as the USIA Office of East European and NIS Affairs and the appropriate USIA post(s) overseas. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grant awards resides with the USIA grants officer.

## Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered:

1. *Quality of the Program Idea:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.

2. *Program Planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *Ability to Achieve Program Objectives:* Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. *Multiplier Effect/Impact:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. *Cross Cultural/Area Expertise:* Proposals should reflect the institution's expertise in the subject area and should address specific areas of concern facing countries involved in the project. Additionally, projects should show evidence of sensitivity to historical, linguistic and other cross cultural factors and should demonstrate how this sensitivity will be used in practical aspects of the program, such as pre-departure orientations or briefings of American hosts.

6. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity throughout the program. This can be accomplished through documentation (such as a written statement or account) summarizing past and/or on-going activities and efforts that further the principle of diversity within both the organization and the program activities.

7. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

8. *Institution's Record/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

9. *Follow-On Activities:* Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which insures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.

10. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposals include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

11. *Cost-Effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

12. *Cost-Sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

13. *Value of U.S.-Partner Country Relations:* Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

## Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funding. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

## Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about March 1, 1996. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: September 8, 1995.

**John P. Loiello,**

*Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95–22908 Filed 9–13–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M

---

# NIS Secondary School Initiative Inbound Academic Year Placement

**AGENCY:** United States Information Agency.

**ACTION:** Amendment—Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment to the Request for Proposals (RFP) published September 7, 1995, beginning on page 46683 and ending on page 46685, concerning placement of students from the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union who will be in the United States under the 1996/97 Academic Year Program of the NIS Secondary School Initiative (Announcement Number E/P–96–12). This amendment changes the day listed with the deadline date to Thursday, October 19. The RFP incorrectly says Friday, October 19.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Aronson, NIS Secondary School Division (E/PY), Room 320, (202) 619–6299.

Dated: September 8, 1995.

**John P. Loiello,**

*Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95–22907 Filed 9–13–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M