

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - FY 2026 National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361397>

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017852

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: 2026-03-17

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-01

Purpose: The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) in-person overseas immersive programs and virtual programs accelerate and advance participants' language skills through structured classroom language instruction as well as less formal interactive and applied learning opportunities. NSLI-Y increases the number of American youth (ages 15 to 18) who learn critical foreign languages in support of bolstering U.S. national security; promoting U.S. competitiveness and economic prosperity; and building mutual understanding with critical regions of the world. The award will support approximately 275 American teens to study critical languages through intensive overseas language programs in locations where the target languages are widely spoken, and through virtual programming.

Virtual NSLI-Y is a 10-week virtual program for U.S. high school students who are at the absolute beginner level and have not studied the target language before. It provides students with an introduction to the target language and culture with the goal of sparking an interest in critical languages and regions and inspiring students to continue their studies both domestically and abroad.

For FY 2026, NSLI-Y anticipates supporting the following languages. Applicants are encouraged to maximize participant numbers and propose a greater number of participants per language, when possible, within the limitations of the budget:

- **Arabic:** approximately 38 for summer; approximately eight for academic year. Programs may be proposed countries/locations in North Africa, the Middle East, or the Gulf region, with the exception of Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Syria, and Yemen.
- **Chinese (Mandarin):** approximately 75 for summer; approximately eight for academic year. Programs may be proposed for Taiwan.
- **Korean:** approximately 36 for summer. Programs may be proposed for the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- **Russian:** approximately 42 for summer; approximately eight for academic year. Programs may be proposed for Central Asia and the Baltic States. Programs should not be proposed for Russia, Ukraine, or Belarus.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/6H6LRQMqeucmQc3UA> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- 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 44-45, in the NOFO.
 - Program planning
 - Institutional Capacity and Institution's Record/Ability
 - Follow-on Activities
 - 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.