

# ALIGNING YOUR PROPOSAL WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRIORITIES

2025 IDEAS Grant Competition

*The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.*



# AGENDA

- Introduction
- Brief Overview of the 2025 IDEAS Grant Competition
- U.S. Government Priorities + the IDEAS Program
- Foreign Policy Goal Overview
- Connecting FPGs, Institutional Priorities, and USG Priorities for successful grants
- Grantee Highlight: Monroe Community College
- Best Practices and Tips
- Q&A

# IDEAS PROGRAM

A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch

**Seeking to expand higher education institutions' capacity to expand and broaden study abroad programs for U.S. students**

- Expanding study abroad to be more accessible for all students, including student groups that are currently underrepresented in study abroad
- Expanding study abroad at institutions traditionally underrepresented in study abroad
- Expanding study abroad safely to new overseas destinations, especially those that are less common destinations

## **2025 Grant Competition**

- Approximately 35 grants of up to \$35,000
- Approximately 1 IDEAS consortium grant of up to \$50,000

## **IDEAS Program Initiatives**

- Virtual and in-person, open to everyone



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# COMPETITION OVERVIEW

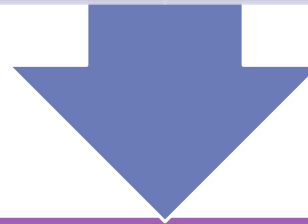
## Phase One

“Concept Phase”

National open competition

Proposal summary: 750 words total

October 15 – December 12, 2024



## Phase Two

“Proposal Phase”

Approximately 70 semifinalists selected from Phase One

Complete proposal

Early February – April 17, 2025

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# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

## Mission:

To advance U.S. foreign policy goals by increasing and diversifying U.S. study abroad through programs for both individuals and institutions and to support the next generation of diverse American leaders to gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a globalizing world.



55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually



15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year



101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded



**Rebecca Johnson**  
Program Officer, USA Study  
Abroad  
U.S. Department of State

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# STATE DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES + THE IDEAS PROGRAM

## Study abroad benefits all

- Students → Communities → The Country → Global Relationships

## Institutional Capacity Building

- Partnerships
- Grant Project Sustainability

## Foreign Policy Goal Alignment

# U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS



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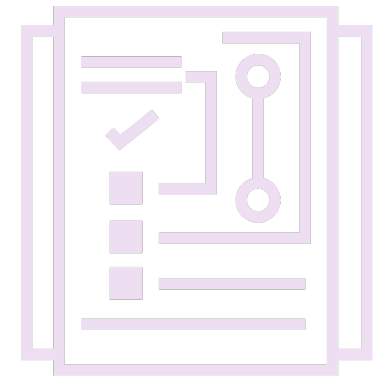
# FPG RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of State website: [State.gov](https://www.state.gov)
- U.S. Department of State policy issues: [State.gov/policy-issues](https://www.state.gov/policy-issues)
- Other federal agencies' strategy documents
- University, local, and state government documents



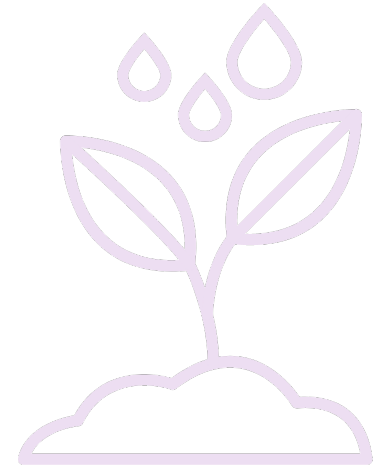
# CIVIL SOCIETY, JOURNALISM, AND EDUCATION

- Example theme:
  - The role civil society, journalism, and/or education play in shaping public knowledge and governance.
- **University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism** is developing a dual language, semester-length, hybrid study abroad program that will train students in international journalism in Mexico.



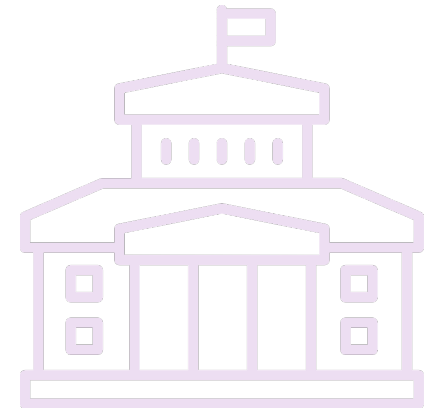
# CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Example themes:
  - Agriculture and rural development
  - Climate
  - Conserving nature
  - Food security
  - Natural resource management
  - Ocean and polar affairs
  - Renewable energy
- **Fox Valley Technical College** is developing a faculty-led program to the Bahamas focused on experiential learning in agriculture and natural resources fields.



