



**January 23, 2025**

National Resource Centers (NRC) Program  
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships Program

# Technical Assistance Webinar

## **FLAS Eligibility and Administrative Planning Considerations**



**INTERNATIONAL AND  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
EDUCATION**

**FULBRIGHT HAYS  
TITLE VI**

# Technical Assistance Webinars About Revisions to the NRC and FLAS Program Regulations

- **October 24, 2024 – 2:00 pm ET**  
**Overview of Revised Regulations: 34 CFR parts 655, 656, and 657**  
Find the recording on [IFLE's YouTube channel](#).
- **November 14, 2024 – 2:00 pm ET**  
**Geographic World Area Requirement and Allowable Costs for NRC and FLAS**  
Find the recording on [IFLE's YouTube channel](#).
- **December 12, 2024 – 2:00 pm ET**  
**FY 2026 Selection Criteria for NRC and FLAS**  
Find the recording on [IFLE's YouTube channel](#).
- **January 23, 2025 – 2:00 pm ET**  
**FLAS Eligibility and Administrative Planning Considerations [TODAY]**  
Find the recording on [IFLE's YouTube channel](#) after today's presentation.

## New Webinar

**February 20, 2025 – 2:00 pm ET**  
**FY 2026 NRC and FLAS**  
**Competition Updates**  
[Click here to register for the February 20 webinar](#)

Download File: [Upcoming Webinars from ATRD IFLE.pdf](#)

Presentations will be recorded and posted afterward to [IFLE's YouTube channel](#).

Slides from all webinars will be available for download on the "Resources" sections of the [NRC](#) and [FLAS](#) pages on the IFLE website.

# Do you have any questions?

- Type your questions in the Q&A area or the chat during the webinar.
- Continue to submit questions during and after today's webinar via the web form at: <https://forms.office.com/g/WLy4wz6s5t>.
- Not all questions will be answered during today's webinar.
- Responses will be incorporated throughout the webinar series and in future guidance, especially written guidance.
- Specific details about the next competition, such as competition priorities and precise dates, are not yet known. IFLE will share this information when it becomes available.

# Overview of Today's Webinar

- Program Overview
- Fellow Eligibility and Study Requirements
- Fellowship Payments
- Fellow Selection
- Grant and Fellowship Administration



# Program Overview



# § 657.1 What is the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program?

- (a) Under the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program, the Secretary provides allocations of fellowships to Centers and other administrative units at eligible institutions of higher education that award the fellowships on a competitive basis to undergraduate or graduate students who are undergoing advanced training in modern foreign languages and area studies.
- (b) The Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program contributes to the purposes of the programs authorized by part A of title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, listed in § 655.5(a), especially the development of a pool of international experts to meet national needs.

# Major Changes

The revised set of regulations:

- Broadly promotes alignment with program purposes.
- Requires designation of a geographical area of focus for allocations of FLAS Fellowships.
- Clarifies and streamlines the selection criteria the Secretary may use to make discretionary awards under parts 656 and 657.
- Adds consideration of a student's educational program as an eligibility requirement for fellowships awarded under part 657.
- Adds new selection criteria addressing project design.



# General Administrative Requirements

## § 657.3 What are the instructional and administrative requirements for an allocation of fellowships?

- (a) An allocation of fellowships must support area studies and language instruction that aligns with all of the following requirements:
- (1) A geographic world area or a geographically designated region that spans multiple world areas and serves as the focus of research, teaching, training, and instruction.
  - (2) Languages specific to the geographic area of focus.
  - (3) Existing programs or proposed instructional programs that will be developed and implemented during the grant period.
- (b) An allocation of fellowships must be administered according to the institution's written plan for distributing fellowships and allowances to eligible fellows for training and instruction during the academic year or summer, provided that—
- (1) The fellowship types are described in the budget narrative of an application selected for funding under this part; or
  - (2) The Secretary has approved any proposed changes to an approved Center's or Program's plan.



# Key Program Terms

- *Allocation of fellowships* means an institutional grant under the FLAS Fellowships Program.


