

# Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program



**INTERNATIONAL AND  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
EDUCATION**

## FULBRIGHT-HAYS



## PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) fellowship program provides opportunities to doctoral candidates to engage in dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. The program is designed to contribute to the development and improvement of the study of modern foreign languages and area studies in the United States.





# HOW TO APPLY

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible fellowship applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident.
- Be a graduate student in good standing at an institution of higher education OR admitted to candidacy in a doctoral degree program in modern foreign languages and area studies by the time of fellowship program start.
- Possess advanced foreign language skills to conduct the dissertation research project.
- Be planning a U.S. teaching career upon doctoral degree completion.

## **APPLYING**

Students submit their fellowship applications to their home institutions. The home institutions submit the applications in the G5 grants system. For more information, please visit our applicant information page at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsddrap/applicant.html>.

## **PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Dissertation research projects may be proposed for a period of six to 12 months in duration. The research should contribute to deeper knowledge about areas of the world generally not included in U.S. curricula. (Projects focusing on Western Europe are not eligible.)

## **SELECTION**

The Secretary of Education uses the DDRA program selection criteria and any competition priorities to evaluate and select meritorious applications for funding. Awards may be issued anytime from April to September of the application year.



## 2020 DDRA BY THE NUMBERS

112

Dissertation research fellowships funded

64%

Fellows at public institutions

6,422

Fellowships awarded from 1964-2020

44

Unique languages of research

\$4.2

Million USD total funds awarded

45

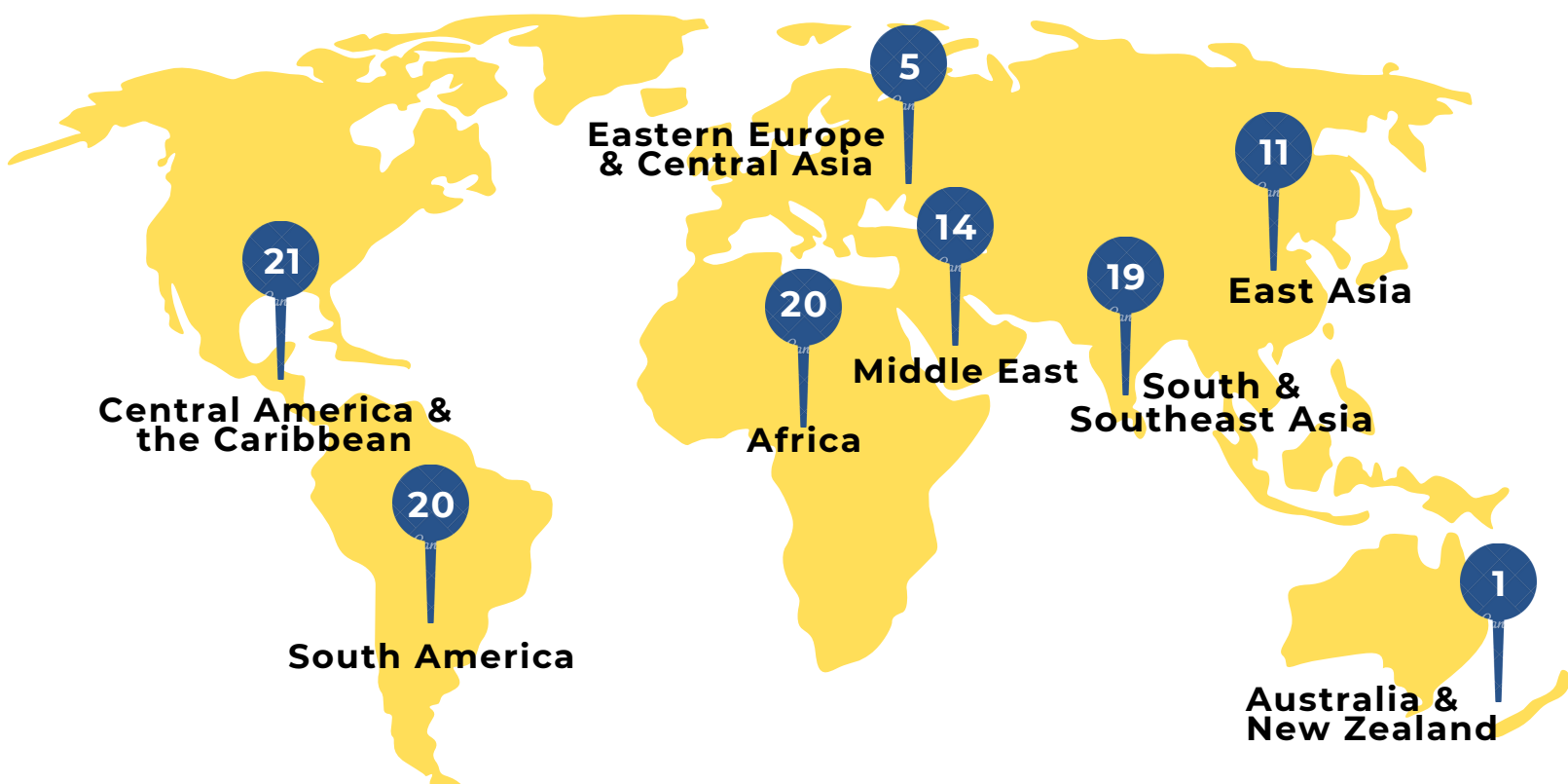
Countries of research

\$38K

Average fellowship award

32

Unique academic disciplines





## 2020 DDRA BY THE NUMBERS

### TOP 5 COUNTRIES, LANGUAGES, & DISCIPLINES

**1** INDIA

**2** MEXICO

**3** TURKEY

**4** JAPAN

**5** BRAZIL

**1** SPANISH

**2** ARABIC

**3** JAPANESE

**4** TURKISH

**5** PORTUGUESE

**1** ANTHROPOLOGY

**2** HISTORY AND ART HISTORY

**3** RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**4** ASIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**5** POLITICAL SCIENCE





## PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCES

"It was an incredibly enriching and exciting experience. The personal relationships that I was able to build in India and the Netherlands added tremendous value to not just my research project, which was intellectually nourishing, but the overall cultural experience. I think what allowed me to build those relationships, both personal and professional, was my ability to converse in local languages. As I look back on my experience, I remember I immediately felt very welcomed and plugged into this community of international scholars; from being able to access resources to participating in seminars, all of that made it a much more enriching and connective experience."

– **Samuel Ostroff, Ph.D., Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Publications Officer, DDRA participant to the U.K., the Netherlands, and India, 2013-14**

"I had taken Russian before DDRA, but I never felt fluent. In the Soviet Union, I made a real commitment to myself to spend time going and meeting people and doing things: going to museums, going shopping, and having personal experiences. I developed close relationships with some other students, and the immersion experience really was fast. There's a very big difference living your life and doing your work all in the language you study."

– **Nathan Brooks, Ph.D., New Mexico State Professor of History, DDRA participant to the Soviet Union, 1980-81**

"The DDRA fellowship indelibly shaped my career. I gained very valuable international experience and was able to hone my writing skills, deepen my foreign language and regional knowledge, and find tremendous confidence in pursuing my current career path. I learned skills that can be translated into any professional area, from how to tackle tricky organizational and intellectual problems, to how to work through abstract and scattered data, to how to identify trends and learn about them intelligently. I learned how to persevere day in and day out, and I use each and every one of those skills still today."

– **Pablo Sierra Silva, Ph.D., Rochester University Professor of History, DDRA participant to Mexico, 2009-10**





# APPLICANT TIPS

## Access additional resources through your university

Typically, your home institution will provide technical assistance and resources for developing and submitting your DDRA application. Resources may include websites, informational sessions on how to format your application, discussions with previous DDRA fellows, and one-on-one sessions with the campus-based program director.

## Note important deadlines to ensure timely submission

Start developing your application early so that you meet your university's internal deadline for reviewing and submitting your application to the Department of Education by the deadline. You can find application submission requirements at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/ieg.psddrap/applicant.html>. The closing date for the FY 2022 DDRA competition is April 6, 2022.

## Explore IFLE social media, webinars, and information sessions

The International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office, which administers the DDRA fellowships, often holds webinars and information sessions on a variety of topics, including DDRA program requirements, selection criteria, and frequently asked questions. You can find information and materials for these events on the ed.gov website and on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2TQoDWTDON1o9r2VPec3qQ>.

## Seek constructive feedback on your proposal

Reach out to mentors, professors, and advisors both inside and outside of your university and ask them to review your proposal. Ask for feedback on the specific evaluation criteria published by DDRA and ask them to analyze your writing, content, and research specifics when giving suggestions and recommendations for improvement.



Photo: DDRA Fellows at the Southeast Asia Conference



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is included in a fellowship award?

Generally, the Secretary of Education pays:

- Travel expenses to and from the residence of the fellow and the country(ies) of research.
- A maintenance stipend for the fellow and his or her dependents in the host country.
- An allowance for research-related expenses overseas, such as books, copying, affiliation fees, local travel, and other incidental expenses.
- Health and accident insurance premiums

## How does submitting the application through my university work?

Students are required to apply for DDRA fellowships through their university. The student must have an academic advisor and work with their university's designated project director to provide assistance with submitting their components of the application in G5. The student first submits their section of the application to the project director in G5. The project director is responsible for reviewing the student's application and submitting it to the Department of Education, along with the project director's section, which contains the required federal forms submission and the graduate and language reference forms that were transmitted to the project director by the references. Only the project director is authorized to submit an application to the Department of Education.

## When should a student submit his/her application?

The Project Director determines the internal deadline by which all sections of the application must be submitted. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their graduate and language references are submitted by the institution's internal deadline.

## May a student apply for support to go to more than one country?

Yes, a student may propose research in multiple countries.

## Whom should I contact about technical problems with G5?

If you experience any technical difficulties with G5, you should contact the G5 Help Desk at 1-888-336-8930 (TTY: 1-866-697-2696; Local: 202-401-6238) Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time.

## Whom can I contact with additional questions about the program?

The student's first point of contact is always the institutional project director. The project director may then contact the DDRA program office at [ddra@ed.gov](mailto:ddra@ed.gov), if further clarification is needed.





## CONTACT US

Website: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/ieg.psddrap/>

Email: [ddra@ed.gov](mailto:ddra@ed.gov)

Phone: +1 (202) 453-6891



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Photo: Fellow Morgan Hoke, DDRA Peru 2014