and advanced), is there a minimum number of students required for each target level?

A: No, the requirement is for 20 students per program, per year. Each proposal is for one language and one program. The 20-student minimum applies to each program, regardless of level of proficiency. It is advisable to make a final determination on the projected number of students per level based on the applications received during the student application period.

Q: Is it permissible for applicants (IHEs) to work with a U.S.-based sub-awardee (NGO) that oversees the overseas programming, assuming the IHE maintains oversight over the curriculum, recruitment, and other logistics?

A: The institution applying is the primary partner on the award and is responsible for demonstrating holistic oversight and management of the program. The IHE must demonstrate clearly to the reviewers that there is significant oversight of the entire program implementation. Additionally, the IHE should consider cost when working with an overseas partner, and how it may affect the competitiveness of the proposal.



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An IHE may partner with an existing overseas program, but institutional applicants should demonstrate their own leadership over the proposed program. Please emphasize the strengths of any existing partnerships in your proposal.

Q: Can a university propose multiple languages utilizing different models? For example, hybrid vs. in-person?

A: Yes, all proposed programs are independent proposals. Therefore, there is no requirement for applicant models across applications to match. Each proposal must demonstrate significant institutional commitment, leadership, and engagement. See above for further requirements for institutions applying for multiple languages/locations.

Q: Are previous Project Global Officer programs eligible to apply?

A: Yes, former Project Global Officer institutions are eligible to apply.

Q: Are ROTC students that are not yet contracted ineligible to apply to the FSLP summer programs?

A: ROTC students must be contracted or be current ROTC scholarship recipients (but not yet contracted) to be eligible to apply for a FSLP program.

Q: Some of the Arabic locations have level 3 DoS Travel Advisories. Are they eligible despite this?

A: The proposed study abroad will occur in Summer 2027. More information will be made available as the situation develops, and IIE/DLNSEO will be in contact with awarded institutions.

Q: Should an applicant be including contingency plans within the proposal in the event that we cannot travel to the approved country?

A: Because there is a long preparation period before Summer 2027, it is not expected that applicants include contingency plans. IIE and DLNSEO will work with awarded institutions to address alternate programming options if the need arises.



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Q: Is someone with permanent resident status eligible to be PI or Program Director?

A: Yes, a permanent resident is eligible to be the Program Director/PI. However, the overseas Resident Director (RD)/Faculty Director must be a United States citizen.

Q: If the overseas partner institution has a Confucius Institute, will that partner be ineligible for this project, or does the restriction only apply to administering IHEs in the US?

A: The guidance regarding Confucius Institutes applies to the prime recipient and all subrecipients proposed. No institution involved may host a Confucius Institute.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Q: If an institution wanted to submit for multiple languages, would each proposal be eligible for up to \$600,000 or would it be \$600,000 per institution, regardless of awarded languages?

A: \$600,000 is the maximum award per funded proposal. There is no institutional cap on total awards.

Q: Regarding contracts, the RFP includes this line: "The budget should accurately reflect the applicant's relationship with contractors or subrecipients under this proposal." Are there additional instructions to observe if an applicant intends to work with an overseas provider that has an existing MOU with the university?

A: There are no additional instructions; please refer to Section 3, BUDGET GUIDELINES, for all budget requirements and guidance. Substantiating documentation pertaining to MOUs and partner relationships should be included in Appendix D.

Q: Should the required breakdown of scholarship costs be provided on a separate page, in addition to the breakdown that is included in the itemized budget template?

A: The requirement to show the breakdown of scholarship costs will be met by completing the budget template as outlined.



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Q: Is it appropriate not to reflect overseas partners in the budget? Instead, relevant participant costs (e.g., airfare, visa fees) would be paid directly to the students. The partner would invoice the institution for meals, lodging, local transportation, books, local instructor salaries, tutoring, etc. and the institution would pay these costs out from the tuition and other participant cost lines in the grant. Is this still acceptable?

A: The contractor/subrecipient stipulation in the RFP is designed to address non-PSC contractors or subrecipients (e.g., a marketing materials vendor). The method described for paying participant costs via tuition and other PSC lines remains acceptable. Please note that in all cases, the costs per student must be transparent. Overseas partners should be identified if included in PSC lines.

Q: If the applicant plans to contract with a provider organization to provide services for the program (but this provider will not be a grant subrecipient), should the costs of these services appear in the Contractual section of the itemized budget or in the Other Expenses section?

A: Please consult your Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) for how best to classify these costs.

Q: Will awards made through this competition be considered grants or contracts?

A: Grants. IIE will issue umbrella subawards to selected institutions followed by an initial one-year project order.

Q: If students are assigned one-on-one, individualized sessions with conversational partners, should this cost be included in the scholarship amount in the budget per student? Or should it be calculated as an instructional cost?

A: Please consult your OSP for how to best classify these costs. In either case, the expense must be a set cost managed by the institutional applicant (i.e., students should not be responsible for finding conversational partners or negotiating prices).

Q: The RFP calls for a coordinator budgeted at a minimum of 50% LOE. How firm is this requirement and how may an institution compensate the coordinator's time?

A: 50% LOE is the minimum requirement for the coordinator position, though not the maximum. For LOE questions specific to your institution, please consult your institution's



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OSP and Human Resources department. Compensation for all grant-funded positions must be in accordance with your institution's policies and the Uniform Guidance (2 CRF 200).

