



February 10, 2014

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NO. SOL-268-14-000001

University Scholarship Program – (VI)

AMENDMENT NO. 2

The purpose of this amendment is to extend the questions submission date and reduce the performance period of the program from six years to five years.

The subject RFA is hereby amended as follows:

1- Cover letter:

Delete: “Deadline for Questions: January 28, 2014, 8:00 am Cairo Local Time”

Replace with: “Deadline for Questions: February 12, 2014, 4:30 pm COB Cairo Local Time”

2- Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, page 6, last paragraph delete “three months” and substitute in lieu thereof “six weeks” as follows:

Delete the following paragraph:

“Applicants must provide in their application a detailed account of the majors that will be offered under the program along with a rationale for their choice including, at minimum, statistics relevant to the proposed major such as market survey or alumni survey. Major selections that the applicant does not substantiate with statistics will not be allowed. Majors newly offered at the university will not be allowed. To qualify, at least two classes must have graduated from the specific proposed major. The rationale must reflect how this field of study contributes to development in Lebanon and has prospects for meaningful employment. The applicant must provide the detailed account in a tabular format as following including exactly the exclusive list of majors that will be offered under USP. All proposed majors should ensure that the student graduates at least **three months** prior to the project completion. This will enable the implementing partner to collect relevant information related to graduation, graduate studies and employment. USAID will review the proposed majors and make a final determination upon award of accepted majors.”

Substitute in lieu thereof the following:

“Applicants must provide in their application a detailed account of the majors that will be offered under the program along with a rationale for their choice including, at minimum, statistics relevant to the proposed major such as market survey or alumni survey. Major selections that the applicant does not substantiate with statistics will not be allowed. Majors newly offered at the university will not be allowed. To qualify, at least two classes must have graduated from the specific proposed major. The rationale must reflect how this field of study contributes to

development in Lebanon and has prospects for meaningful employment. The applicant must provide the detailed account in a tabular format as following including exactly the exclusive list of majors that will be offered under USP. All proposed majors should ensure that the student graduates at least **six weeks** prior to the project completion. This will enable the implementing partner to collect relevant information related to graduation, graduate studies and employment. USAID will review the proposed majors and make a final determination upon award of accepted majors.”

3- Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, page 16, 10. Program Duration, delete six years for program duration and replace it with five years.

Delete the following:

“The program duration will be **six** years to allow scholars enrolled in four year programs (such as engineering) to access the preparatory year if needed. It is estimated that the first year of the program is dedicated to outreach, dissemination, selection and enrollment.

The applicant must clearly state in their application that: the program duration is initially set to **six** years; however, the program duration is subject to review by USAID after the first semester of enrollment of scholars to determine whether the duration should be shortened or not based on the scholars’ enrollment data and their expected graduation within the normal required durations for their respective majors.

During the **sixth** year of implementation, the implementing partner shall reduce administrative costs only to direct costs related to program monitoring and reporting. Ancillary costs and extended staff support will not be allowed. Support staff costs, not key personnel, shall be proportional as well to the number of scholars enrolled during the last year of the program. The key personnel level of effort will be reduced, where applicable, to that required as strictly necessary. This cost containment aspect will be subject to USAID cost evaluation. Illustratively, if only 15 scholars are enrolled during the 6th and last year out of an initially enrolled 60 scholars, the 15 remaining scholars at university represent 25% of the initial total student population. This corresponds to a decrease in the supported student population of 75%. Accordingly, the cost of support staff shall be reduced in direct proportion to the reduction in student numbers. Support staff who served at 100% level of effort initially will be reduced by 75%, and will be serving at 25% level of effort after the adjustment. Support staff who served at 50% initially will be reduced as well by 75% and will become serving at a 13% level of effort. The reduction in level of effort applies only to the last year of the program implementation for support staff. ”

Substitute in lieu thereof:

“The program duration will be **five** years. **Depending on the need of the scholarship applicants (potential students), changes to the project may occur. In other words, if during implementation of the project, the recipient finds it necessary to make changes to the project to address the need for additional English language proficiency for some majors such as engineering, then USAID may consider the possibility of making a change to the project to address this need. Also, the applicant is encouraged through submission of this application to propose for four year programs such as engineering alternative means other than the preparatory year. This is to enable students who would enroll in four year programs to improve their English level if need to such as offering intensive remedial classes prior to the actual enrollment and immediately post selection.** It is estimated that the first year of the program is dedicated to outreach, dissemination, selection and enrollment.

The applicant must clearly state in their application that: the program duration is initially set to **five** years; however, the program duration is subject to review by USAID after the first semester of enrollment of scholars to determine whether the duration should be **extended** or not based on the scholars' enrollment data and their expected graduation within the normal required durations for their respective majors.

During the **last** year of implementation, the implementing partner shall reduce administrative costs only to direct costs related to **direct** program monitoring and reporting. Ancillary costs and extended staff support will not be allowed **especially that the student cohort is smaller**. Support staff costs, not key personnel, shall be proportional as well to the number of scholars enrolled during the last year of the program. The key personnel level of effort will be reduced, where applicable and **only if reasonable**, to that required as strictly necessary. This cost containment aspect will be subject to USAID cost evaluation. Illustratively, if only 15 scholars are enrolled during the last year out of an initially enrolled 60 scholars, the 15 remaining scholars at university represent 25% of the initial total student population. This corresponds to a decrease in the supported student population of 75%. Accordingly, the cost of support staff shall be reduced in direct proportion to the reduction in student numbers. Support staff who served at 100% level of effort initially will be reduced by 75%, and will be serving at 25% level of effort after the adjustment. Support staff who served at 50% initially will be reduced as well by 75% and will become serving at a 13% level of effort. The reduction in level of effort applies only to the last year of the program implementation for support staff."

4- Section II. Award Information, page 18:

Delete the following:

"Estimated Funds to be Available:

USAID estimates funding for this program will be made available in the maximum amount of \$6 million or the minimum amount of \$2 million. USAID anticipates more than one award for a **six**-year period.

Estimated Start Date and Performance Period:

The performance period for this program is estimated to begin on/about September 30, 2014 and be completed by September 29, 2020 i.e. six years. Further details on program duration are in section I item 10. Program Duration."

Substitute in lieu thereof the following:

"Estimated Funds to be Available:

USAID estimates funding for this program will be made available in the maximum amount of \$6 million or the minimum amount of \$2 million. USAID anticipates more than one award for a **five**-year period.

Estimated Start Date and Performance Period:

The performance period for this program is estimated to begin on/about September 30, 2014 and be completed by September 29, **2019** i.e. **five** years. Further details on program duration are in section I item 10. Program Duration."

End of Amendment