



INTERNATIONAL AND
FOREIGN LANGUAGE
EDUCATION

FULBRIGHTHAYS

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program



International and Foreign Language Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education



A CLOSER LOOK AT GPA

The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) program is designed to promote, improve, and develop modern foreign language training and area studies programs for all levels of American education. The program provides opportunities for faculty, teachers, and undergraduate and graduate students to conduct individual and group projects overseas. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development, group research or study, or long-term advanced intensive language programs.



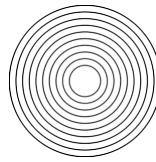


WHAT WE DO



WHY

The purpose of the Group Projects Abroad (GPA) program is to promote, improve, and develop modern foreign languages and area studies at various levels of education.



HOW

Applications are submitted online through Grants.gov. For more information, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsgpa/index.html>



WHO

Institutions of higher education (IHEs), state departments of education, private nonprofit educational organizations, and consortia of institutions, departments, and organizations are eligible to apply.

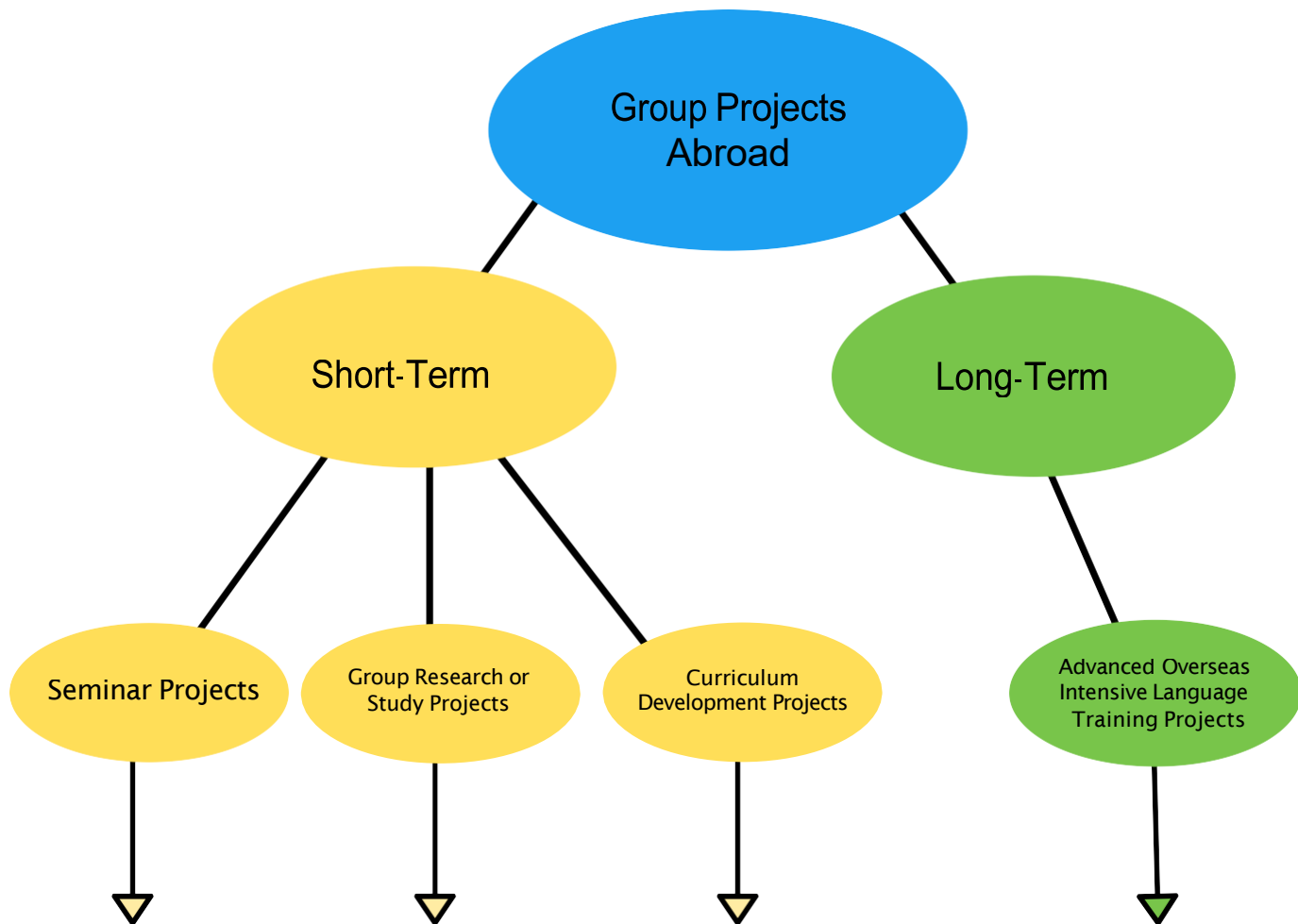


WHERE

Projects must focus on one or more of the following areas: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Western Hemisphere (Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean), East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Near East. Applications that propose projects focused on Canada or Western Europe will not be funded.



TYPES OF PROJECTS



- Purpose: to internationalize curriculum at the K-12 or postsecondary level
- Length: five to six weeks
- Focus: a particular aspect of area studies, such as the culture of the area or a portion of the culture.

- Purpose: to undertake research or study in a country outside of the United States in area or international studies
- Length: minimum of 12 weeks

- Purpose: to acquire resources and materials for curriculum development in modern foreign languages or area studies programs for systemic use and dissemination in the U.S.
- Length: four to six weeks
- Participants: a curriculum development team (several faculty members, teachers, and/or administrators)

- Purpose: intensive advanced foreign language training
- Length: full year, academic year, semester, trimester, quarter, or summer
- Scope: the language to be studied shall be indigenous to the host country and maximum use shall be made of local institutions and personnel.
