

Fulbright-Hays DDRA Application Information Session Transcript

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16:03:54 All right, well welcome I am delighted to have a number of you here today and some of you I know a little bit and some of you I have not met yet, so I'm, I'm happy that the word is getting out about this grant today just to make sure you're in the right

16:04:07 place, we'll do an overview of the Fulbright Hays doctoral dissertation research program. It's called DDRA for short, you'll hear lots of acronyms, but I'll try to remember to define them.

16:04:20 And I'd like to just introduce myself a little bit so my name is Joy Campbell, as I'm sure you've all seen by now I use she her pronouns.

16:04:29 And I am both the DDRA project director for MSU, and the Fulbright Program advisor, which means I work with, with people in your cohort the PhD students interested in this DDRA grant, and also with a range of students undergraduates or graduate students

16:04:46 and alumni who are applying for a Fulbright us student grant. So those are my two roles right now it just it's a part time position, but the university felt that it was important to have somebody committed to supporting you all through the process.

16:05:04 In terms of kind of my background I am newer here at ISP I've just begun my second year I started a year ago in January, but it is my 18th year at the university and 16th year working with the title six program.

16:05:17 So I am in title six is the funding that supplies the funding to the Department of Education for the DDRA grant so I am familiar with, with the programs and kind of how they work.

16:05:30 and I'm learning more and more about DDRA every time we go through one of these So DDRA of course gives you an opportunity to live overseas to to do in depth research in another country.

16:05:43 I am not a DDRA fellow myself but I have lived overseas I've been in France I've been in Morocco served in the Peace Corps in Morocco in the developing world so I you know I do have some experience and travel experience as well of course.

16:06:01 Also, just international education in general has always been my career, it's always been my passion, and were.

16:06:08 You can see couple pictures of my family there but we're raising our kids to try to be internationally minded and interested travelers as well the the top photo there is a couple years ago in Ireland and we took them to Costa Rica, in 2019, so we're trying

16:06:24 to sort of raise up the next generation.

16:06:28 So today I will be covering some general information about the DDRA, you know, are you eligible, how what does it actually give you what are those benefits, and then I'll briefly cover the application components so that you can get in your head, but

16:06:44 what it looks like. So will this is a pre application session, the RFP is not out yet. My goal today is to provide you with enough information to be able to decide whether this is a good fit for you whether this is a good match and you should proceed

16:06:59 with, you know, working on an application.

16:07:02 After the application opens. I'll be holding more sessions more in depth sessions will have one for example with our fiscal officer on the budget will have one about the human subjects statement that you have to do, we might combine some of those.

16:07:19 But there will be more information more chances to meet as a, as a group like this, and and answer your questions, feel free to hop in with questions as they come up.

16:07:30 You can throw them in the chat I see Lindsay has told us she's a she's an RPC v as well Returned Peace Corps Volunteer so some of the others may be as well.

16:07:40 Don't Don't be shy, you can put questions in the chat, I should see them because I do have it up on another screen, otherwise just unmute yourself, anytime you want to hop in and of course at the end we'll, we'll have time to stick around as long as you'd

16:07:53 like for final questions.

16:07:57 Alright so what is the dare program.

16:08:02 It was founded the the mutual education cultural exchange act it's called the Fulbright Hays act after the two senators that that brought it forth was in 1961.

16:08:15 The first record I can find a DDRA person going out as a 1964, and over 6000 of these fellowships have been offered. There are other branches of the Fulbright act that send professors overseas scholars, undergraduate students are those who have just

16:08:34 graduated and received their bachelor's degree. So, there are also a number of programs that bring people to the US the Humphrey fellows for example that's another Fulbright program so this one we're focusing on was created at the same time.

16:08:48 Bye, bye center Fulbright he he really had a profound influence on American foreign policy.

16:08:55 30 something years in the Senate, and in this legacy now isn't it 7050 years so Fulbright celebrated 75th year this year, which is pretty you know pretty remarkable so it's a long legacy.

16:09:08 The grant specifically is designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the study of modern languages and area studies.

16:09:18 So, what does that mean it means you can't get a DDRA studying ancient Greek, it means you can't get one in Western Europe, we'll talk about that later but this is for languages other than French, German, Spanish, in the Western European setting

16:09:38 area studies, What does that mean, can be pretty broadly defined.

16:09:43 Be history, geography economy politics languages linguistics anthropology you'll, you'll see I'll give you some examples of past work that has been done under these grants, and you'll see that it's, it can be interdisciplinary can be quite broadly defined

16:09:59 so as long as we can, write your application in such a way that the grand tours, understand your, your purpose and that it meets their, their official funding language.

16:10:12 We'll give it a shot.

16:10:13 It is a sizable grant it can be 10s of thousands of dollars, very generous. It gives you funding to do six to 12 months in the field, it is a full time research position.