## § 657.7 What definitions apply to this program?

- *Approved Center* means an administrative unit of an institution of higher education that has both received an allocation of fellowships under this part and a grant to operate a Center under [34 CFR part 656](#).
- *Approved Program* means a concentration of educational resources and activities in modern foreign language training and area studies with the administrative capacity to administer an allocation of fellowships under this part.
- *Fellow* means a person who receives a fellowship under this part.
- *Fellowship* means the payment a fellow receives under this part.


# Prior Discussion of Certain Changes

- Topics addressed at length in previous webinars
  - Geographical area of focus requirement and program purposes
  - Selection criteria

# Fellowship Eligibility and Study Requirements

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# Changes to Fellow Eligibility Criteria

The revised set of regulations:

- Aligns fellowships with institutional support for and student commitment to area studies, global studies, and international studies in the curriculum.
- Adds new requirement for academic year fellows to enroll in certain educational programs.
- Ensures flexibility for STEM and professional students who receive suitable advising.
- Provides additional flexibility for summer language study.
- Aligns eligibility criteria with the application process and grant selection criteria.

# General Fellowship Eligibility 1

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

A student must satisfy the criteria in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section during the fellowship period to be eligible to receive a fellowship from an approved Center or Program, and a student receiving an academic year fellowship must additionally satisfy the criteria in paragraph (f) of this section to be eligible:

(a) The student is a—

- (1) Citizen or national of the United States; or
- (2) Permanent resident of the United States.

(b) The student is accepted for enrollment, is enrolled, or will continue to be enrolled in the institution receiving an allocation of fellowships.

# General Fellowship Eligibility 2

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

[...]

(c) The student demonstrates—

- (1) Commitment to the study of a world area relevant to the allocation of fellowships; and
- (2) Potential for high academic achievement based on grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures that the institution may determine.

(d) The student is engaged in modern foreign language training or instruction in a language—

- (1) That is relevant to the student's educational program, as described in paragraph (c), as well as the allocation of fellowships; and
- (2) For which the institution or program has developed or is developing performance goals for foreign language use, and in the case of summer programs has received approval from the Secretary.

# Performance Goals for Language Instruction

- 20 USC 1122(b)(2) references “an instructional program with stated performance goals for functional foreign language use” as an eligibility criterion for FLAS fellowships.
- Stated performance goals for language instruction establish criteria for determining both the anticipated and actual extent of a learner’s ability to use a language other than English.
- Stated performance goals may guide curricula, support tracking student learning, inform placement of learners into appropriate courses, and facilitate program evaluation.
- IFLE does not require grantees to adopt a specific set of performance goals, but the development and implementation of such performance goals are important elements of grant projects.
- Stated performance goals may be responsive to institution-specific and language-specific factors.
- Examples of acceptable performance goals for language instruction:
  - ILR standards
  - ACTFL standards
  - CEFR standards
  - Institutionally-developed standards
  - Language-specific standards
- [Review discussion in the Notice of Final Rule \(NFR\).](#)



# General Fellowship Eligibility 3

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

[...]

(e) The student must engage in the type of training appropriate to their degree status:

- (1) Undergraduate students must engage in the study of a less commonly taught language at the intermediate or advanced level.
- (2) Non-dissertation or predissertation level graduate students must engage in the study of a modern foreign language at the—
  - (i) Intermediate or advanced level; or
  - (ii) Beginning level, provided they demonstrate advanced proficiency in another modern foreign language relevant to their field of study or obtain the permission of the Secretary.
- (3) Dissertation level graduate students must—
  - (i) Engage in dissertation research abroad or dissertation writing in the United States;
  - (ii) Demonstrate advanced proficiency in a modern foreign language relevant to the dissertation project and the allocation of fellowships; and
  - (iii) Use modern foreign language(s) relevant to the allocation of fellowships in their dissertation research or writing.

# Fellowship Eligibility – Educational Program 1

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

[...]