- Proficiency level: language training shall be given at the advanced level, i.e., at the level equivalent to that provided to students who have successfully completed at least two academic years of language training



MEET OUR PAST PARTICIPANTS

**GAIL PRESBEY, 2016
GROUP PROJECTS ABROAD
SHORT-TERM PROGRAM**



Gail Presbey is a professor of philosophy at the University of Detroit Mercy. She participated in the university's 2016 Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad program in Brazil. Having gone back to graduate school to develop a new specialization in world history with a concentration on Latin America, Presbey affirms that the Fulbright-Hays experience offered her a unique opportunity to explore the culture and history of Brazil. During her time abroad, Presbey visited historic sites, such as slave pillories, and learned from Afro-Brazilian academic specialists who conveyed the nation's history of racism, inequality, and creative responses, as well as the current context. She visited vibrant communities that are working to educate youths about their African heritage, history, and culture. These learning communities inspired Presbey and provided her with renewed guidance on ways of teaching African and Afro-Brazilian history and culture to her own students. Presbey has incorporated several lessons on Brazilian social issues into her U.S. classroom. She believes strongly that her students will have a better understanding of U.S. and global issues if they are able to learn more about challenges and leadership in Brazil.

**JACLYN LEDFORD, 2016
GROUP PROJECTS ABROAD
SHORT-TERM PROGRAM**

Jaclyn Ledford is a social studies teacher from Georgia who participated in Savannah State University's 2016 Group Project Abroad program in Ghana. A local teacher at the middle school level, Ledford hoped to use her experience abroad to incorporate more aspects of Ghanaian culture, history, and life into social studies curricula at her school. According to Ledford, "The whole trip connected me to history in the past and how it connects to various parts of the world. I took a particular interest in the economy of Ghana because that is my subject area of choice when teaching. When you are driving through the streets and see everyone hustling to sell their goods or services, and then you realize this is a cash-based society, things get interesting. I teach about bartering and the art of markets but seeing something so different than what I experience daily was exciting. I look forward to taking those stories and examples back to the classroom."



