



The Power
of International
Education

Solicitation Amendment / Modification

1.	Solicitation No.	05182026/ET/02
2.	Solicitation Name	ARABIC AND CHINESE DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS
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.

2026-2028 Arabic and Chinese
Undergraduate Language Flagship Programs

RFP Questions and Answers - Final

GENERAL

Q: How many Flagship programs will be selected for the 2026-28 cycle?

A: As stated in the RFP, IIE anticipates funding up to six total awards for the Arabic Flagship and Chinese Flagship competition, depending on the availability of funding and the quality of proposals.

Q: What level of long-term funding stability should institutions anticipate beyond the 2026-2028 grant cycle?

A: DLNSEO-funded programs are subject to availability of funds, including annual Congressional appropriations. All domestic Flagship programs are subject to competition for the 2028-2032 grant cycle.



The Power
of International
Education

Q: Are students from previously funded Flagship programs eligible to apply for Capstone 2027 if the institution is awarded again?

A: Yes, they are eligible to apply. Capstone applications open in fall and are due in January, with pre-Capstone language testing anticipated to take place in January 2027.

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

Q: What if the applicant pledges not to include DEI teaching within the Flagship curriculum, but the broader host university places a strong emphasis on DEI in its mission statement and the general curriculum.

A: As stated within the RFP and in the presentation, no Department of War funding, including Flagship funding, can be used for instruction under any of the prohibited topics. It is understood that Flagship programs operate within a campus context, and this prohibition only applies to Flagship-funded activities. It's important that applicants are clear in their proposals that no relevant Executive Orders will be violated, and that none of the prohibitive topics will be taught under any Department of War funded program.

Q: The ROTC Flagship Summer Language Program can be applied for either jointly with the domestic undergraduate program or separately, correct?

A: This same answer will be applied to institutions who may wish to apply for both an Arabic and Chinese domestic program. In all cases, each application is an independent proposal. Institutions who are applying for multiple programs should demonstrate some ability to leverage their resources across these programs. However, as stated previously, each of the proposals must independently stand on its own, answering all the questions asked in the RFP, and be able to meet all requirements as a single proposal.

Q: Since the grant period for the first year starts after the beginning of the academic year, is it an acceptable timeline to dedicate the fall semester to recruitment and bring in the first participants? That is to say, the first group of Flagship students in spring?

A: It is understood that new Flagships will not hit their total target recruitment on the first day and that it will take some time to scale up. Eligible students should be admitted as soon as practical and possible so that they have access to the benefits of Flagship such as tutoring, language partners, and other resources. Institutions are encouraged to review proposed timelines to ensure that they demonstrate the ability to reach the full recruitment and enrollment levels.



The Power
of International
Education

Q: Do summer study abroad programs need to be in the same region or locations as the Capstone program?

A: It is possible to propose a new summer study abroad program from the existing list provided of Flagship-approved programming, but institutions must follow the established process to get the new program approved by IIE and DLNSEO.

Q: Will an application with co-PIs (meaning two directors) be accepted, or is this not allowed?

A: Yes, this is allowable.

Q: Could you share more about consortia models? For example, would it be acceptable to apply and then invite students from target language programs of the consortium partner institution to join the Flagship program?

A: Strong proposals will demonstrate leadership and institutional commitment to the program by the institution that is submitting the proposal. A strong proposal will indicate if there is a consortia agreement or other pipeline of eligible students and have worked out the logistics in advance. Applications that propose a program that essentially delegates out the full curriculum and operations of the program will not be competitive.

Q: Could you receive a Flagship Grant and then invite students from other universities to apply to it?

A: A strong proposal will indicate if there is a consortia agreement or other pipeline of eligible students and have worked out the logistics in advance.

Q: Does an institution's proximity to another Flagship make them ineligible for funding?

A: An institution's location or its proximity to other Flagship programs is not considered as a criterion or factor in eligibility.

Q: Since the grant cycle is only for two years, do DLNSEO and IIE expect students to complete their Capstone years in Taiwan and Morocco within the grant cycle?

A: DLNSEO and IIE expect new programs to have eligible applicants for the Capstone year in Taiwan and Morocco within the two-year grant period. It is possible that programs with current advanced students may have students apply for the Capstone program in



The Power
of International
Education

January 2027 for Fall 2027 entry and complete the program within the two-year grant period. Eligible students should be admitted to the domestic program as soon as practical and possible so that they have access to the benefits of Flagship such as tutoring, language partners, and other resources with the goal of successfully completing their Capstone year.