(f) The student meets the criteria related to educational programs described in this paragraph (f)(1) or (2):

(1) The student is pursuing an educational program (including any major fields of study, general education requirements, certificates, concentrations, specializations, or minor fields of study, or other established components of an institution's curriculum) that requires or ordinarily includes—

(i) Instruction in at least one modern foreign language related to the allocation of fellowships or a demonstration of proficiency in at least one modern foreign language related to the allocation of fellowships; and

(ii) Instruction or, for graduate students, supervised research related to the allocation of fellowships in—

(A) Area studies; or

(B) The international aspects of professional fields and other fields of study, including but not limited to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

[...]

# Fellowship Eligibility – Educational Program 2

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

[...]

(f) The student meets the criteria related to educational programs described in this paragraph (f)(1) or (2):

[...]

(2) The student is pursuing an educational program that includes all of the following:

- (i) A requirement for substantial instruction in a professional field or in one or more science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.
- (ii) The option to incorporate international aspects of fields of study through instruction in area studies and at least one modern foreign language.
- (iii) Courses that meet fellowship duration and purpose requirements described in § 657.30(b) and are selected under the guidance of an individual or committee who possesses area studies and modern foreign language qualifications relevant to the allocation of fellowships as well as knowledge of requirements for the student's educational program.

# Educational Program Definition (34 CFR 655.4)

## *Educational program:*

- (1) A legally authorized postsecondary program of organized instruction or study that:
  - (i) Leads to an academic, professional, or vocational degree, or certificate, or other recognized educational credential, or is a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program, as described in [34 CFR part 668, subpart O](#); and
  - (ii) May, in lieu of credit hours or clock hours as a measure of student learning, utilize direct assessment of student learning, or recognize the direct assessment of student learning by others, if such assessment is consistent with the accreditation of the institution or program utilizing the results of the assessment and with the provisions of [§ 668.10](#).
- (2) The Secretary does not consider that an institution provides an educational program if the institution does not provide instruction itself (including a course of independent study) but merely gives credit for one or more of the following: Instruction provided by other institutions or schools; examinations or direct assessments provided by agencies or organizations; or other accomplishments such as “life experience.”

Incorporated into 34 CFR 655.4 by reference to [34 CFR 600.2](#).

# STEM and Professional Educational Programs

- [NCES](#): “STEM is an acronym for the following academic disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. There is not a single unified definition of STEM used throughout the Federal government. Every federal agency defines it differently and some of them use CIP Code to define STEM. STEM definitions vary from agency to agency and sometimes within an agency.”
- Professional fields typically involve specialized training leading to professional degrees and/or licensure prior to beginning professional practice. These programs may have program-specific accreditation.
- Examples of professional fields
  - Medicine
  - Nursing
  - Dentistry
  - Law
  - Education
- IFLE does not maintain a formal, exhaustive list of educational programs in STEM and professional fields.
- Consult with colleagues at your institution to adopt categorizations that are consistent with any relevant institutional policies and institutional typologies.

# Eligibility Criteria by Term and Program Type

## Academic Year – Programs with Language and Area Studies or International Components

34 CFR 657(a)-(e)  
34 CFR 657(f)(1)

Summary: Fellow's educational program must have certain components.

Recommendation: Create an appropriate screening procedure for eligible programs.

## Academic Year – STEM and Professional Programs

34 CFR 657(a)-(e)  
34 CFR 657(f)(2)

Summary: Fellow must receive specialized academic advising and select courses.

Recommendation: Design and implement appropriate advising arrangements.

## Summer – All Programs

34 CFR 657(a)-(e)

Summary: No educational program limitation exists.

Recommendation: Advertise summer fellowship opportunities for intensive programs among all students engaged in or contemplating language study to enrich their educational programs.

# Program Components to Consider for Eligibility

- Specific general education requirements
- Program requirements associated with established curricula (possibilities and terms vary by IHE):
  - Major(s)
  - Minor(s)
  - Specialization(s)
  - Concentration(s)
  - Certificate(s)
- Skill or language proficiency requirements for degree or program
- Other specific courses or academic experiences required for program or degree completion

Note: Applicants may discover they already describe the most common programs and components in the application narrative when addressing selection criteria related to curriculum and instruction, providing a foundation for identifying eligible programs.



