

2002-2003 Regional Scholar Exchange Program Application Instructions

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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS REGIONAL SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. REGIONAL SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Government of the United States of America is pleased to announce an open competition for fellowships in the United States for citizens of countries of the New Independent States (NIS) through the Regional Scholar Exchange Program (RSEP). Since 1993, hundreds of highly qualified researchers and scholars from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan have been awarded these fellowships. This program is developed, funded, and supervised by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), US Department of State with funds allocated by the Congress of the United States. The program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. Across the NIS, the program is administered by the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX). In Russia and Ukraine, the program is jointly administered by IREX and by the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. There are some differences in the program structure and requirements of the two organizations.

In the Russian Federation, RSEP is funded by both ECA and the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation.

RSEP provides opportunities to qualified citizens of all 12 New Independent States to conduct research and analysis, write academic papers, articles and books, and deliver lectures in the United States with the goal of contributing to the further development of higher education and scholarship in their home countries. The program is designed to enable junior and mid-level university faculty, researchers, scholars, and advanced graduate students to conduct research in the social sciences and humanities in the United States. RSEP will focus on the eligible topics that are listed in this application. All applications must contain developed and focused research proposals, and all proposals must demonstrate relevance to the political, economic, social, legal, educational, historical, cultural, and philosophical challenges facing the NIS.

In their research proposal, all applicants must demonstrate a critical need to conduct their research in the United States, cite resources that are not available in their home country but are necessary to advance their research, address how their research will make a significant contribution to higher education and scholarship in their home countries, discuss how they will apply their research and disseminate the knowledge, skills, and insights gained during their US fellowship upon return to the NIS, and must have had no or few opportunities to conduct research in the United States. Applicants must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, be at least age 24, but no older than age 60 at the time of application, be eligible to receive and maintain a J-1 US visa, and must have fulfilled all prior J-1 US visa two-year home residency requirements.

2. IREX RSEP FELLOWSHIP

IREX RSEP grants are four months in length and begin in late August 2002 or late January 2003. While on the program, all RSEP fellows are affiliated with US host institutions (i.e., universities, research institutes, and think tanks) that have resource materials and specialists in the academic disciplines eligible for RSEP. Fellows conduct independent research, but are placed with a host advisor appropriate for the fellow's field and who guides their research projects and professional development. All participants are required to submit a final report discussing their program activities, the results of their research, and future plans upon returning to their home country, as well as a short summary of their research findings. Collaborative projects with American colleagues are highly encouraged. **Contingent on funding, approximately 83 fellowships will be awarded in this open competition.**

3. KENNAN INSTITUTE RSEP FELLOWSHIP

The Kennan Institute will award a limited number of six-month RSEP fellowships in the 2001-2002 program year for scholars from the Russian Federation and Ukraine. **Contingent on funding, approximately 12 fellowships will be awarded in the open competition.** Eligible candidates must already hold *Kandidat* degrees. Kennan Institute RSEP recipients are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute in Washington, DC for the duration of their scholarships, carrying out full-time independent research in fulfillment of their submitted proposals. In addition, RSEP fellows are expected to actively participate in discussions with the public policy and academic communities, including delivering presentations and lectures and taking part in meetings and conferences. Kennan RSEP grants begin in September 2002 or March 2003. If you wish to apply for a Kennan Institute RSEP grant, please indicate the Kennan Institute as your suggested host institution in the application form, question number 11. **You must submit your application directly to the Kennan Institute offices in Moscow, Kyiv, or Washington, DC.**

Citizens of the Russian Federation and Ukraine may apply for both the six-month RSEP fellowship at the Kennan Institute and the four-month RSEP fellowship administered by IREX by using this application form, marking the Kennan Institute as one of the three US host institution preferences, and submitting the forms to one organization.

4. RESEARCH CATEGORIES FOR RSEP

All applicants for RSEP must submit a research proposal in one of the eligible topics cited below and that addresses political, economic, social, legal, educational, historical, cultural, and philosophical challenges currently facing the NIS or United States. All research must be in the social sciences or humanities with practical application to the development of higher education and scholarship in the NIS. The twentieth century is the preferred historical period for RSEP.

A. The Eligible Topics for RSEP

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| • American Studies (including literature) | • Education (including university administration) | • Law |
| • Business Administration (including business and management education) | • Ethics | • Library Science |
| • City Planning and Urban Studies | • Foreign Policy and International Relations | • Management |
| • Civic Education | • Geography | • Military Science |
| • Conflict Resolution | • Government | • Philosophy |
| • Criminal Justice | • History | • Political Science |
| • Cultural Anthropology | • Information Technology (Internet and the application of new information technologies in higher education) | • Psychology |
| • Demography | • Journalism and Communications | • Public Administration |
| • Economics (including international trade, finance, and investment) | • Labor Relations | • Social Work |
| | | • Sociology |
| | | • Women's Studies |

NOTE: Information Technology is not an eligible category for the Kennan Institute RSEP fellowship.