16:10:27 So, and I'll mention this again later but for example you are not.

16:10:32 You can't take a TA ship or an RA ship at the same time, the DDRA is your full time job during that period.

16:10:39 But surely is a generous generous grant, if you do receive it quite a prestigious one.

16:10:48 This just gives you an example of where those DDRA fellows are worldwide. Well, they're not right now they're all sitting at home, but due to the coronavirus, but this is where they would be if they were able to be out on their grants right now so you

16:11:03 can see that there are a number in the Western Hemisphere with lots in Central America, Mexico, South America, about half that number in, in Africa. So there's 112 fellows right now, out in this in this you know academic year.

16:11:22 From 42 different institutions, those are the little tiny blue dots in the in us part of the map. Those are the home institutions of those hundred and 12 fellows.

16:11:32 Just for the sake of a little more information of the 112, 64 of them right now are female, 48 male. I don't have any listed as non binary but there, there may be not reflected in the state, or in the Department of Education paperwork.

16:11:50 So historically, this distribution of geographic areas and the locations of the scholars is seems pretty accurate So historically all across all those 6000 grants.

16:12:06 19% have been in the Western Hemisphere so the Americas and, you know, South America, Central America.

16:12:15 15% is the next largest and that includes Central and Eastern Europe in Eurasia. So that's going to be, you know, because except standard commander Stan Afghanistan.

16:12:25 It plus all of Eastern Europe Central Europe as well. Africa historically has seen 15% as well similar to Eastern Europe, right next coming up 14 and a half percent is East Asia.

16:12:40 So really, these are spread out, you don't see 75% of the fellows go into one particular geographic area and they really are quite distributed globally.

16:12:52 Right, in terms of MS you so again I started last year as I helped one cohort finish up a grant that had already the RFP had already come out when I started my position last year, but we got them across the finish line.

16:13:06 So, I have sort of numbers, the raw numbers of how many people we have sent out, but the lighter green stripes are how many applicants we have and I only have those data for the last couple of years, but in this you does have a strong tradition of MS

16:13:23 you DDRA fellows. And, you know, you can see that having having five when there's only 112 from 42 different institutions in a particular year to have five or six is, is something to be very proud of here and unless you.

16:13:43 So we do have a good history of that and I hope to continue with your group and continue with those those excellent excellent numbers.

16:13:53 And someday I hope to get the application information a little further back I didn't receive, you know, back data that I wish I had maybe I'll be able to take up at some point, these eight titles and locations you can see where these were these students

16:14:11 are.

16:14:12 These are the two from fiscal year 2020, who should be out now and are not yet out, and the six, that should have been able to go out last year all eight of them are on hiatus right now.

16:14:26 It's obviously an unusual circumstance, and the Department of Education has never seen anything like this that has has globally stopped the program, occasionally a program will get stopped due to political unrest or something like that, but all eight

16:14:44 of these students are sitting and waiting to begin their research, we're hopeful that that that will start to happen but you can see from from these names are the titles rather than, there's a just a variety, you can see they come from various fields,

16:15:02 and through history teacher and, and, you know, lots of different topics that are possible so wherever you're coming from whatever your field is I think we can we can fit this to you and make it work.

16:15:15 Unless you does have a very strong history of dare awards to African countries, because, in large part due to Professor David Wiley, and and many others, you know, Professor Achebe for example who's currently a faculty member, very strong ties with,

16:15:37 you know, African educational institutions and so forth. Because MSU has had that in the African Studies centers such a strong title six center for many many decades now.

16:15:48 So, we, we do have this this abundance of students who have gone to various African countries, but that's sort of been just a quirk based on who was helping put these grants through, and it does not mean that people in other fields should should be wondering

16:16:08 if their project could be funded because absolutely and one of the things that I would like to do as I, you know, grow this program or is to create a wider and broader selection of fields that are that are fellows can come from.

16:16:24 So, other places again history has some really really amazing faculty members, as do all of our departments but history has some that have really traditionally pushed the DDRA so you see a lot of history there, but just to give you an idea I'm going

16:16:41 to run down a list that I put together of other disciplines that are in that that group of 112, that, that I showed you on the slide, a few slides earlier.

16:16:52 And so these are ones from other institutions across the US, and this is just randomly me clicking on the little dots so it's not a comprehensive list but it'll give you an idea that it's much broader than just those eight that you're seeing.

16:17:05 So I found an ethnomusicology grant. Religious Studies, urban planning. Evolutionary Biology, music, art history linguistics, archaeology environmental science and policy poly sci fi sociology education law.

16:17:20 So, just because we don't have those that wide range here that does not mean that that this grant wouldn't wouldn't be a perfectly applicable one to your program.

16:17:33 All right.