# Elements that Do Not Ensure AY Program Eligibility

- Name or title alone—rather than content/curriculum—of an educational program
- Student's willingness to enroll in a world language course as an elective
- Student's stated intent to pursue an eligible educational program in the future in the absence of evidence of actual acceptance to, registration for, or declaration of the eligible program, as appropriate in the institutional context
- General degree-level electives intended to meet minimum degree requirements in the absence of evidence that such electives ordinarily include language instruction and area studies instruction for most students pursuing the same degree

Note: The fellow selection process described in the application should be designed so that grantees are able to screen individual fellowship applicants for potentially ineligible educational programs and ensure compliance during the fellowship period.

# Examples of Eligible AY Programs

- Undergraduate student in an international studies program that incorporates a world area specialization and a proficiency requirement for a world language
- Undergraduate student in a mechanical engineering program who is pursuing a global studies minor that incorporates world language and area studies courses
- Undergraduate student majoring in education with general education requirements for world language courses and a major requirement for courses in an international topic such as world history or international education
- Student pursuing a standalone certificate in international business that incorporates area studies and language courses
- Master's student in a public health program that allows students to pursue as specialization in international aspects of the field and includes language study
- PhD student with a concentration in political science and a departmental requirement to demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in at least one language other than English
- PhD student with a major field in mathematics and an interdisciplinary minor field in Latin American Studies organized by a global studies center that requires area studies coursework and adds a language proficiency requirement
- PhD student with a major field in Pacific Island Studies with area studies and language course requirements

[Review the discussion of this topic in the Notice of Final Rule \(NFR\).](#)

# Examples of AY Programs Likely to be Ineligible

- Undergraduate student majoring in United States literature, minoring in sociology, and who enrolls in language courses as degree-level electives without general education requirements involving modern foreign languages or courses that are ordinarily focused on area studies or international aspects of academic fields
- Master's student majoring in communications with a specialization in intercultural communication but without a degree or program world language requirement
- PhD student in a rhetoric and composition program that does not have any program or degree requirements for world language proficiency

[Review the discussion in the Notice of Final Rule \(NFR\).](#)

# Fellow Eligibility and FLAS Project Design

## § 657.11 What assurances and other information must an applicant institution include in an application?

(a) Each eligible institution of higher education, including each member of a consortium of institutions of higher education, applying for an allocation of fellowships under this part must provide all of the following:

[...]

(3) An estimated number of the students at the applicant institution who currently meet the fellowship eligibility requirements.

## § 657.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use to evaluate an institutional application for an allocation of fellowships?

(e) *Project planning and budget.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine one or more of the following:

[...]

(3) The extent to which the requested amount and proposed distribution of the allocation of fellowships is reasonable relative to the potential pool of eligible students with a demonstrated interest in relevant modern foreign language and area studies training and instruction

# Study Requirements for Fellows

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

(a) *Distance or online education.* Fellows may satisfy course requirements through instruction offered in person or, with the Secretary's prior approval, via distance education or hybrid formats. Correspondence courses do not satisfy program course requirements.

(b) *Duration and purpose.* An approved Center or Program may award a fellowship for any of the following combinations of duration and purpose:

- (1) One academic year, provided that the fellow enrolls in one language course per term and at least two area studies courses per year.
- (2) One academic year for dissertation research abroad, provided that the fellow is a doctoral candidate, uses advanced training in at least one modern foreign language in the research, and has a work plan approved by the Secretary.
- (3) One academic year for dissertation writing, provided that the fellow is a doctoral candidate, uses advanced training in at least one modern foreign language for the dissertation, and has a work plan approved by the Secretary.
- (4) One summer session if the summer session provides the fellow with the equivalent of one academic year of instruction in a modern foreign language.
- (5) Other durations approved by the Secretary to accommodate exceptional circumstances that would enable a fellow to complete an appropriate amount of coursework, dissertation writing, or dissertation research.

