

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) -- FY 2026 English Language Fellow, Specialist, and Virtual Educator Program

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361293>

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017779

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-02-26

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-04-24

Purpose: The English Language (EL) Fellow, Specialist, and Virtual Educator award builds English language capacity in direct support of U.S. policy priorities and contributes to stable, educated, and economically empowered societies, which support U.S. trade, national security, and global leadership. Through this award, U.S. educator participants provide foreign educators, professionals, and students with the communication skills they need to participate in the global economy, while ensuring the United States continues to be recognized as an international leader in English teaching, education, educational training and technology, vocational education and upskilling.

Program Specific Guidelines: By deploying highly skilled American English educators to key regions worldwide, the EL Fellow, Specialist, and Virtual Educator Program advances U.S. strategic interests by enhancing global English language capacity, fostering economic and educational opportunities, and reinforcing America's leadership in innovation, trade, and Diplomacy.

- ELFSVEP comprises three related ECA professional exchange programs: English Language Fellows – U.S. Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) professionals completing approximately 10-month in-person teaching, training, or curriculum development assignments at host institutions overseas.
 - Participant Numbers: approximately 100 - 120
 - Budget: traditionally, costs for this component are 55-65% of the award Amount
 - Projects will begin during the 2027-2028 Academic Year of the receiving countries.
- English Language Specialists – U.S. TESOL experts conducting on-demand, short-term in-person, virtual or hybrid technical projects.
 - Participant Numbers: approximately 150 - 190
 - Budget: traditionally, costs for this component are 25-30% of the award amount
 - On-demand projects will take place during Calendar Years 2027 and 2028.
 - Implementation of on demand programming may begin in 2026 if applicant pool is available.
- Virtual English Language Educators – U.S. TESOL practitioners delivering on-demand virtual English teaching or teacher-training support.
 - Participant Numbers: approximately 80 - 120
 - Budget: traditionally, costs for this component are 5-10% of the award amount
 - On-demand projects will begin during Academic Years 2027-2028 of the receiving countries.
 - Implementation of on demand programming may begin in 2026 if applicant pool is available.

Goals and Objectives: Program Objectives and Alignment with U.S. Strategic Priorities:

- By embedding U.S. educational methodologies and professional standards into institutions around the world, the program fosters increased trade and enhances U.S. competitiveness in business, science and technology, artificial intelligence, and innovation-driven industries.
- By equipping global professionals with industry-specific English skills, the program reduces economic factors that contribute to illegal migration.
- Strengthening local education and local workforce engagement creates employment pathways within home countries, mitigating the need for migration and safeguarding American security.
- American English proficiency serves as a gateway to accurate information, good governance, and economic self-sufficiency, reducing susceptibility to drivers of illegal migration and to extremist narratives, ideology, and influence.
- As a strategic public diplomacy tool, the program demonstrates and highlights U.S. achievements in education, technology, and business. By embedding highly skilled American educators in strategic institutions worldwide, it elevates America's reputation for academic excellence and technological innovation, fostering positive perceptions of the United States and expanding American influence.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/bQmgx2GjzShyKaTo6> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- Select the application category for your proposal: English Language Fellows, English Language Specialists, or Virtual English Language Educators.
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on pages 30-31, in the NOFO.
 - Program planning and ability to achieve program objectives
 - Multiplier effect/impact and follow-on activities
 - Institutional capacity and track record
 - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.