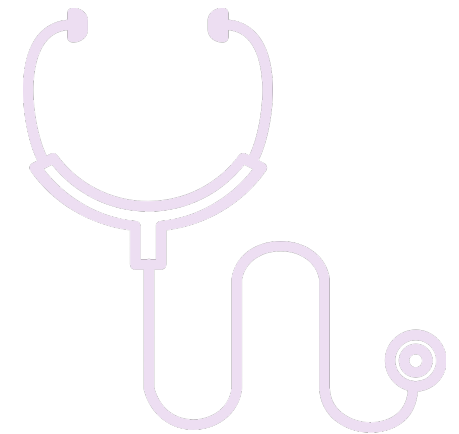
# DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Example themes:
  - Governance
  - Human trafficking
  - Immigration
  - Refugees
  - Women's empowerment
- **North Dakota State University** is establishing a network of sport-for-development organizations in South Africa and Tanzania to facilitate internship placements focused on women's empowerment, social cohesion, and global health.



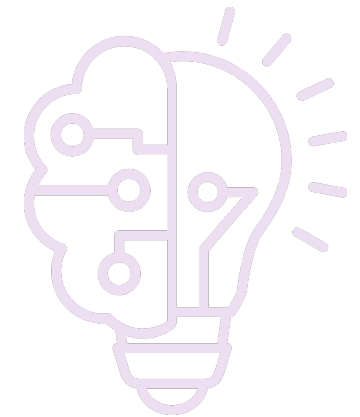
# GLOBAL HEALTH

- Example themes:
  - Combatting drugs
  - Contagious and infectious diseases
  - COVID-19 recovery
  - Nursing
  - Public health policy and management
- **Hollins University** is creating study abroad programs in Kenya that will examine comparative health systems between the United States and Kenya and enhance students' knowledge of women's health advocacy.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Example themes:
  - Business
  - Closing skills gaps in local communities
  - Human resources
  - Infrastructure
  - Resource development
  - Trade
- **College of Southern Nevada** is training a cohort of community college faculty to develop in-person and virtual study abroad experience to increase the number of students at two-year institutions that engage in international and intercultural learning.

