



## CALL FOR APPLICATION

### **FY24 Fulbright-Hays GPA short Term Program (Project type 2)**

**THEME:** Narratives of Diversity Performed through Storytelling and Encoded in Historical Architectural Sites. A unique opportunity to join a study tour to India's historical sites, learn its culture, collect topic based materials, develop and disseminate teaching materials for K-12 Hindi learners. The program pays for all expenses of the study tour. (Prior knowledge of Hindi is not required but participants must be willing to learn.) It is a non-political project funded by the US Dept. of Education International Foreign Language Education.

**To apply, please complete the online application form here: <https://tinyurl.com/fulbright-hays2024> and submit the following documents:**

In the google form, attach a 500-word essay in Hindi or English about your career goals and how this program may impact your future career. Please also email your personal statement (word or pdf formats) indicating: "If selected for the program I will follow the program instructions and participate in the planned activities to improve my linguistic (Hindi) and socio-cultural proficiency about Indian culture up to at least one sub-level according to the ACTFL guidelines; travel to India for the study tour and complete all tasks and activities assigned to me during the three phases of the program."

**APPLICANT MUST SIGN** with date, then submit the documents via email to: [fhs002024@gmail.com](mailto: fhs002024@gmail.com), cc: [aojha2008@gmail.com](mailto: aojha2008@gmail.com)

**Due date for submission of application: October 30, 2024**

### ELIGIBLE GPA PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

An applicant is eligible to participate in a GPA project if s/he is:

- ▶ A citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States;
- ▶ Currently employed full-time in a U.S. school system, institution of higher education, Local Education Agency or State Education Agency (not applicable to students); and at least one of the following:
  - ▶ A teacher in an elementary or secondary school;
  - ▶ A faculty member associated with a college/community college/university, who teaches modern foreign languages or area studies;
  - ▶ An experienced education administrator responsible for planning, conducting, or supervising programs in modern foreign languages or area studies at the elementary, secondary, or postsecondary levels.
  - ▶ A graduate student or junior or senior in an institution of higher education, who is a prospective teacher in the areas of social sciences, humanities and foreign languages. The student should meet the provisions set by his or her local and state education agencies. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright award; who will not be retiring within the next 1-2 years. Those not currently employed full-time are not eligible. (Note: All GPA participants must be: educators, students, pre-service teachers or administrators who fulfill the criteria above and; the selection criteria set by their respective projects and; are currently teaching, studying, and/or administering in the eligible fields of humanities, social sciences, foreign languages, and/or area studies.) Area studies are defined as programs that provide comprehensive study of aspects of a society or societies, including geography, history, culture, economy, politics, international relations, or languages. Participants must be able to travel to India for one month in Spring 2025. While the program will cover all expenses for the study tour, participants are responsible for obtaining their visa to India and health insurance in India. Once enrolled in the program, participants may not withdraw for non-emergency reasons. Failure to comply with all requirements and regulations during the three phases of the program may result in a financial penalty, as determined by the program. After completing and submitting their final documents, participants will be required to fill out and submit an impact report detailing their dissemination plan for completed teaching materials.

**For any questions, please contact Ashok Ojha, Program Director, at [fhs002024@gmail.com](mailto: fhs002024@gmail.com) or [aojha2008@gmail.com](mailto: aojha2008@gmail.com), or call 732-318-9891.**

The program consists of three phases: **Phase I:** Five online pre-study tour orientation sessions on Saturdays (December 2024-January 2025); **Phase II:** Four week study tour to India (February-March 2025); **Phase III:** Online sessions during weekends, (April-June 2025), when participants finalize their teaching documents. After completing and submitting final documents, participants will fill out and submit an impact report detailing their dissemination plans. Deadline for submitting the online application form along with the required documents (essay and personal statement) is October 30, 2024. For any questions, please contact **Ashok Ojha, Program Director, [fhs002024@gmail.com](mailto: fhs002024@gmail.com) or [aojha2008@gmail.com](mailto: aojha2008@gmail.com), or call 732-318-9891.**

