



FY17: Department of Education — International Education

The Department of Education's Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs are the federal government's most comprehensive programs for developing national capacity in international and foreign language education. These programs support instruction in less-commonly taught languages—particularly from regions of national strategic importance—and research on issues of importance to our national security. They also provide American students with global learning experiences that are valuable in the workplace. These programs educate the individuals whose abilities help ensure the successful international engagement of the U.S. education, government, and business sectors. **AAU supports \$76 million for Title VI international education programs in FY17.**

Title VI National Resource Centers (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide students from around the country with world-class opportunities for intensive study of world areas and foreign languages, particularly less-commonly taught languages, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2010-2011, 1.6 million students enrolled in language and area studies courses offered by the 100 NRCs.

NRC and other Title VI programs have created an unrivalled technical training system producing linguistically proficient, area-savvy graduates who go on to successful careers in government, military, academia, and the private sector. These graduates educate thousands of students, teachers, policy makers, military and diplomatic officials, faculty, and the general public over the course of their careers, as well as engage in diplomatic missions in areas of strategic importance to the nation.

FY17 RECOMMENDATION:

AAU urges Congress to provide \$76 million for Title VI International Education programs

Restoring Title VI to its historic level of funding is vital to ensuring its programs can continue to contribute effectively to our nation's long-term security, global leadership, and economic competitiveness. As a result of steep cuts in FY11 and stagnant funding since, universities have been forced to eliminate international programs, classes in less-commonly taught languages, and other foreign language and area studies opportunities, including graduate fellowships. Rebuilding the number of NRCs to the past level and restoring funding to Fulbright-Hays fellowships is critical in maintaining a high level of global engagement in the future. The nation needs a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas and transnational trends.