16:17:50 So eligibility. How do you get the grant. First you have to be a US citizen or a national or permanent resident. This is federally funded by the US government, and they want to put their funding into, you know, people who are going to return to the US

16:17:52 and be productive members of, you know, other educational institutions and share the knowledge that they've gained on this program so it is limited to those groups.

16:18:04 There are many, many other programs I don't share Humphrey earlier, many other Fulbright programs that bring people from international locations to the US but Dr.

16:18:17 You do have to be a graduate standing graduate student in good standing.

16:18:22 You need to be admitted to a doctoral degree programming in foreign languages or area studies, like I said, except for Western Europe, and you have to be a BD by the time the grant begins.

16:18:35 And when does the grant begin so officially the fiscal year for the federal government starts on October 1 each year. But as I know one of our attendees today.

16:18:46 It was was wondering. Oh, I've got, I've got one more class I have to finish in fall semester of that year.

16:18:55 So that's after October 1, but you're fine because your grant doesn't begin until you get on that airplane, or until until we submit the request for permission for you to fly.

16:19:06 So even if you have some sort of a fall class or one final key or key or something that you need to pass. And it's after October 1, you could still absolutely be part of this cohort and just plan to leave.

16:19:21 Later in the winter, January February.

16:19:25 Officially, you must be planning a teaching career in the US upon completion of that PhD. They want the funding to be used to enrich future generations of students this is a Department of Education grants so they want it to flow back into the educational

16:19:41 community.

16:19:43 But again, it's a matter of writing the application narrative in such a way that that you're telling them the ways in which you'll share the information, even if you're not a traditional professor.

16:19:59 And of course, because this is a language, you know, very heavily devoted grant, you do need to have sufficient language ability to be able to carry out your, your research project and to live in that community where you going to be for six to 12 months.

16:20:17 All right. The benefits I mentioned a little bit earlier but this is, this is the nitty gritty of what you receive as a fellow so you do get round trip international airfare for the fellow you receive a maintenance allowance for the fellow and then any

16:20:33 dependents if you have a spouse or if you have an unmarried child or children under the age of 21.

16:20:40 They can, if they remain with you the entire time of the grant, they can also receive a maintenance allowance so very generous in terms of what that covers that maintenance allowance is determined based on how based on the information from the State Department

16:20:57 they have this whole book I think it's like 40 pages of the application packet break every country down into even specific cities sometimes. And so that covers your living expenses lodging food, your internet utilities local transportation bus pass that

16:21:15 kind of thing.

16:21:17 Then you'll also be able to put into your budget or project allowance for your research related expenses that might be books, it might be affiliation fees for getting into an archive.

16:21:43 It might be museum entry fees if that is what is involved travel within the country if you have to travel outside of your main city to conduct interviews, you know, somewhere else, that kind of thing does not cover interpreters.

16:21:45 That's why you need to have the language ability at a very very high level, and does not have a research assistant so you can't have anybody. Oops, sorry about that.

16:21:53 It can't have.

16:21:55 You can't have anybody helping you transcribe interviews or things like that.

16:22:00 And it does, it provides supplemental health and accident insurance as well.

16:22:07 The grand average just so you get an idea, the grant average for this last academic year, globally, of those hundred and 12 was \$39,000 little over that, the highest average amount that was awarded was for the East Asia.

16:22:25 World area about over \$48,000, and the lowest average award. And again, this depends on what city you're going to and certainly what country, the lowest average awards for South East Asia at \$34,000.

16:22:44 So, I'm a little more information about dependence for anyone that that matters to.

16:22:56 As long as you're legally married same sex, opposite sex, you know, as long as you have a legal spouse that that is covered.

16:22:57 And as far as you know this is a long application or your many months things can happen in, in many months, if you for example, Get married between now and when you leave but that spouse isn't in the original budget that you created and submitted as your

16:23:18 grant that spouse will not very likely there's very very little wiggle room.

16:23:25 They wouldn't be covered as a dependent for the maintenance allowance.

16:23:30 Same with children if you suddenly find yourself a parent, after you know by through adoption or you have a child that that child would not be covered as a, as a dependent, if they didn't exist, as, as part of your family.

16:23:45 When the grant goes in.

16:23:46 So just to make you aware of that.

16:23:52 I'll pause I haven't seen any questions come up in the chat or anything. But do remember you can hop in if you need to.

16:24:05 haven't talked this much for a very long time.

16:24:08 With without an actual conversation. So the grant administration where where does this grant come from, how does how does the, the funding actually work.

16:24:20 So it is a Department of Education grant comes from the federal government it's administered by their a full office the international foreign language Education, Office.

16:24:32 And this is an institutional award is given to MSU the funding, unlike the Fulbright that IE, he runs. And unlike the Scholar Award that some of your professors have probably gone on this one does come to the institution MSU is the, the agency that

16:24:58 makes that contract with the Department of Education, and then MSU disperses the funds to each fellow, and our fiscal officer reconciles the expenses and does reimbursements and advances and things like that.