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

FY24YHS-NYU Fulbright-Hays GPA Short-Term Curriculum Development Project (Hindi) on “Narratives of Diversity Performed through Storytelling and Encoded in Historical Architectural Sites” provides opportunities to study the historical, ideological and sociological perspectives of diverse narratives, experienced, collected and recorded by program participants. The program is designed to expand participants’ knowledge about the oral, visual and performance-based centuries-long storytelling traditions of India. It will create opportunities for all potential participants, especially K-12 educators, to design new curricular materials with a deeper understanding of the rich cultural diversity of India. The participants will also explore stories, legends, or myths that emerge organically from the collective wisdom and experiences of local communities and through various forms of storytelling preserved and communicated. These folk narratives are usually rooted in the traditions, customs, and beliefs of a specific community; they often reflect their histories, values, and cultural identities, and hence embody pluralism and diversity. Delhi. To examine all these narratives, the program participants will visit the architectural structures in Ajanta-Ellora, Sanchi, Delhi, Khajuraho, and Varanasi where they will explore folk figurative and performing arts, (e.g. dastangoi, puppetry, qawwali, jatra, pandavani, phad or kaawad) through hands-on workshops and demonstrations at local institutions, such as, the Tribal Arts Museum (Bhopal) and ‘The Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts’ (Delhi). Their exposure to and study of its various kinds of narrative traditions will allow them to make informed choices when representing India in their classrooms through a balanced integration of content, culture and language and thus to create more inclusive and diverse classrooms.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the program are: To examine the cultural, social, and political themes, symbolism and meaning of various historical, mythological and folk narratives, significant as top-down and bottom-up communicative processes of encapsulating the intangibles of the cultural heritage in various regions of India; to examine secular, ideological and mythological themes depicted in architectural spaces and details (murals, sculptures and reliefs).

**Leadership:** The Project Director Ashok Ojha, along with the Academic Director Prof. Gabriela Nik Ilieva, Clinical Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University, will lead 12 Fulbright-Hays participants on a 4 week study tour to five locations in India where pre-planned daily activities for collection of authentic materials, cultural products, realia, workshops with experts and visits to local communities will be conducted.

**Supporters and collaborators:** A host of academic experts from partnering institutions in the USA and India will guide and advise the program participants. Besides the close collaboration with NYU, partnering institutions in the USA are: University of Texas-Austin (UTA), McMillan Center, Yale University, and South Asian Studies, Michigan State University (MSU). Our collaborators in India are: RN Tagore University, Bhopal, Banaras Hindu University, Vasant College for Women, Varanasi, Indira Gandhi Center for the Arts, Delhi.

**Travel as a Group:** Group participants and leaders will travel together in the host country. Participants are required to remain with their respective programs throughout the duration of the program. Travel outside of the program is prohibited. At the end of the overseas phase, participants are required to return to the U.S. with their program.

**Passports and Visas:** The GPA grant does not provide funds for passport and visa expenses. The participants are responsible for obtaining their passports and any necessary visas. The program is not responsible for procuring or assisting in any of the processes involved in the acquisition of passports and/or visas. Applicants should complete and submit all of the required paperwork to the appropriate office, embassy and/or the consulate of India. Should the applicant fail to have the required documents prior to travel, the individual may be prohibited from participating in the project.

**HEALTH INFORMATION:** For information on availability of medical services abroad and recommended shots (e.g., gamma globulin), fellows should contact the Fulbright Commission or the U.S. embassy in the host country. Additional information on recommended shots may be obtained on the Center for Disease Control’s website <http://www.cdc.gov/>

**Health and Accident Insurance:** The program does not cover the health and accident insurance of project participants. The GPA does not take any responsibility for any personal injury, accident, illness, and loss of personal property or other contingencies that may happen to participants during or as a result of their stay abroad. The participants must be covered by health and accident insurance plans. The insurance should include Emergency Medical Evacuation as well as Repatriation of Remains coverage.

