Quality of Proposed Project - Quality of Proposed Project (60 points)

Quality of Proposed Project - The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the research project proposed by the applicant. The Secretary considers:

1. The statement of the major hypotheses to be tested or questions to be examined and the description and justification of the research methods to be used. (15 points)
   
   Strength:
   
   Weakness
   
   Reader’s Score:

2. The relationship of the research to the literature on the topic and to major theoretical issues in the field, and the project's originality and importance in terms of the concerns of the discipline. (10 points)

   Strength:
   
   Weakness
   
   Reader’s Score:

3. The preliminary research already completed in the United States and overseas or plans for such research prior to going overseas, and the kinds, quality and availability of data for the research in the host country or countries. (10 points)

   Strength:
   
   Weakness
   
   Reader’s Score:

4. The justification for overseas field research, and preparations to establish appropriate and sufficient research contacts and affiliations abroad. (10 points)

   Strength:
   
   Weakness
   
   Reader’s Score:
5. The applicant's plans to share the results of the research in progress and a copy of the dissertation with scholars and officials of the host country or countries. (5 points)

   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:

6. The guidance and supervision of the dissertation advisor or committee at all stages of the project, including guidance in developing the project, understanding research conditions abroad, and acquainting the applicant with research in the field. (10 points)

   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:

Qualifications of the Applicant – (40 points)

Qualifications of the Applicant - The Secretary reviews each application to determine the qualifications of the applicant. The Secretary considers:

1. The overall strength of the applicant's graduate academic record. (10 points)

   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:

2. The extent to which the applicant's academic record demonstrates a strength in area studies relevant to the proposed project. (10 points)

   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:
3. The applicant's proficiency in one or more of the languages (other than English and the applicant's native language) of the country or countries of research, and the specific measures to be taken to overcome any anticipated language barriers. (15 points)
   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:

4. The applicant's ability to conduct research in a foreign cultural context, as evidenced by the applicant's references or previous overseas experiences, or both. (5 points)
   Strength:
   Weakness
   Reader’s Score:

General Comments –

General Comments Please provide general comments.

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority 1--Focus on Less Commonly Taught Languages (2 points).

A research project that focuses on any modern foreign language except French, German, or Spanish.

Competitive Preference Priority 2--Thematic Focus on Academic Fields (3 points).

A research project conducted in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, computer science, education (comparative or international), international development, political science, public health, or economics.

Note: Applicants that address Competitive Preference Priority 2 must intend to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies with a thematic focus on any one of the academic fields referenced above.