

FAQs for the University Partnership Initiative Grant July 2020

Q: *The Specific Program Objectives refer to STEM research. Some organizations consider health related research to be STEM and others distinguish between the two. For the purpose of this application is health related research considered STEM?*

A: *Health related research is acceptable.*

Q: *Is it preferable if all of the Specific Program Objectives are covered in some way in the application or is it preferable that one objective be met in depth?*

A: *There is no preference in which specific program objectives are included except the inclusion of virtual programming components due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19.*

Q: *Will applications for collaborations with non-technical Universities be considered?*

A: *Yes, applications for non-technical universities will be considered.*

Q: *What is the ideal length of the proposal?*

A: *Given the limits to travel due to COVID19 pandemic we recommend considering programs up to 24 months, however this is a recommendation and not a requirement. We just ask that the program objectives and budget are well delineated.*

Q: *For this proposal, what is meant by “dual degree?”*

A: *In this case, dual degree is meant to describe a formal agreement between institutions where students engage in research and/or coursework at two institutions, one in Cabo Verde and one in the United States, and at the end of the course of study would receive a degree from both institutions. Generally, students would be expected to initiate and conclude their studies in their “home” university.*

An arrangement where the student attends classes and/or does research at two institutions, but only receives a degree from one would be acceptable if it is a formally agreed practice between the two institutions and students from both institutions have the opportunity to benefit from research and/or coursework at the partnering institution.

Q: Do you have a preference for proposals that involve collaborations between U.S. universities?

A: *There is no preference, decisions will be made based on the criteria outlined in the NOFO.*

Q: Can you put us in touch with other applicants as potential partners?

A: *The NOFO process does not allow us to make an introductions while the grants competition is open.*

Q: The objectives cover both faculty and student exchanges and joint research. For budgeting, do you have any preferred policies on expenses?

A: *The program parameters are up to the discretion of the grant applicant.*

Q: Should the U.S. university be the principle investigator and fiscal administrator, or is a Cabo Verdean university allowed this role?

A: *The grantee will be the fiscal administrator. This can be either the Cabo Verdean or U.S. institution, whichever institution is the lead on the grant proposal. The Fiscal Administrator provides high-level support for financial management, reporting, and analysis of the grant, including pre-award and post-award grant administration. This position is responsible for the fiscal management of grants and cooperative agreements in accordance with government regulations, sponsor requirements, and university policies and procedures. A Principal Investigator is the primary individual responsible for the preparation, conduct, and administration of a research grant, cooperative agreement, or other sponsored project in*

compliance with applicable laws and regulations and institutional policy governing the conduct of sponsored research. This person can be from either the Cabo Verdean or U.S. institution.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the field of study?

A: The preferred fields of study are outlined in the NOFO. Other areas of studies are not prohibited but preference will be given to applications focused on the fields highlighted as areas of interest in the NOFO.

Q: Is it possible to spread one's proposal across more than one university in Cabo Verde?

A: Yes, this is an acceptable approach.

Q: How important is the participation of American students?

A: There is no requirement to include American students.

Q: What indirect costs are allowable under this funding opportunity?

A: Indirect costs, often called overhead, or facilities and administrative costs, may only be charged to a Federal award that is subject to 2 CFR §200, Subpart E when:

- The applicant has a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from a Federal agency.*
- The applicant elects to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), which is allowable if the entity has never received a NICRA. The MTDC base excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.*

Q: Can salary support be included in the grant application?

A: Yes.

Q: Do student exchanges need to result in a degree?

A: *No.*

Q: May a single institution submit more than one application?

A: *Yes.*

Q: Will the Embassy help process and expedite visas for Cabo Verdean students and faculty who need to travel to the US for this program?

A: *The Public Affairs Section of the Embassy will work closely with the grantee organization to help schedule visa appointments if necessary.*

Q: How much help can we expect from the Embassy on publicizing a program?

A: *While the Embassy may help amplify efforts of the grantee, the majority of the outreach efforts should be conducted by the grantee.*

Q: Would a partnership with a consortium of American universities be an additional asset in the application process?

A: This grant competition is seeking to create strong ties between Cabo Verdean and U.S. universities. Therefore, a connection to a U.S. consortium may be an asset to an application but applicants will need to make clear in their proposal both the strength of the ties to the consortium and within that collective. This can be shared through Letters of Support from program partners describing the roles and responsibilities of each partner as outlined in the NOFO. This can also be explained in the project proposal by outlining project partners and explaining the "American element" in the project. See the proposal guidelines within the NOFO for additional guidance.