16:25:16 So, the federal government doesn't just write you a check, they will put that funding in MSU's account and then we we reconcile it and disperse the funds as as needed, including a very very generous advance on your maintenance loans to get you started

16:25:33 in the country. So you will go overseas with, you know, some tiny amount will give you a good, a good chunk. And then there's no direct communication there, they're quite strict on this there's no direct communication between you and the Department of

16:25:52 Education, it all goes through me. Which, you know, I guess, lessens the amount of emails and telephone calls that that they're taking the program officer there in Washington DC, also oversees other grants and is your has a lot of responsibility so they

16:26:07 channel everything through the project director.

16:26:10 Technically the PI for the grant is Dr Ashley Green she's in ISP International Studies and programs as the assistant dean of administration. And then, but for all practical purposes.

16:26:23 I am the, the project director as named by the Department of Education, and I'm your main contact.

16:26:32 Some of the application process is.

16:26:39 It's a fairly short turnaround I'll show you some deadlines in a minute. But, but it is. There are a lot of sort of hoops to jump through some of you have probably applied for grants before you're all PhD students and familiar with, with that process

16:26:55 to some extent, but the research narrative needs to be approved by your advisor, your advisor will play a very active role in preparing you for this application.

16:27:07 So that has to be approved by your dissertation advisor and then it goes through me. The budget has to be approved by me and by our fiscal officer she's the fiscal officer for African Studies.

16:27:19 The African Studies Center at MSU you do to have to have a human subjects statement that will be approved by your dissertation advisor, and by me.

16:27:29 I'll bring this up again later but don't panic, you don't have to have IRB approval yet you just have to have a plan on how you're going to get it. So, in many of you would be applying through your dissertation advisor anyway.

16:27:44 For that, for that IRB approval. So, you know that has a couple of levels that it has to go through and then certainly more on the actual IRB number. The study number and so forth.

16:27:56 If you are awarded fellowship.

16:27:59 And then the entire application package because there's the part that you do, as, as individual students. And then there are a lot of things that that I work on with the Office of Sponsored Programs and our fiscal officer.

16:28:16 And that, that, you know, is part of that grant between, between the Department of Education and Ms you. So there's a lot of other things that I do with formal, you know paperwork and stuff like that so.

16:28:29 And I have to get all that approved so it's not just me rubber stamping things it's I have to go through my own approval processes.

16:28:37 All right, the dates you probably really really really wish I could tell you when it's going to happen when it's going to come out. Now I can't, I wish I could.

16:28:48 You can see that I took a screenshot of this because I went back through the Federal Register. We have notices inviting applications the NIA, often called an RFP.

16:29:03 They've come out in October September, May, February, January December it there, there is no rhyme or reason they come out on any day of the week. They are do anywhere from 63 days.

16:29:18 So this is the one that came out before I was even hired there there was no reason to think that it might come out as early as December, given the last many, many years.

16:29:28 And so they hired me after the winter break.

16:29:33 And sure enough the grant actually opened December 17 three weeks before I even got to campus so it's there's there's very, there is no pattern, you can see that someone has been do as late as 30 days.

16:29:48 Let's hope it doesn't happen this year but I say 60 days and most of my application materials. Some of you may have seen that timeline, but I can't guarantee it could be 45 could be 30 could be could be 60 so I wish that I had more information but all

16:30:06 of us are tearing our hair out there's a, there's an advisor listserv for people who manage DDRA grants and we're all like, we have no idea. So when it happens, we hope that there will be enough time for a 60 day turnaround, you can see that those quicker

16:30:22 turnarounds are when the application doesn't come until much later in the spring like May, because, because it comes up against federal appropriations and the money has to be spent in a particular federal fiscal year, they must review and award these

16:30:41 fellowships before October 1, or they miss an entire year of federal appropriations. So that's what those really quick turnaround times are. We hope that ours won't be that close this year.

16:30:55 The bottom line, though, start planning. Now, it could come out tomorrow. It could come out in March we have no idea but the more you have done, the less stressed you'll be at the, the end when the RFP does finally come out so start talking with your

16:31:12 dissertation advisor, make sure that I know you're out there I see we've got, I think we're up to about 11 people fantastic. So, some of you I know we're out there, some of you are new to me, let me know you're there, and we'll, you know, we'll get you

16:31:27 on my, my list for notifications. And then once that RFP finally drops or the NIA, then I'll have some interim deadlines, and some other information sessions like I talked about going over the budget, that kind of thing.

16:31:42 Can't really hold those until we know when things are going to be do, but there will be more information forthcoming once that comes out in the Federal Register, you, you yourself can sign up for notifications from the Federal Register that's, that's

16:31:57 what I've done. I could, I can give you information later on how to do that if you want but put some keywords in, and you'll get a notification when it comes out exactly the same way I'm going to get it.