Q: Is it possible to have two people fill the role of the Faculty Director/Resident Director? One person would be present during the first half of the overseas program and pass on responsibilities to the other in the second half.

A: This would be an acceptable arrangement so long as both personnel meet all the requirements of the position. Applicants should ensure the proposal clarifies the plan for an intentional handover from one RD to the next to avoid degradation in student support.

Q: If an institution is awarded for more than one language, how should we handle the coordinator requirement? Are we required to have (1) 50% coordinator per language or is it possible to propose (1) 50% coordinator for both programs. And how would it be reflected in the budgets?

A: The 50% LOE is a minimum requirement per proposed program. In this scenario above, a coordinator supporting two programs would need to be at 100% LOE across both programs. Please consult your OSP for how to budget such a position.

Q: Does the director of the program need to be a full-time faculty member in the target language? What percentage of time does the director have to dedicate to The Language Flagship during the project period?

A: Strong leadership and management are a key part of the evaluation criteria. There is no minimum time requirement for the director; however, the proposal should demonstrate significant commitment to oversight of the program. There is no requirement for the director to be a full-time faculty member in the language. That said, successful applications will likely include someone with a strong academic background in the target language.

Q: Is language sustainment training during the year an acceptable use of funds? What do you want programming during the regular academic year to look like?



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A: The emphasis for this initiative is to provide as much summer language study for ROTC students as possible. The emphasis on maximizing summer language instruction should be reflected in the budget. The budget should have little or no funding for academic year language instruction.

Q: What should the required budget summary consist of? A chart showing the total amount requested in each main budget category or a narrative summary of the budget request?

A: This should be the first page in the budget, which summarizes costs by budget category.

Q: Can expenses linked to field trips be included in the Materials and Supplies budget category, and what are the rules in this regard?

A: Field trips, if properly academically justified, are an allowable expense. Consult your OSP for how best to classify these costs.

Q: Are site visits for program personnel to the overseas program allowed under travel?

A: Yes, site visits for program personnel — specifically program leadership — are generally allowable. Site visits to other countries/programs who are not partners may not be charged to the grant.

Q: Is any funding allowed for professional development for the overseas team? If so, which category would it come from?

A: Professional development funding is generally allowable. Please consult your OSP for how to best classify this expense.

Q: Can we include ILR proficiency guidelines training for a program director or curriculum designer in the proposed budget?

A: Professional development funding is generally allowable.



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Q: Is each university responsible for covering any costs that exceed the \$15,000 limit for student scholarships in order to ensure all these expenses are fully funded? What happens when scholarship costs surpass the maximum allowed amount for travel, books, insurance, etc.?

A: Student scholarship costs should not exceed \$15,000 per student.

Q: We are being advised to build in substantial buffers for airfare. Could you discuss possible impact on proposal competitiveness?

A: Please see page 16 of the RFP for the Budget and Cost Effectiveness evaluation criteria.

Q: Does the \$15,000 cap for student scholarships include staffing, F&E, faculty expenses, etc., or is it just cost associated with students?

A: Please see pages 13-14 of the RFP for what must be included in the student scholarships and classified as Participant Support Costs.

Q: Usually, we assume the stipends to cover home institutions fees for study abroad will be given on an as-needed basis and thus does not have to be the same amount per person. In our budget, we are estimating an average per student based on 2025 experiences; is this permissible?

A: Yes, that is a permissible approach.

Q: My institution can award credits for the domestic portion of the program (if we propose a hybrid program), but how do we budget for out-of-state tuition for many of the students and the costs to transfer the credits to their (unknown) institutions? Do you have any sense of the “norm” for transfer costs?

A: Please consult your OSP and other relevant institutional offices (e.g., Registrar's Office) for how to budget appropriately for transfer credits.



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CURRICULUM

Q: Is it considered allowable to propose domestic programs in virtual format as part of a hybrid model?

A: Yes, so long as the overseas portion of any hybrid program is at least five weeks long. A virtual domestic portion may be proposed. The applicant would still be encouraged to bring students to campus for an in-person pre-departure orientation.

Q: What are the expectations regarding language instruction in the U.S.? Is it preferable to maximize the time students spend in the overseas program?

A: Institutions are welcome to propose a completely overseas program, but the minimum overseas portion for hybrid program is five weeks. It is important to be detailed regarding the portion of the program spent in the U.S. for hybrid programs. All proposals are expected to deliver high-quality programming, which should be demonstrated and tied into the hybrid/overseas program proposal.

Q: Would the ROTC Flagship Summer Language Program allow a very limited, technical enrichment module—such as a one-week contextual or professional exploration—so long as intensive language instruction remains the clear primary focus of the program?

A: Yes, but there should be a language training component to any training within the proposed program. It should also be noted that ROTC students often only have eight weeks, so additional weeks may not be feasible for student participants.

Q: Does NSEP have any considerations regarding the choice of a location in the Baltics versus Central Asia for the Russian ROTC FSLP?

A: Institutions should propose programs that will draw on the strengths of the institution and program team, as well as the likelihood of successfully implementing a safe, academically-worthy overseas program. Estonia, Latvia, and Kazakhstan are the approved overseas locations for Russian programming in Summer 2027. There is no NSEP preference between locations in the Baltics and Central Asia.

END OF AMENDMENT