Competition Highlights

1. Please note the following program priorities:

   a. **Absolute**: The Department will only consider applications that meet this priority. This priority is: A research project that focuses on one or more of the following geographic areas: Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, South Asia, the Near East, Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere (excluding the United States and its territories). Please note that applications that propose projects focused on the following countries are not eligible:

      Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, or Vatican City.

   b. **Competitive Preference Priority 1 (3 points)**: A research project that focuses on one or more of the following geographic areas:


      *South Asia*: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

      *Southeast Asia*: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.

   c. **Competitive Preference Priority 2 (2 points)**: A research project that focuses on any of the seventy-eight (78) languages selected from the U.S. Department of Education’s list of Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs) as follows:

      Akan (Twi-Fante), Albanian, Amharic, Arabic (all dialects), Armenian, Azeri (Azerbaijani), Balochi, Bamanakan (Bamana, Bambara, Mandikan, Mandingo, Maninka, Dyula), Belarussian, Bengali (Bangla), Berber (all languages), Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cebuano (Visayan), Chechen, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Gan), Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese (Min), Chinese (Wu), Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Georgian, Gujarati, Hausa, Hebrew (Modern), Hindi, Igbo, Indonesian, Japanese, Javanese, Kannada, Kashmiri, Kazakh, Khmer (Cambodian), Kirghiz, Korean, Kurdish
d. **Competitive Preference Priority 3 (5 points):**
   A research project in the field of economics, engineering, international development, global education, mathematics, political science, public health, science, or technology proposed by an applicant who will use advanced language proficiency in one of the 78 LCTLs listed in Competitive Preference Priority 2 of this notice in his or her research. An applicant must meet all three components of this priority in order to be awarded points: propose a research project in one of the fields listed above, be proficient in the language of research at an advanced level, and propose using as a language of research one of the 78 LCTLs listed in this notice.

2. Please note that these priorities are explained in detail in the Federal Register notice. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Federal Register notice carefully before preparing an application.

3. Please note that, although the DDRA program funds student research, the legal applicant is the institution of higher education (IHE), and if a grant is awarded, the institution is the legal grantee. Students are not able to apply for this funding independently. In order to apply for this fellowship program, it is necessary for the student and the institution to coordinate their competition activities and keep each other informed.

4. Applications must be submitted electronically via the U.S. Department of Education’s G5 e-Application system. This system may be accessed at www.G5.gov. Both the student and the IHE must complete their portions of the application correctly and submit separately via the G5 e-Application system.

5. The application must be received on or before the deadline date and time. Please note that the U.S. Department of Education’s grant application deadline is at 4:30:00 pm Washington, DC time. Late applications will not be accepted.

6. Electronic submission of an application is required unless it qualifies for one of the (rare) exceptions to the electronic submission requirement as outlined in the Federal Register notice.
7. All applicants are required to adhere to the page limits for the Project Narrative and for the bibliography portion of the application in the Federal Register notice.

8. A font standard in the notice requires that applicants use one of the following 12 pt. fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial. Applications submitted in any other font (including Times Roman, Arial Narrow, etc.) will not be accepted.

9. Student transcripts must be scanned as one document and uploaded into the student application.

Applicants are reminded that the Federal Register notice is the official document for application guidelines and that applicants should not rely upon any information that is inconsistent with the guidance contained within it.