(c) *Internships.* The Secretary may approve the use of a fellowship to support an internship for an eligible fellow.

# Intensive Language Instruction (34 CFR 655.4)

*Intensive language instruction* means instruction of at least five clock hours per week during the academic year or the equivalent of a full academic year of language instruction during the summer.



# Distance Education (34 CFR 655.4 & 34 CFR 600.2)

## *Distance education:*

- (1) Education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (2)(i) through (iv) of this definition to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor or instructors and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor or instructors, either synchronously or asynchronously.
- (2) The technologies that may be used to offer distance education include—
  - (i) The internet;
  - (ii) One-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices;
  - (iii) Audio conference; or
  - (iv) Other media used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (2)(i) through (iii) of this definition.
- (3) For purposes of this definition, an instructor is an individual responsible for delivering course content and who meets the qualifications for instruction established by an institution's accrediting agency.
- (4) For purposes of this definition, substantive interaction is engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion, and also includes at least two of the following—
  - (i) Providing direct instruction;
  - (ii) Assessing or providing feedback on a student's coursework;
  - (iii) Providing information or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency;
  - (iv) Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency; or
  - (v) Other instructional activities approved by the institution's or program's accrediting agency.
- (5) An institution ensures regular interaction between a student and an instructor or instructors by, prior to the student's completion of a course or competency—
  - (i) Providing the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency; and
  - (ii) Monitoring the student's academic engagement and success and ensuring that an instructor is responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

See also: Extensive discussion and revisions to 34 CFR 600.2 <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-31031> (Effective July 1, 2026)



# Academic Offerings and FLAS Project Design

## § 657.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use to evaluate an institutional application for an allocation of fellowships?


(b) *Quality of curriculum and instruction.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine one or more of the following:

- (1) The extent to which the applicant's curriculum provides training options for students from a variety of disciplines and professional fields, and the extent to which the curriculum and associated requirements (including language requirements) are appropriate for the applicant's area of focus and result in educational programs of high quality for students who will be served by the proposed allocation of fellowships.
- (2) The extent to which the levels of instruction offered for the modern foreign languages relevant to the proposed allocation of fellowships, including intensive language instruction, and the frequency with which the courses are offered, is appropriate for advanced training in those languages.
- (3) The extent to which the institution's instruction in modern foreign languages relevant to the proposed allocation of fellowships is using or developing stated performance goals for functional foreign language use, as well as the degree to which stated performance goals are met or are likely to be met by students.
- (4) The extent to which instruction in modern foreign languages is integrated with area studies courses, for example, area studies courses taught in modern foreign languages.


# Flexibility and FLAS Project Scope

- Projects should create a structure for a vibrant, open competition. Program regulations provide applicants with substantial flexibility in designing a project.
- Applicants may propose to limit the types of fellowships offered as a component of project design and planning , such as—
  - Limitations on student level
    - Only graduate fellowships
    - Only undergraduate fellowships
    - No dissertation fellowships
  - Limitations on award term
    - Academic year only
    - Summer only
  - Limitations on location
    - Domestic study only
    - Overseas study only
  - Limitations on level of study
    - Advanced (third year and above) language study only
  - Limitations on languages when appropriate training opportunities are available
- Applicants should consider how any limitations may reduce the flexibility permitted by the regulations.

# Fellowship Payments

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# Fellowship Payment Structure