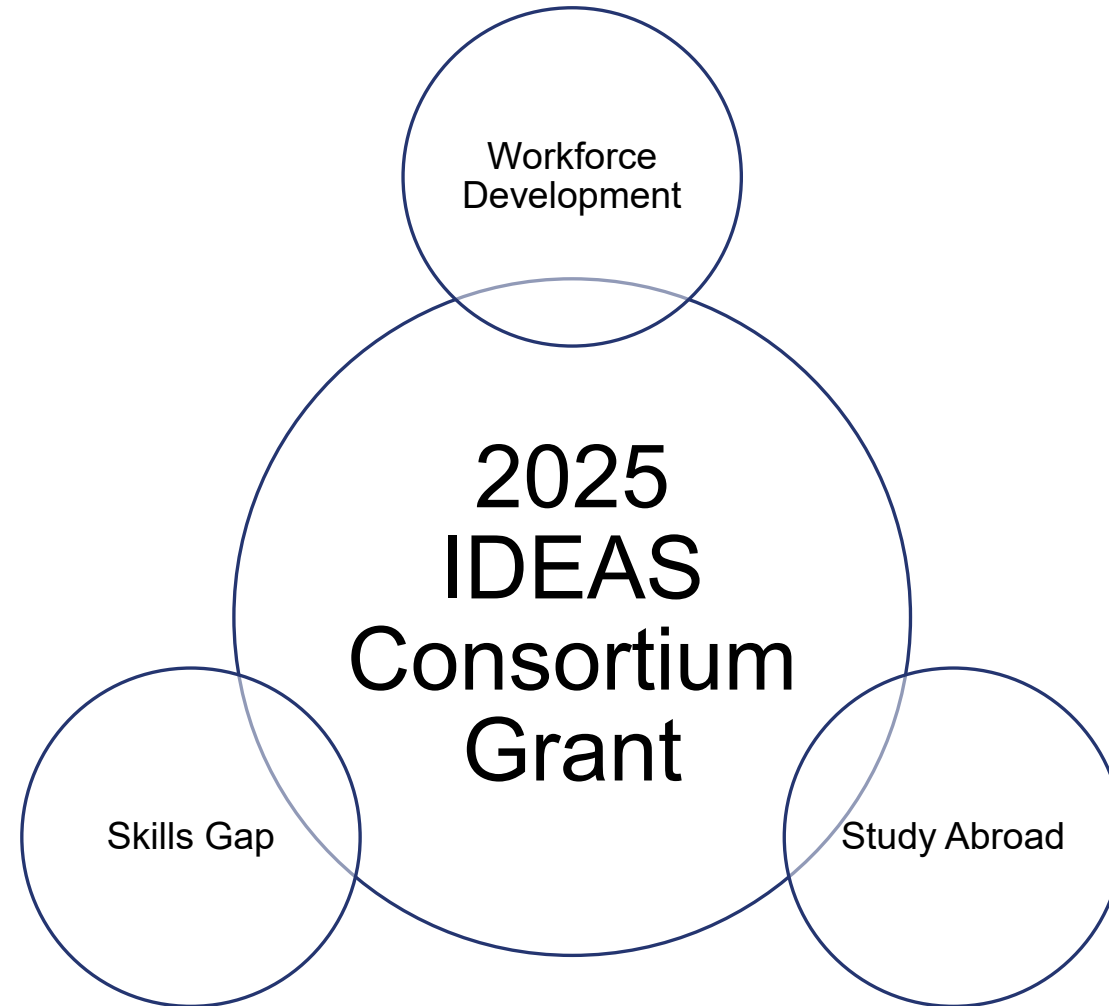


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# TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Example themes:
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Cybersecurity
  - Critical and emerging technologies
  - Digital engagement and policies
  - Engineering
  - Technology cooperation
- **Bellevue College** will expand students' access to study abroad by creating a faculty-led, hybrid study abroad program in France. The course will provide a framework for understanding how extended reality technologies can be a vehicle for storytelling and how digital media shapes narratives and the public's understanding of war.

# IDEAS CONSORTIUM GRANT



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# SUNY OSWEGO, PARTNERED WITH MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Location:** Oswego, NY
- **Institutional Profile:** Four-Year, Public
- **Destination(s):** South Korea, Taiwan
- **FPG:** Economic Development and Entrepreneurship; Technology and Innovation
- Creating two **faculty-led study abroad** programs in South Korea and Taiwan
- Helping students gain **technical and intercultural job** skills aligned with **local industry needs**
  - Electrical and computer engineering
  - Semiconductor development



# IDEAS GRANTS PRIORITIES

## Sustainable Capacity Building



Leadership support



Connection to institutional mission and/or goals



Assurance of continued funding or support beyond grant period



Partnerships: on campus, in the community, nationally,  
internationally

# BEST PRACTICES & TIPS

**Involve your  
faculty**

**Locations  
matter**

**Be creative!**

**Sustainability  
is key**

**Engage  
students**

**You can choose  
1+ FPG, but be  
sure to align your  
project well**

**Don't  
confine  
yourself to  
the sample  
themes**

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# QUESTIONS?

Please enter your questions in the Q&A box.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Phase 1

October 15, 2024

- Phase 1 opens



October-November 2024

- Grant application support webinars



December 12, 2024

- Phase 1 closes



January 2025

- Phase 1 review



February 2025

- Semifinalists notified

## Phase 2

February 2025

- Phase 2 opens
- Semi-finalist support webinars



April 17, 2025

- Phase 2 closes



April-May 2025

- Phase 2 review & panels



Mid-June 2025

- Finalists Announced



September 2025-February 2027

- Grant period of performance

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# FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN



The image shows a screenshot of the LinkedIn profile for the IDEAS Program. At the top, there is a blue banner with the IDEAS PROGRAM logo on the left and the text "IDEAS PROGRAM" in large purple letters on the right. Above the banner are logos for the United States, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Study Abroad program. Below the banner, the profile name "IDEAS Program" is displayed, followed by a description: "The Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) Program is a program of the U.S. State Department." Below the description, it says "Higher Education · Washington, DC · 937 followers · 2-10 employees". There are three buttons: "Message", "Following", and a menu icon. At the bottom, there are navigation tabs for "Home", "About", "Posts", "Jobs", and "People".



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ideas-program/>

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**STUDYABROADCAPACITYBUILDING.ORG**

**IDEAS@WORLDLEARNING.ORG**

**#LAUNCHIDEASABROAD**

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