B. Examples of RSEP Projects:

Examples of research projects include, but are not limited to: The Impact of Regional Ties Between Russia and the United States in the Russian Far East (20th century); Interrelation Between Majorities and Minorities in Conflict Resolution; Women, Employment and Family in Georgia; Theory and Practice of Local Economic Development in the United States: Possibilities for Implementation in Ukraine; Methods of Reforming Higher Education in Kazakhstan; Business Ethics Education in the United States: Study of Methodology, Curricula, Techniques; The Legal Environment of Business; The Environmental Information Systems for Republic of Armenia; University Library Reform in the Ferghana Valley; Democracy Education Through the Study of Georgian History; Human Rights and Moldovan Criminal Law Statutes; Industrial Zones in the New Economic and Social Situation of Belarus; Ethnic Aspects of International Relations; Ethnic Diversification of Libraries; Richard Wright's Influence on Modern African-American Literature; American Individualism and Azeri Society; Socio-demographic Factors of Poverty in Russia and the US; and Theory and Practice of Teaching American Culture.

5. TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RSEP

Applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the NIS (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan) and residing in their home country at the time of application and interview;
- Be at least age 24, but no older than 60 at the time of the November 15, 2001 deadline;
- Hold a degree of *Kandidat* or higher or be working on a *Kandidat* dissertation at the time of application;
- Have a research topic eligible for the program with demonstrated need for research in the United States;
- Have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English necessary to conduct independent research in the United States and engage colleagues;
- Submit a complete application with all required documents by the application deadline;
- Be able to receive and maintain a J-1 visa;
- Be able to begin the fellowship in mid-August 2002 or late January 2003 for IREX fellows; or in September 2002 or March 2003 for Kennan Fellows;
- Not be a spouse of a US citizen or a spouse of a citizen of countries other than the 12 participating countries;
- Not be currently participating in academic, training, or research programs outside the 12 participating NIS countries;
- Not be currently residing or working outside the 12 participating NIS countries;
- Not have previously participated in a program in the United States sponsored or funded by the US government for the past two years (from the application deadline) with a program length of more than six weeks; and

APPLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

- **Not have applied for an immigrant visa to any country, or requested political asylum in any country. This includes individuals who hold or have applied for a US "green card," or who have applied to the US Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery.**

Applications not meeting the above technical eligibility criteria will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

6. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE KENNAN INSTITUTE RSEP FELLOWSHIP

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the Russian Federation or Ukraine;
- Already hold a degree of *Kandidat*;
- Be willing to pursue a six-month fellowship at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC; and
- Be able to begin the fellowship in September 2002 or March 2003.

Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-administered grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant.

Under the terms of the grant and the laws governing the J-1 visa required for participation in RSEP, fellows must return to their home country immediately upon completion of the program for a period of at least two years. Fellows may not continue their studies in the United States, and are not eligible for extended practical training or employment in the United States.

7. FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE GRANT

The program provides a one-day pre-departure orientation in the NIS before departure to the United States; round-trip travel from fellows' home cities in the NIS to the US host institutions; medical insurance; an orientation in Washington, DC at the start of the program; a monthly stipend for housing and living expenses; a small professional development allowance; access to e-mail and the Internet; and a two-day end-of-program workshop in Washington, DC before fellows return to their home country.

The program also provides post-fellowship opportunities in the NIS for continued professional growth of alumni. These opportunities for alumni of US government-sponsored exchange programs in the NIS generally include the Alumni Small Grants Program, participation in and the development of regional conferences, seminars, and lecture series, an alumni listserv, and continued access to e-mail, Internet, and the resources of the World Wide Web.

8. US HOST INSTITUTION AFFILIATION FOR THE IREX RSEP FELLOWSHIP

IREX RSEP participants will be affiliated with universities, institutes, or think tanks across the United States appropriate to their research objectives. They will also be matched with a host advisor. Applicants should suggest US institutions where they would prefer to conduct their research in the application form, question 11. IREX will identify an appropriate US institution based on the participants' preferences, recommendations of senior specialists and scholars in the United States, and knowledge of US institutions. **All final host institution affiliations will be decided by IREX, and IREX does not guarantee placement at host institutions suggested by the applicant.** Participants will spend all four months at their host institution.