## § 657.5 What is the amount of a fellowship?

- (a) Each fellowship consists of an institutional payment, a stipend, and any additional allowances permitted under this part.
- (1) A fellowship may include additional allowances payable to a fellow in addition to the stipend, as determined by the Secretary and as allocated by an approved Center or Program.
  - (2) If the institutional payment determined by the Secretary is greater than the tuition and fees charged by the institution, the institutional payment portion of the fellowship is limited to actual costs.
- (b) The Secretary announces the following in a notice published in the **Federal Register** :
- (1) The amounts of the stipend and institutional payment for each type of fellow during an academic year.
  - (2) The amounts of the stipend and institutional payment for each type of fellow during a summer session.
  - (3) Whether travel allowances of any type will be permitted.
  - (4) Whether dependent allowances of any type will be permitted.
  - (5) The amounts of any permitted allowances.
  - (6) Any limitation on the applicability of the amounts or allowances addressed in this paragraph (b).
- (c) Allowances are only permissible if the Secretary announces such allowances are permitted.
- (d) If the Secretary limits the applicability of fellowship amounts or the permissibility of allowances by reference to time, including the performance period of one or more awards, in a notice published in the **Federal Register** and the applicability period lapses, the amounts contained in the most recent notice or notices addressing each topic will remain in force as provisional amounts until the Secretary publishes a new notice but any allowances will no longer be permitted until expressly authorized in a new notice.

# Fellowship Payments and Current Amounts

## Institutional Payment

### Purpose and limitations

- Available to all fellows
- Covers tuition & fees
- Limited by actual costs & fee composition

### Amount

- Academic Year
  - Graduate
    - \$18,000
  - Undergraduate
    - \$10,000
- Summer
  - All fellows
    - \$5,000

## Stipend

### Purpose and limitations

- Available to all fellows
- Provides fellow support
- Generally compatible with other forms of student financial support

### Amount

- Academic Year
  - Graduate
    - \$20,000
  - Undergraduate
    - \$5,000
- Summer
  - All fellows
    - \$3,500

## Additional Allowances

### Purpose and limitations

- Available to some fellows under certain circumstances
- Subject to limits on purpose, amount, and availability announced in Federal Register
- Generally limited by actual costs
- Currently only covers summer travel

### Amount

- Summer
  - All fellows (travel)
    - Up to \$1,000

**FLAS**  
**Fellowship**

**Note:** Payment amounts are not directly set by the program regulations. All amounts shown reflect current guidance when these materials were created. Administrative costs are not allowable.

# Payment Types – Institutional Payment

## § 657.7 What definitions apply to this program?

*Institutional payment* means the portion of the fellowship used to pay the tuition associated with a fellow's training or instruction and any associated student fees that are required of such a large proportion of all students pursuing degrees at the same degree level as the fellow at the institution receiving an allocation of fellowships or at an approved language program during the fellowship period that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception.

# Payment Types - Stipend

## § 657.7 What definitions apply to this program?

*Stipend* means the portion of the fellowship paid by the grantee to a fellow in support of living expenses and the costs associated with advanced training in a modern foreign language and area studies.



# Payment Types – Travel Allowance

## § 657.7 What definitions apply to this program?


*Travel allowance* means the portion of the fellowship used to pay for reasonable costs associated with a fellow's travel to or from a site for language instruction or training during the fellowship term, such as transportation costs or visa fees, and other reasonable costs that directly support the safety and security of fellows during the fellowship term while outside of the United States, such as overseas medical insurance or evacuation insurance.

# Fellowship Payment Procedures


## § 657.31 What is the payment procedure for fellowships?

- (a) An institution must award a stipend to fellowship recipients.
- (b) An institution must pay the stipend and any other allowances to the fellow in installments during the term of the academic year fellowship.
- (c) An institution may make a payment only to a fellow who is in good academic standing and is making satisfactory progress.
- (d) The institution must make appropriate adjustments of any overpayment or underpayment to a fellow.
- (e) Any payments made for less than the full duration of a fellowship must be prorated to reflect the actual duration of the fellowship.

# Fellow Selection

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# Design and Use of the Fellow Selection Process

- Grantee centers and programs select fellows and administer fellowships.
- Applicants propose a process for selecting fellows when responding to selection criteria addressing project planning in the application narrative.
- Applicants have flexibility to design all elements of the fellow selection process in a manner that aligns with –
  - Program purposes.
  - Program requirements.
  - Fellow eligibility criteria.
  - Institutional characteristics, policies, and procedures.
- The selection process should enable and encourage open competition among eligible students.
- The selection process should allow grantees to screen applicants for eligibility criteria.
- Grantees are expected to follow their fellow selection processes.