Institutions are encouraged to review proposed timelines to ensure that they demonstrate the ability to reach the full recruitment and enrollment levels to keep the programs on track for participation in the Capstone program.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Q: The budget guidelines state that only one course release per academic year can be billed to the grant, typically to the director. However, in cases where a grant is proposing co-directors, are there additional course releases for that co-director?

A: The guidance within the RFP is that a director may only charge either summer salary or a one-course release on the grant. If there are two co-directors, there is no prohibition on each co-director requesting a course release. Institutions should propose what they deem necessary to administer this award. It will be reviewed upon receipt during the proposal process. There's no additional guidance regarding co-directors versus directors.

Q: If a faculty member is contributing a no-cost level of effort does that count towards the 200% level of effort administrative cap?

A: Any percentage of effort not covered on the budget is not counted towards the 200% level of effort.

Q: How should salaries be represented if an institution's academic calendar does not align with the stated grant period? Are applicants allowed to prorate those salaries to fit within the stated budget period?

A: All costs that are included in the budget need to fall within the period of activity. For example, if the first project period is 8.5 months, then the budget should only show 8.5 months' worth of salary per person if they're fully funded by the award. If the institution is on an academic cycle or quarter system that does not match the project budget year, applicants should represent that as accurately as possible within the stated period of performance.



The Power
of International
Education

Q: It's stated in the RFP that applicants may request no more than a total of 200% level of effort in administrative staff. Is the Flagship director or PI considered administrative staff?

A: Broadly speaking, yes, they are, because a Flagship director or PI manages a number of high-level administrative tasks. As applicants review the proposal, please review the type of activity from a Flagship director or PI. For example, administrative activities count but teaching or tutoring where the target language is being taught do not.

Q: Should the \$75,000 student scholarship funding for intensive Summer 2027 programs be included in the detailed budget submitted as part of a proposal?

A: As the RFP states, IIE anticipates being able to award \$75,000 in student scholarships for that Summer 2027 intensive programs, for all new awards. However, please do not build this into your budget proposal. Applicants should build a budget based on the budget maximum of \$325,000 and exclude any student scholarships from that budget.

Q: What is the typical F&A rate for Flagship programs?

A: IIE cannot provide information regarding average F&A rates implemented by its sub awardees. University Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (NICRAs) are often publicly available, and we can confirm that IIE will accept reduced F&A rates as part of a proposal.

Q: When does IIE expect to make award announcements?

A: Finalist notifications for the award are tentatively scheduled for mid-August.

Q: The new Arabic and Chinese domestic program RFP outlines that the narrative should be 11 point, double-spaced, Times New Roman. Is that the case for headings and tables in the narrative, and in appendices as well?

A: Double-spacing is only required throughout the abstract and proposal narrative. Please use 11 pt., Times New Roman throughout.

Q: Is the current competition now limiting Flagship director/principal investigator (PI) to only one of these forms of compensation (either a course release or partial summer salary) after the first year, with both being permitted only in Year 1? Or are there circumstances under which both can still be requested in later years, as occurred in a previous grant cycle?



The Power
of International
Education

A: Please follow the current RFP guidelines when developing the program budget. Staffing Budget Guidelines are found on page 13.

Q: For the student professional development funds (maximum \$3,000 per year): the guidelines say, "Funds can be used for activities such as off-campus internships, and meeting/conference/workshop registration and transportation costs." Are there restrictions on which conferences they can attend?

A: Flagship funding may be used to support student participation in conferences, meetings, and workshops that align with the core mission of The Language Flagship Initiative and comply with the Executive Orders (EOs). Activities supported with these funds should be directly related to the Flagship program and the target language.

In general, conferences or workshops that are primarily related to a student's academic major or personal interests but are not connected to the goals of the Flagship program or target-language development would not be an appropriate use of Flagship professional development funds. International conferences are not supported.

Q: There is a "Minimum Standards" sub-heading in the guidelines. Is this something that should be addressed in its own section, or is it enough for it to be woven throughout the narrative?

A: A separate section is not required. All proposals must demonstrate compliance with the standards stated in the RFP. Applicants may address the Minimum Standards throughout the narrative, provided that all standards are clearly and thoroughly addressed. However, applicants should ensure that reviewers can easily identify where each standard is discussed in the proposal.

END OF AMENDMENT