16:32:09 So, the Federal Register is a federal document that is updated online now they used to come out every Friday on paper.

16:32:19 That's how long I've been here, but they.

16:32:22 That is the official venue for government grant opportunities, so that's why we have to wait for it to come through there.

16:32:30 And then once it comes out, no matter how long that that award period or the, the application period is the notifications will come late August mid September, and you could leave as early as November 1 fiscal year starts October 1, but realistically there's

16:32:49 paperwork that has to be done Ms. You have to set up accounts and things like that so realistically, as soon as that you'd be wheels up, heading to your, your host country would be November first

16:33:05 that somebody unmuted themselves for a question or just pumping there Mike.

16:33:12 All right.

16:33:15 Okay, so the grant period I talked about that a little bit. I'm officially from October 1 to march 31 of two years later, so you have 18 months, in which to conduct your six to 12 months of research that usually gives plenty of time to work around courses

16:33:36 that you have remaining or, you know, a th shift that you've committed to things like that so the budget that you right, you will determine, as you're writing your application.

16:33:50 How many months of funding you will ask for and that is what your grant award will be based on so if you think that your project can be conducted in just six months maybe it's just straight archival work you're going to go in there and and sit in an archive

16:34:05 and copy things all day and it's pretty straightforward, maybe six months is sufficient.

16:34:10 Maybe you need to do a lot of interviewing and traveling around maybe you have multiple countries that you want to go to because they're related to your project.

16:34:19 You might go for 12 months. Grant so you can do it any increment of months between six and 12.

16:34:32 As I said before, the earliest departure date, realistically would be November 1 of this year.

16:34:39 The latest departure date.

16:34:41 Depending on your your core schedule and things would be late next summer, because you have to allow time for that six month minimum period in the field.

16:34:52 And then there's some post grad record reports and evaluations foreign language evaluation for post fellowship that you have to get done so late next summer is really the latest that you can leave it to, to, to complete grant.

16:35:09 So you want to make sure that these fit with other commitments other courses that you might be taking that you might be teaching.

16:35:17 These are the parameters that you've got.

16:35:21 Tanya is asking does it have to be in one location. Nope. I've got one of my fellows who's waiting right now but he will be in three different countries in Africa.

16:35:32 I have another fellow waiting right now, who is in one African country and then briefly going to the UK to do some work in archives about the colonial period, so that's that's something that I don't think I mentioned when I said that they don't allow

16:35:47 you to go to Western Europe, except for short little stints like to do archive work, you know, especially in Africa, parts of Asia, there are you know there may very well have been a colonial history and documents that that refer to that, that time period

16:36:08 may be housed in a place in in the communist country. So, they will let you go like he's going to go to the UK I think he has four weeks, one month in his grant.

16:36:21 So it does not have to be in the same location can be different countries can also be different cities in the same country so if you're going to be in the capital city because you need to be affiliated with the University for maybe four months, and then

16:36:34 you go to a more rural area because you're conducting interviews or something like that. You write that into your grant, as long as it's written into your grant, you can move around and you have the funding to do that.

16:36:47 You have to plan ahead and have all of those steps laid out. Otherwise, they, they don't like to approve changes midstream. So that's another reason to really start thinking about feasibility and how you would do this and your methodology, because you

16:37:05 have to lay it all out and show that you've got it thought through before, before you apply.

16:37:14 Okay.

16:37:17 So some other things of note.

16:37:22 You, you have to conduct yourself in a way that we would be proud to call you a Spartan, I can't imagine that there would be any, any issues with with anyone from Ms you, but it has happened in the past, again, not at SU but I know some other instances

16:37:37 where people were tweeting things or, you know, talking on social media being disparaging about, you know, either the Fulbright Program or Department of Ed or they were feeling frustrated about something and took it out on social media, and those project

16:37:54 coordinators are contacted and asked to rein in their fellows so I mentioned that because I know that it has happened but I can't, I can't imagine that anybody, any of our Spartans would, would have any issues with that.

16:38:09 You do need to remain at the research site, wherever that is, you know, whichever site you were supposed to be in at that time for the duration of the grant.

16:38:19 Likewise, any dependents must travel with you the entire time dependent alone doesn't mean that your spouse comes over to visit for three weeks and then goes home you would not receive any independent allowance for that.

16:38:34 So dependents have to stay with you the entire time and cannot leave to go to conferences or, you know, any thing else you are supposed to be full time in that country doing your research, you cannot do a TA ship or an RA ship during that active research

16:38:51 time, and even for family emergencies, unless there's a death in your immediate family, God forbid, you, you would not be able to return so that means your sister's wedding or your you know your grandma's hundredth birthday or.

16:39:10 Again, God forbid, but somebody gets in a terrible car accident or something, unless there's a death in the family.