# Alignment of the Fellow Selection Process

## § 657.4 Who is eligible to receive a fellowship?

(c) The student demonstrates—

- (1) Commitment to the study of a world area relevant to the allocation of fellowships; and
- (2) Potential for high academic achievement based on grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures that the institution may determine. [...]

## § 657.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use to evaluate an institutional application for an allocation of fellowships?

(e) *Project planning and budget.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine one or more of the following:

- (1) The extent to which the process for selecting fellows is thoroughly described and of high quality, including the institution-wide fellowship recruitment and advertisement process, the student application process, the FLAS Fellowships Program selection criteria and priorities, any supplemental institutional requirements consistent with the FLAS Fellowships Program requirements, the composition of the institution's selection committee, and the timeline for selecting and notifying students. [...]

# Elements of the Fellow Selection Process

- Institution-wide fellowship recruitment and advertisement process
- Student application process
- Grantee-specific FLAS Fellowships Program selection criteria and priorities
- Any supplemental institutional requirements, all of which must be consistent with the FLAS Fellowships Program requirements
- Composition of the institution's selection committee
- Timeline for selecting and notifying students
- Any elements of project design that overlap with stated efforts to encourage employment in areas of national need

# Importance of Open Competition for Selection

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

[...]

(e) *Selection of fellowship recipients.* Approved Centers or Programs must select students to receive fellowships using the selection process described in the grant application submitted to the Department or using any subsequent modifications to the selection process that have been approved by the Secretary.


[...]

(j) *Vacancies.* If a fellow vacates a fellowship before the end of an award period, the institution receiving the allocation of fellowships may award the balance of the fellowship to another student if—


- (1) The student meets the eligibility requirements in § 657.4 and was selected in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section;
- (2) The remaining fellowship period comprises at least one full academic quarter, semester, trimester, or summer session; and
- (3) The amount of available funds is sufficient to award a full fellowship for the duration described in paragraph (j)(2) of this section.



# Grant and Fellowship Administration

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# Expectation of Robust Administrative Capacity

## § 657.34 What are an institution's responsibilities after the award of a grant for administering fellowship funding?

- (a) An institution to which the Secretary awards a grant under this part is responsible for administering the grant in accordance with the regulations described in § 657.6.
- (b) The institution is responsible for processing individual applications for fellowships in accordance with procedures described in §§ 657.12 and 657.30.
- (c) The institution is responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with procedures described in § 657.31.
- (d) The institution is responsible for terminating a fellowship in accordance with the procedures described in § 657.32.

# Selecting for Administrative Capacity

## § 657.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use to evaluate an institutional application for an allocation of fellowships?

(a) *Scope, personnel, and operations.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine one or more of the following:

- (1) The extent to which the proposed allocation of fellowships meets the requirements in § 657.3(a).
- (2) The extent to which the project director and other staff are qualified to administer the proposed allocation of fellowships, including the degree to which they engage in ongoing professional development activities relevant to their roles.
- (3) The adequacy of governance and oversight arrangements for the proposed allocation of fellowships, and, for a consortium, the extent to which the consortium agreement demonstrates commitment to a common objective.
- (4) The extent to which the institution provides or will provide financial, administrative, and other support for the administration of the proposed allocation of fellowships.

[...]

(c) *Quality of faculty and academic resources.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine one or more of the following:

[...]

- (2) The extent to which the applicant provides or will provide students who will be served by the proposed allocation of fellowships with substantive academic and other relevant advising services that address compliance with fellowship requirements, the potential uses of their foreign language and area studies knowledge and training, and, as appropriate, safety while studying outside the United States.

[...]

# Grantee and Fellow Reporting Requirements

## § 657.33 What are the reporting requirements for grantee institutions and for individual fellows who receive funds under this program?

Each institution of higher education, each member in a consortium of institutions of higher education, and each individual fellowship recipient under this program must submit performance reports, in such form and at such time as required by the Secretary.