9. SELECTION PROCESS AND PROGRAM TIMELINE FOR RSEP

RSEP is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be read in the United States by qualified American experts on current NIS issues. Based on these evaluation results, IREX and the Kennan Institute will separately choose semifinalists who will be interviewed by the respective organizations in their home countries, using bi-national committees of American specialists, program alumni, and US Embassy representatives. Due to the high volume of applications received, IREX and the Kennan Institute reserve the right not to forward explanations to those applicants who were not chosen as program finalists. IREX and the Kennan Institute do not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by US law. The overall applicant pool is of high quality, and difficult decisions have to be made among a large number of worthwhile candidates.

Selection committee readers and interviewers will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance): 1) Demonstrated need to do research in the United States; 2) Adequate academic expertise of applicant; 3) Clarity and organization of research goals and methodology; 4) Feasibility of project and familiarity with US resources; 5) Research proposal adequately addresses the political, economic, social, legal, educational, historical, cultural or philosophical challenges currently facing the NIS; 6) Potential impact of individual's project upon higher education in the US and NIS; 7) English language ability and communication skills; 8) Applicant exhibits few past opportunities to conduct academic research and develop contacts in the United States; 9) Applicant is an advanced graduate student, university faculty or scholar at the early stage of their careers, or mid-level faculty (associate professors); 10) Applicant has publications (advanced graduate students may cite papers presented at academic conferences) in the field; 11) Preference is given to applicants living outside the capital city.

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All semi-finalists will be interviewed in February-March 2002. All applicants will be notified of their status by late April - May 2002. All fellows must attend a pre-departure orientation in their home countries in June - July 2002 and a comprehensive program orientation in Washington, DC prior to beginning fellowships. Finalists awarded grants must complete a full medical form certifying that they are in good health and sign the program terms and conditions.

10. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTIONS

A. Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Department of State

The mission of the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries by fostering mutual understanding. The Bureau does this through a wide range of international exchanges and training programs, as authorized by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. The Bureau works in close cooperation with US Embassies overseas to promote personal, professional and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the United States and abroad, as well as by presenting US history, art, and culture in all of its diversity to audiences overseas.

B. The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation is a federal organ of executive power which carries out State policies and exercises the administration of education, scientific, and scientific-technical activities for secondary and higher professional education, trainings, and written recommendations from scientific and highly qualified scientific-pedagogical staff in the Russian Federation.

C. The International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)

IREX is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge. Central to its mission is the empowering of individuals and institutions to participate meaningfully in civil society. IREX administers programs between the United States and the countries of Eastern Europe, the New Independent States (NIS), Asia, and the Near East.

D. The Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

The Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars fosters scholarship in the humanities and the social sciences, bringing scholars from around the world to Washington, DC, and encouraging an open dialogue between the academic and public policy communities. The Kennan Institute is a nonpartisan institution dedicated to improving American expertise and knowledge about Eurasia; it supports advance research on Russia and the New Independent States in the humanities and the social sciences by means of research scholarships, public lectures, conferences, and a publications program. The competitive application process for its grant programs is open to qualified academic scholars and government, media and private sector professionals. The Institute's central location in the nation's capital provides convenient access to the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and other educational and research institutions in the Washington, DC area.

E. How These Organizations Work Together on This Program

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, IREX, and the Kennan Institute work in partnership to administer RSEP. The Bureau develops, funds, and oversees the program and IREX and the Kennan Institute are grantees that administer and implement all aspects of the program including recruitment, placement, orientation, and follow-on activities for NIS participants. The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation supports travel of Russian IREX RSEP semi-finalists to the interviews in Moscow, the travel of Russian IREX RSEP participants to the United States, and alumni conferences in the Russian Federation, thereby enabling IREX to award more fellowships for that country.

11. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING TO THE REGIONAL SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Read all instructions and information carefully before filling out the application form. All forms must be completed in English and must be typed or hand-printed in black ink. All sections of the application must be completed and submitted together; incomplete applications will **NOT** be accepted. Write your full name and citizenship on the upper right corner of each page. Faxed or e-mailed applications will **NOT** be accepted.

In order to be considered for the Kennan Institute RSEP Fellowship that will be conducted for six-months ONLY at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, you MUST submit an application ONLY to the Kennan Institute field offices in Moscow or Kyiv. (Please see page vii.)

A. Important Information

NAME OF APPLICANT: Question #1: Write your full, legal name, family name (surname) first. The spelling of your name should be as it appears in your international passport. This is the spelling that will be used throughout the length of the program. Do not translate your name into English. For example, Maria should be written as such and not translated to Mary.