16:39:15 They will not allow you to return, you would have to give up your fellowship, if, if that were the case, so severe medical emergency excellent question tomorrow.

16:39:28 Yes, there, there are of course provisions for for medical emergencies. If that happens, and and it has happened in the past, they can put you on in hiatus status, which freezes everything, and then you take, you know, get your medical situation taken

16:39:47 care of. And then you can return to your country and restart the grant, they would they would kind of hit the pause button, and then when you're able to return, then you restart an add on the missed.

16:40:01 Time to the end of your grant.

16:40:02 If you, if it's a medical issue that does not allow you to return to the country, of course, that it happens people become quite ill or or are injured in some way and so if that happens, then you know there are ways to separate the fellowship, and it

16:40:22 might involve reimbursing some of your travel advance if you haven't reconciled and been in the country long enough to spend that out. Yeah.

16:40:31 And as I, as I said before, I think in the benefits you do have travel and evacuation and health insurance that, that will be part of your of your funding so that that is something that Ms you you work with the Office of International Health and Safety,

16:40:47 which is a very very busy place right now with coronavirus, they're the ones that pulled everybody back in. Back in March. Back stateside to, you know, because of coven.

16:41:00 So, there is a mechanism for how you to status for various reasons. Another reason is if there's political unrest in, in the country.

16:41:10 And that that can happen where something flares up and they'll, they'll help you leave and and put your brand on hiatus until such time as it's safe to return.

16:41:22 So, a lot of that is very case by case, and we kind of take those, those things as they come. Someone has asked is the insurance also for dependents and the spouse.

16:41:32 I don't believe so. I don't think so. I believe it is just for the MSP traveler, so you would want to look into supplemental insurance, and there's lots of information available for that through the OIHS the opposite international health and safety, but

16:41:49 that we can certainly provide other things you have to maintain contact with me and with the Fulbright Commission in your country and US Embassy, because you know if there are emergencies or there is political unrest or something like that we need to

16:42:03 be able to find you and contact you and make sure that you're safe.

16:42:09 And because it is a federal grant, you have to conform with the fly America Act which means us carriers or co chairs.

16:42:24 And we'll, we'll help help you with all of that the travel arrangements and stuff that our fiscal officers amazing and she's, She's very very aware of how to make that work for you and get you where you need to go in the order is taxable.

16:42:45 Alright, so I said I would briefly go through the application components, which I will.

16:42:52 These are the the main things that you'll do in your part of the application so each of you will do these items and then I do and work with the fiscal officer and the Office of Sponsored Programs, to do lots of other paperwork things.

16:43:09 So you'll do your project or the narrative, and I'll have slides on, on each of these in in a minute. The narrative which is the nitty gritty, this is my actual project, you'll do your budget is a CB references, no reason to start kind of thinking ahead,

16:43:26 foreign language evaluations because you have to be able to show that you do have that language ability, your human subjects narrative support materials from the host country and I'll go over that and then transcripts.

16:43:40 So briefly that is the part that you would be responsible for. There's a lot of information that comes out when the NIH is published last year the application instructions packet.

16:43:56 I kid you not was 114 pages long. So, there is exhaustive detail that will come when it is published and I can certainly provide you know examples from past years, we don't anticipate major changes but this is the, the overview.

16:44:12 So briefly the application narrative or the project proposal. It's 10 pages.

16:44:18 Not too bad.

16:44:20 10 pages, they're very strict about it has to be double spaced it has to be one inch margins and they tell you what fonts, you can use, but the nice thing is it doesn't give you any room for error know exactly what's expected, and it's just right there,

16:44:35 that narrative should meet the competitive priorities for for the grant last year there was a competitive preference priority for languages, and a competitive referenced priority for a cinematic focus and specific academic fields.

16:44:53 Last year the fields were very broad so don't panic, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, computer science education, international development policy, public health or economics.

16:45:06 So, very similar to that list that I gave before.

16:45:12 And

16:45:15 so it has to go, you know, those competitive priorities, give you some extra point potential that can add, add points to your company, your, your application.

16:45:30 So you can see the technical review forum is worth 100 points. There are 60 points and the quality of the proposed project section, 40 and the qualifications of the applicants section.

16:45:44 And then those five bonus points. So if you are in one of those fields or you do represent one of the languages that they have targeted. You can you can get up to 105% it's like getting, you know, a plus plus on a test.

16:45:57 The quality of the proposed project. I'll read through the question so that you can kind of get a sense of what exactly those reviewers are looking for one second.

16:46:12 And there'll be more information on this to come.

16:46:16 You know handouts and things that that people have found helpful in the past but. So the first thing they were looking for their, the statement of the major hypotheses to be tested or questions be examined and the description and justification of the

16:46:29 research methods to be used. You know how how clear is that how strong is that that's worth up to 15 points, the relationship of the research to the literature on the topic and two major theoretical issues in the field projects originality and importance

16:46:43 in terms of concerns of the discipline, so that they're going to see through your application narrative and through that bibliography.