# Monitoring and Termination of Fellowships

- Grantee institutions must monitor fellows' academic performance during the fellowship period and stop payments for any fellow who is no longer eligible for a fellowship.

## § 657.32 Under what circumstances must an institution terminate a fellowship?

An institution must terminate a fellowship if—

- (a) The fellow is not making satisfactory progress, is no longer enrolled, or is no longer in good standing at the institution; or
- (b) The fellow fails to follow the plan of study in modern foreign language and area studies, for which the fellow applied, unless a revised plan of study is otherwise approved by the Secretary under this part.

# Overseas Study for Fellows

- Fellows generally may study outside the United States, if appropriate instruction is available, the location is safe, and IFLE approves.
- Grantees have the primary responsibility for monitoring a fellow's academic progress, safety, and well-being when a fellow studies outside the United States.

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

[...]

(f) *Study outside the United States.* Before awarding a fellowship for use outside the United States, an institution must obtain the approval of the Secretary. The Secretary may approve the use of a fellowship outside the United States if the student is—

- (1) Enrolled in an educational program abroad, approved by the institution at which the student is enrolled in the United States, for study of a foreign language at an intermediate or advanced level or at the beginning level if appropriate equivalent instruction is not available in the United States; or
- (2) Engaged during the academic year in research that cannot be done effectively in the United States and is affiliated with an institution of higher education or other appropriate organization in the host country.

[...]

(i) *Undergraduate travel.* No funds may be expended under this part for undergraduate travel except in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary setting forth policies and procedures to ensure that Federal funds made available for such travel are expended as part of a formal program of supervised study. [...]

# Travel and IHE Grant Applications

- Grant-funded travel should follow an institution's established written travel policies.

## § 657.11 What assurances and other information must an applicant institution include in an application?

[...]

(d) Each applicant institution must submit a description of the applicant's travel policy, if one exists, and if one does not exist, a statement to that effect.

[...]



# Multiple Federal Fellowships

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

[...]

(g) *Support from other Federal agencies.* Recipients of fellowships under this part may accept concurrent awards from other Federal agencies, such as Boren Fellowships and Critical Language Scholarships, provided that the other Federal awards are not used to pay for the same activity or cost allocated to the recipient's fellowship. Any fellow who accepts concurrent awards from other Federal agencies that may pay for the same activity or cost must disclose the receipt of such other Federal funding to the approved Center or Program that administers the allocation of fellowships at their institution.

[...]

# No Administrative Costs for the FLAS Program

- An allocation of fellowships provides student support.
- An allocation of fellowships cannot fund fellowship administration.
- The indirect cost rate for an allocation of fellowships is 0%.

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

[...]

(d) *Program administration costs.* This program does not allow administrative costs.

[...]

# Transfers of Grant Funds Between Grantees

- Grantees must administer the allocation of fellowships that was awarded.
- Grantees may transfer funds when paying for the tuition and fees of their own fellows to attend a program at another institution.
- Grantees may not transfer unspent or excess funds to another institution for that other institution to administer as an additional allocation of fellowships.

## § 657.30 What are the limitations on fellowships and the use of fellowship funds?

[...]

(h) *Transfer of funds.* Institutions may not transfer funds from their allocation of fellowships to any outside entity, including other approved Centers or Programs, unless the funds are transferred directly to an instructional program provider to cover the costs for the institution's own fellows to attend training programs carried out by the instructional program provider during the academic year or a summer session. The transfer of funds to any instructional program providers located outside the United States must be pre-approved by the Secretary.

[...]

# Wrapping Up



# Specific Questions About the Regulations

## Official regulation-related documents

- [Notice of Final Rule](#) (Explanations and full text of new regulations)
- [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (Additional explanations)

## 34 CFR parts 655, 656, and 657 update team (2024)

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# Upcoming NRC and FLAS Webinar

- **February 20, 2025 – 2:00 pm ET**

## **FY 2026 NRC and FLAS Competition Updates**

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