



American Council
of Learned Societies
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-6795
www.acls.org

Grants for Research on Heritage Speakers of East European Languages

Guidelines

These grants are made possible with funds administered by the U.S. Department of State under terms of the Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union Act of 1983 (Title VIII).

Purpose To support research on heritage speakers of an East European language in the United States resulting in an analytical paper and a syllabus for an intensive summer course to bring the linguistic competence of these heritage speakers to a professional level.

The research project and syllabus should be designed to complement the overall goals of the Title VIII program, which “*maintains U.S. expertise in the regions and brings open source, policy-relevant research to the service of the U.S. Government.*” (<http://www.state.gov/s/inr/grants>)

Heritage speakers of East European languages (Albanian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Slovene), who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, constitute a valuable reservoir of foreign language competence that can be used for academic research as well as for service in U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations. In order for heritage-language competence (gained by speaking at home, but learned only informally) to be professionally useable, it needs to be supplemented by formal instruction. A thoroughgoing, empirically-based research project investigating the demographic situation of heritage communities and their levels of linguistic competence is a necessary first step in the design of such instruction.

Research methods There is no prescribed methodology for gathering and analyzing data, but the approach selected must meet the highest standards of rigor in social science and sociolinguistic research and must be justified in the project description.

The project must be feasible within the available timeframe and with the available funding. *Multi-year, complex projects involving large teams cannot be supported.*

Products of research The analytical paper should describe the current demographic situation of heritage speakers of the given language, where they live, their range of linguistic competence, and other significant factors that will inform the sort of instruction required to bring their language ability up to professional competence.

The syllabus should address the language problems of the targeted group of heritage speakers through the design of an intensive language course modeled on Title VIII/ACLS supported advanced-mastery courses. (<http://www.acls.org/programs/eesp>)

Eligibility Each application must be prepared by a principal investigator, who may apply alone or on behalf of several collaborators. The principal investigator will be responsible for directing the project, for corresponding with ACLS, for receiving funds and reporting on them, and, of course, for delivering the analytical paper and the syllabus. The principal investigator must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, must be affiliated with a U.S. university or research institution, and must have a Ph.D. degree in a relevant field as well as appropriate research experience.

Selection criteria

- The intellectual urgency of the research questions posed
- The cogency of presentation
- The qualifications of the principal investigator or team
- The potential contribution the heritage-speaker community being studied can make to academic research or to service in U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations
- The scientific rigor of the methodology and its adequacy to the research questions posed
- The feasibility of the workplan

Deadline for receipt of applications at ACLS is **January 15, 2010**.



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Instructions for applicants

Applications should consist of the following elements, numbered and arranged as below:

- I. **Cover sheet** [Please use the attached forms.]
- II. **Project description** maximum five double-spaced pages.
The project description should address the following:
 - What are the questions guiding research design? Which communities will be studied? Where are they located?
 - What methods will be used? Why were they chosen?
 - What is known about the situation of the heritage speakers to be studied? What still needs to be determined? How will data-gathering take place?
 - How will data be analyzed?
 - Who will be responsible for coordinating the steps to be taken and for writing the analytical paper?
 - What information is anticipated for the preliminary report due at ACLS on January 15, 2011?
- III. **The potential contribution the heritage-speaking community can make to academic research and to service in U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations**
- IV. **Workplan and timeline**
The timeline for research should aim to produce a report on preliminary findings by January 15, 2011 and an analytical paper and syllabus by December 31, 2011.
- V. **Qualifications of the principal investigator**
Please summarize the education, experience, and publications of the principal investigator (and collaborators, if any) *directly* relevant to the proposed research. Maximum one double-spaced page.
- VI. **Curriculum Vitae** of the principal investigator (and collaborators, if any). Maximum two pages.
- VII. **Budget**
The maximum award is \$20,000. The budget should allocate this amount in broad expense categories such as data-gathering, travel to research sites, researcher stipends, and supplies. A narrative should describe how these expenses were estimated and how they will contribute to preparation of the analytical paper and syllabus.

Applications should be emailed to obukhina@acls.org OR mailed to:

Committee on East European Language Training
American Council of Learned Societies
633 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10017-6795

Applications will not be accepted via fax.

Deadlines

January 15, 2010	Applications are due at ACLS
May 2010	Announcement of grants
January 15, 2011	Report on preliminary findings due
December 31, 2011	Analytical paper and syllabus due



ACLS

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COVER SHEET

Applications must be received by January 15, 2010

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name _____

First and Middle Name/Initial _____

Academic rank _____

Department _____

Institution _____

Field of specialization _____

Highest degree, granting institution, and date _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Date of submission of this application _____

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Name of Financial Administrator (if different from the Principal Investigator) responsible for receiving and disbursing funds, and for preparing and signing the final financial report:

Signature of Financial Administrator _____

Date of signature _____

FOR JOINT PROJECTS ONLY

Collaborator 1

Name _____

Institution _____

Academic Rank _____

E-mail _____

Collaborator 2

Name _____

Institution _____

Academic Rank _____

E-mail _____

Collaborator 3

Name _____

Institution _____

Academic Rank _____

E-mail _____

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ONLY)

This information is REQUIRED (except as noted). It is for administrative purposes only and will not be distributed as part of the selection process.

Social Security Number _____

What is your country of citizenship? _____

If NOT United States, do you hold Permanent Resident status? _____

The following questions are optional and will be used for statistical purposes only.

Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) ____/____/____ Gender _____

With which group(s) do you most identify?

- _____ White (not of Hispanic origin)
- _____ Black (not of Hispanic origin)
- _____ Hispanic or Latino
- _____ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- _____ Asian
- _____ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- _____ Other