16:46:50 10 points possible their third point is that the preliminary research already completed in the US, and overseas or plans for such research, and the kinds of data that are available so you know what kind of a foundation Have you already laid for this this

16:47:08 is for your dissertation research so you should be well on the way to, you know, completing that that research you should have a plan. What have you already done that this will build on the fourth point.

16:47:24 The fourth question that they that they look at worth 10 points the justification for overseas field research preparations to establish appropriate and sufficient research contacts and affiliations, that's, that's going to be reflected in that host country

16:47:37 affiliation letter.

16:47:39 Number five is worth only five points so less weight than some of the others but they're your plans to share the results of the research and a copy of the dissertation with scholars and officials of the host country, to really easy one to get the full

16:47:52 It's a really easy one to get the full five points you say I will give them a copy of my dissertation. When you're done, and the sixth thing that they look for in quality of proposed project is that the guidance and supervision of the dissertation advisor

16:48:06 or committee at all stages of the project, including developing the project, understanding the research conditions abroad and acquainting the applicant with research and and field.

16:48:14 So that's why I said earlier, your dissertation advisor has to be 100% on board with this, and because they are going to be a part of, of this process throughout your research.

16:48:26 For example, if you do need to change something in the scope of your work, say, a talent that you were going to go to, you know, the archive closes or or here's a real life example.

16:48:40 When our scholars initially were supposed to go to China have to that we're supposed to go to China last year, and we're not able to do so when the pandemic was just starting.

16:48:51 This was like in January, so we had to make provisions and then we're going to move them to Taiwan, which was still open at that point. And it wasn't me that they needed a letter from, to get permission to make that change it was their dissertation advisor,

16:49:06 so you'll be checking back in with your dissertation advisor throughout this any kind of a change needs to have a letter from that person. so they, they really want them to be involved.

16:49:17 So that's the 60 points that the bulk of the application is is scored on the qualifications of the accurate of the applicants there's 40 points there that that you can obtain.

16:49:31 And it's not all or nothing. You know, you might get eight out of the 10 or you might get 12 out of 15 qualifications of the applicant number one looks at your overall graduate academic record.

16:49:43 That's why they want your transcripts. It looks at the extent of which your academic record demonstrates strength in area studies that are related to your project.

16:49:54 It looks the third point is your proficiency in other languages, and the language specifically that that is spoken in the country that you're going to, and that one's worth 15 points.

16:50:06 Remember this is based out of the International foreign language education office, and so foreign languages what Fulbright Hays is all about. That's 15 points out of that 40.

16:50:18 And then lastly the, your ability to conduct research in a foreign cultural context, as evidenced by the applicants references or prior overseas experiences, and that's five points.

16:50:31 So, language, and the quality of your project or the two, the two big ones together they equal 30% of your potential score.

16:50:43 Right, so that is your 10 page that's the biggie that you should start kind of thinking about right now. I see a question. What if the language I want to use is not studied in the country, how do I get it certified is not studied in.

16:51:06 In the US,

16:51:04 maybe we can get more information on that at the question answers at the end because it seems, you know, maybe there's a special case here we can we can talk more about the foreign language evaluations.

16:51:16 Okay, your budget, and again, there will be more in depth seminars about this. Once we once we get some dates, but the budgets do come to me we will give you a sample budget that is annotated it's based off of a real one that a real you know one of our

16:51:32 fellows did a couple of years ago.

16:51:35 So we know what they tend to accept and what they tend to not accept, because the budget that you put in that you submit doesn't necessarily mean that you'll get all of that, when you become a fellow, they will give you an A updated budget, and we can

16:51:53 always tell what they've taken out like they won't pay for a cell phone, they won't pay for extra data.

16:52:01 You know, usage on on a cell phone because in in the mind of the budgeting office, that is considered part of your maintenance, that's just day to day living.

16:52:10 And so we can kind of give you some pointers on things that should be included and should not, there are very specific categories so you'll have a template and you'll know exactly how to put your budget together, but you'll have to

16:52:25 do some legwork in terms of, you know, what kind of fees are there for a local archive or how much will it cost to take a bus or something to another part of the country to conduct interviews or that kind of thing, but will walk you through that.

16:52:41 Things that are not included just to kind of put this on your radar, you can't buy a car, you can't buy a motorcycle. No gifts or honorarium or that kind of thing so that can be tricky.

16:52:55 If you've got interview subjects and you'd like to pay them a subject, you know participation thing, can't do that.

16:53:03 And so there you know there are some other things you can't you if you have to go to Chicago to visit a consulate for a visa. You can't charge that in country that the US travel prior to your fellowship to the grant any examinations, or immunisations

16:53:23 that you need to get prior to leaving would not be covered so anything stateside is going to be something that you are responsible for. They don't cover any tuition here in the States, or any public, anything that happens outside of the grant period.