**DENIS SULLIVAN, 1984 AND 2008
GROUP PROJECTS ABROAD
LONG-TERM PROGRAM**



Denis Sullivan is a graduate of Harvard's Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) and former participant in the center's 1984 and 2008 GPA Long-Term Program. He currently serves as professor of political science and international affairs and co-director of the Middle East Center at Northeastern University, and director of the Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies. Two years after his 1984 experience with the CASA program, Sullivan returned to Cairo as a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) fellow to conduct field research and complete his doctorate. As a result of his experiences with Fulbright-Hays, Sullivan earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and secured a tenure-track position at Northeastern University in Boston. Sullivan attests, "Fulbright-Hays and CASA have been the foundation for all of my subsequent successes in language acquisition, field research, and study abroad programs that I lead, as well as grant-writing. ... Over the past 30 years, I have been on my lifelong journey to learn as much as possible about Egyptian politics, history, culture, and — again — the Arabic language, in particular Egyptian dialect." Sullivan has built his career in Boston and the Arab region (Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Oman, and other locations) ever since.



FY 2023 FACTS AND FIGURES

24

Short-Term
projects funded

8

Long-Term
projects funded

\$3.1

Million
awarded to Short-
Term projects

\$2.0

Million
awarded to Long-
Term projects

32

Total projects
funded (see
map below)

\$5.1

Million
total awarded to
GPA participants





OUR IMPACT

Since 2018,



119

Programs have
been funded,
totaling
\$16,095,502



40

Different
countries have
hosted GPA
participants



1,764

Individuals have
participated in
the GPA
program

TESTIMONIALS

“In retrospect, receiving that great distinction forever defined and validated my professional career. Little did I know this very special program would make such a lasting contribution to my profession and my life.”

–Ariel C. Gil, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, GPA Participant to Bulgaria

“My participation in Fulbright-Hays programs has truly been life-changing. Not only has it transformed my own teaching and professional activities, but I have seen the long-term effects the programs have had on teacher-participants. The curriculum creation and conference presentations – and the impact on students – continue for years after the completion of the program.”

–Lisa Adeli, Ph.D., Director of Educational Outreach, University of Arizona, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, GPA Program Leader

“The program afforded me so many opportunities to increase my isiZulu efficiency and study South African culture. I had so many amazing opportunities, including attending a Zulu wedding, meeting the Zulu king and princess. I walked the mountains near Madiba's (Nelson Mandela's) homeland of Qunu, I met with former president Thabo Mbeki, and studied at the University of Zululand.”

–Corey Holmes, Ph.D., Howard University, GPA Participant to South Africa



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many grant awards are provided each year?

The program is estimated to award 20 short-term projects and 10 long-term projects, as stated in the Federal Register. However, the Department is not bound by any estimates in the Federal Register.

What is an average size award?

The average size of an award for a 2023 GPA short-term project was \$132,474, whereas the average award size for a 2023 GPA long-term project was \$250,663. The estimated range of awards for GPA short-term projects is between \$50,000 and \$180,000. The estimated range of awards for GPA long-term projects ranges from \$50,000 to \$300,000, as stated in the FY24 Notice Inviting Applications published in the Federal Register.

What level of language proficiency and area studies are required by the project participants?

For the Short-Term Group Research or Study Project, participants must have completed at least one semester of intensive language training and one course in area studies relevant to the project. For the GPA Long-Term Advanced Overseas Intensive Language Training Project, participants must have successfully completed at least two academic years of training in the language to be studied in the host country.

What techniques are helpful in preparing an application narrative and other important information for the program?

- Start early and contact the GPA program contact.
- Review GPA legislation, regulations, and competition priorities thoroughly.
- Review the Federal Register Notice and Application Package.
- Review abstracts and application narratives of funded projects.
- Form an internal task force and management team with appropriate grant, international, and project-related experience.
- Provide clear goals, measures, and activities.
- Provide a detailed plan of operation and evaluation. Prepare a specific and detailed budget.
- Identify your academic host country coordinator and establish strong linkages.





CONTACT US

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