CURRENT HOME ADDRESS: Question #7: Write your current mailing address. **USE LATIN LETTERS ONLY.** Do not translate street or city names into English, only into the Latin alphabet. For example, Prospekt Mira should be written as such and not translated to Peace Avenue. Be sure to include your postal index. You should also write dom, korpus, and kvartira, as applicable.

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FIELD OF RESEARCH: Question #8: Select one of the Regional Scholar Exchange Program eligible topics as your field of research. Your proposal title should convey a more specific sense of your research topic.

PROPOSAL TITLE: Question #9: This should convey your research topic more specifically.

CURRENT WORK ADDRESS: Question #10: Write your current work address. If you hold two positions, please include both. For instance, if you are both a university professor and the director of a non-governmental organization, please give the addresses for both. State how many hours per week you work on average at your position.

PREVIOUS TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES: Question # 12: Please include all previous travel to the United States, including the dates and locations of travel. If you were previously in the United States on a grant, please indicate the name of the grant and the sponsoring organization.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Question # 17: Transliterate directly from your native language into English-spelling of all words pertaining to your education, such as "Diplom," or "Kandidat Nauk." Do not use American equivalents unless you hold a degree from a US academic institution.

B. Additional Required Documents

1. Research Proposal

The Research Proposal must be completed in English and be approximately four pages double-spaced (1400-2400 words), typed or printed, and attached to the application. The feasibility of your research will be highly considered by the selection committee during the selection process.

CONTENT:

- State your research topic and the focus of your proposed research concisely and completely;
- Describe in detail your research and methodology, and how specifically you will spend the duration of your fellowship conducting research in the United States;
- Describe what preparatory work you have done for this specific project (e.g. books you have read, surveys you have completed, interviews conducted, etc.);
- State how your research contributes to the development of higher education and scholarship in your country; and
- Indicate specific US organizations, colleagues, specialists, libraries and other resources you wish to utilize while in the United States.

2. Personal Statement

The Personal Statement must be completed in English and be approximately two pages double-spaced (700-1200 words), typed or printed, and attached to the application.

CONTENT:

- Describe your professional experience in this field and why you are qualified to conduct research in the United States. Illustrate your ability to impact your professional field in your country;
- Describe how you will use and share the information gained during the program in the United States for the benefit of higher education and scholarship in your home country; and
- Clearly outline why it is necessary for you to conduct this research in the United States and not in your home country.

3. Recommendations

All applicants must include at least two completed recommendation forms from two or more colleagues, specialists, employers, professors or other researchers familiar with the applicant's work. Recommendations may be from the NIS, United States, or colleagues from other countries. A recommendation should include a completed recommendation form, and an additional letter of recommendation with more detail about the applicant. At least one recommendation must be completed in English. All recommendations not in English must be accompanied by an English translation, which may be done by the applicant. Recommendations must be submitted with the application. Recommendations submitted separately will not be accepted.

4. Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)

A Curriculum Vitae (C.V.), or resume, must be submitted with the application. The documents must be in English and include the most current data on your education, work experience, publications and honors. A sample C.V. is attached.

C. Submission Guidelines and Contact Information

The deadline for applications for RSEP is **THURSDAY, 5:00 p.m., NOVEMBER 15, 2001. YOU MUST SUBMIT FIVE HARD COPIES OF THE APPLICATION.** Do not send applications to the IREX office in Washington, DC. Faxed or e-mailed applications

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will not be accepted. Collaborative projects for more than one applicant will not be accepted. No application will be returned to the applicant after the end of the competition.

The program reserves the right to verify all of the information indicated in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid, and the applicant ineligible.

IREX RSEP Fellowship

Applications for the Regional Scholar Exchange Program can be obtained and submitted by contacting the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), the IREX field offices, representatives, Educational Information Centers, or IREX-administered Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) Public Access Sites in the NIS as listed in this application.

CONTACT INFORMATION ON WHERE TO OBTAIN AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT [HTTP://WWW.IREX.ORG](http://www.irex.org) AND [HTTP://WWW.IREX.RU](http://www.irex.ru)

WASHINGTON, DC CONTACT:

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)
1616 H Street, NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 628-8188
Fax: (202) 628-8189
E-mail: rsep@irex.org

Kennan Institute RSEP Fellowship

Applications for RSEP at the Kennan Institute can be obtained and MUST be submitted to the Kennan Institute, the Kennan Institute field offices, and Educational Information Centers located in the NIS.

Rossia 10300 Moskva
pochtovyi yashchik 90
"Proekt Kennan"
tel/fax: (095)232-3496
kennan@online.ru

Washington DC CONTACT:
Kennan Institute
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20047-3027
Tel: (202) 691-4242
Fax: (202) 691-4247
kiars@wwic.si.edu

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