16:53:44 But we'll have plenty of time to go through those things.

16:53:47 All right, the language evaluation, we can, and graduate references, you have just three just three letters, and one of them does have to be from your dissertation advisor again showing their support and knowledge of your project and familiarity with

16:54:04 it. And that is a form that's completed online, you, you enter their email, the same as many other grants systems, you've probably done or application systems but you'll give their basic information and the system sends them a link, and they'll fill out

16:54:22 a little form, not very long and upload letter. And then the language evaluation is required for the language of research, and those evaluations are also done online, they'll upload, they complete a form.

16:54:38 And then they upload a little paragraph, kind of, about how they did the assessment.

16:54:44 And if the language of research is English I know again that applies to at least one person here, where you plan to be conducting your research in English, or if you speak as a native speaker or a heritage speaker, you speak the language of that country.

16:55:02 You may not be fully eligible for the points in that language question that 15 point language question, but it doesn't mean that you can't get, get the grant, so we can talk about that on a case by case basis, and determine, you know the best way to put

16:55:20 yourself forward in terms of your language ability, especially if you're a native speaker or a heritage speaker.

16:55:28 You know, talk to me, and we can we can discuss that, because there are very specific definitions of those things and if you for example if you if you identify as a heritage speaker of that language.

16:55:42 So you've spoken at it at home.

16:55:45 You know, maybe your parents came from a particular country where that language is spoken, you'll be evaluated, according to your proficiency scores and, you know, maybe you took some supplemental classes in that language to become even better, that kind

16:56:01 of thing is perfect. That's wonderful, because it means that you wanted to continue to pursue your language study. And so you would still be eligible for points in that case, native speakers are not though, but we can talk about that, the host country

16:56:17 supporting materials that is a letter of invitation letter of affiliation that comes from your international host. Typically it's a, you know, an institution, a University of some kind, might be an organization could be an NGO could be an archive that

16:56:36 is not affiliated with a particular University.

16:56:40 And you will upload those so unlike your reference letters that go directly from your referee into the system, your host country support material comes to you and is uploaded into the system needs to be very official have to have it on letterhead, and

16:56:56 there should be a written signature, as opposed to electronic Of course, it's a PDF there.

16:57:04 But they want to see the little the scribble instead of just a tight fancy font with, with the person's name.

16:57:12 So that's something, you know, again, is worth planning ahead and making those contacts now, so that when you ask for that letter, the turnaround is pretty quick.

16:57:23 Just quickly, other application components, a two page bibliography. And that's in addition to the 10 page narratives so it's the same font specifications one inch margins for that Bibliography CV there's no particular length there's no prescribed length

16:57:43 that they that they asked for, but you do want to tailor your CV to this specific project you want to highlight any area studies courses that you've taken language training that you've done you want to get that right on the first page and so we can look

16:57:58 at making sure that that pops out to the reviewers again that human subjects narrative that I've talked about before.

16:58:06 It's brief, you know, a couple pages, and you don't have to have the IRB approval yet, but you'll need it before your research begins.

16:58:16 Most of the projects that I've seen come through and again I haven't been here that long but most of them have been exempt.

16:58:23 But we'll go through that transcripts, you do need to have all graduate transcripts undergrad, you don't need to include unless there are specific focus, you know if there's a focus on areas studies or language courses or something like that going all

16:58:39 the way back to your, your undergrad days that that would be helpful, it would show that this is a progression of your studies and so you could choose to include them but you don't have to.

16:58:52 So, okay, there goes, we've lost one already, they're dropping.

16:58:58 Really, the next thing is just a questions you have, that is a ton of information.

16:59:06 And I want to make sure that we have a chance to to answer any questions that you do have let me throw my last slide up, and then I'll stop the screen share and you can, you know, we can just talk face to face here, but my last slide just has my contact

16:59:21 information here so where do you go from here.

16:59:26 That's me. That's my email. I am not on campus right now when I am on campus I live in the international center but right now I'm living in East Lansing and my house, and you've got the Fulbright website there most of you have probably already found it

16:59:41 because you found the link to this, this presentation, but there is a DDRA specific page. If you haven't navigated all the way to that yet has information has a recommended timeline.

16:59:55 And, you know, other links to the Department of Education, start talking to your advisors start drafting documents, so that you're ready to go when, When that RFP hits my office hours are right on the web page as well Tuesday's every Tuesday from two

17:00:11 Every Tuesday from two to three I sit in front of my camera and hope that people come to see me so feel free to drop in at any time for that. And don't call my office phone because I'm not there email is definitely the best way to get me or popping into

17:00:26 those office hours.

17:00:28 Alright so I'm going to stop screen sharing right now and get face to face with anybody who wants to show themselves.