

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The agency should be prepared to justify its decision not to use statistical methods in any case where such methods might reduce burden or improve accuracy of results. The following documentation should be provided with the Supporting Statement Part A to the extent that it applies to the methods proposed. For further information, please consult [OMB's Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys](#).

- 1. Describe the potential respondent universe (including a numerical estimate) and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, state and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

The longitudinal survey proposed for this collection has two components:

- 1. An Initial Intake Survey (IIS)**, which collects information about the FLAS fellowship(s) received, the employment or education outcomes of the fellows, their beliefs about the impact of receiving a (multiple) fellowship(s) on their competencies and/or employment outcomes, and demographic information about the respondents.

Staff have estimated that approximately 2,000 FLAS fellowships are awarded per year. Therefore, we expect approximately 2,000 respondents who are new participants in the program to complete the initial survey each year.

- 2. A Follow-Up Survey (FUS)**, which includes questions meant to assess changes in employment outcomes subsequent to the intake (or previous follow-up) survey. Each fellow's first follow-up survey to be conducted is planned two years after the date of the initial intake survey above.

This follow-up survey will be administered to all FLAS fellows who responded to the initial intake survey. In previous studies, we attempted to survey FLAS fellows who graduated from their degree programs in the eight-year period preceding the time of the survey. Since fellows will be asked to complete the follow-up survey every other year, this would mean that we are surveying four years of fellows in any given cycle. Assuming approximately 2,000 fellows per year times four years of fellows in each

survey cycle, we expect approximately 8,000 respondents who are previous participants in the program to complete the follow-up survey each year.

Program staff estimate a response rate of approximately 80% for both surveys.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information, including:

▪ **Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection**

The entire population of FLAS fellowship recipients who were awarded an academic year or summer fellowship will be included in the Initial Intake Survey (IIS). No sampling of the population of FLAS fellows will be conducted for this survey.

The follow-up survey will be administered to all FLAS fellows who respond to the Initial Intake Survey (IIS). No sampling of the population of respondents to the intake survey will be conducted.

▪ **Estimation procedure**

Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations will be provided to document the post-graduate employment outcomes of FLAS fellowship graduates by various characteristics such as field of study, language, degree (undergraduate, Master's, PhD), and domestic *versus* study abroad programs. Similar statistics will be used to summarize the responses to questions about global competencies and the perceived role that receiving a FLAS fellowship has had on an individual's employment and/or education outcomes.

X-square tests for categorical variables will be used to evaluate whether the employment outcomes or opinions of different groups are statistically different.

▪ **Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification**

A significance level of $p=0.05$ for the X-square tests (above) provides sufficient accuracy for the study.

▪ **Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and**

The study does not carry out any sampling and no unusual problems are expected.

▪ **Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

The longer Initial Intake Survey (IIS) is administered to students only once, at the beginning of their entry into the FLAS fellows population, and respondents are asked to complete the short Follow-Up Surveys every other year.

3. Describe methods to maximize response and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for

intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield “reliable” data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

FLAS fellows are advised that they are required to complete the Postgraduate Employment Outcomes Survey as part of their award responsibilities. Respondents are informed that participation is voluntary and there are no consequences if an individual chooses not to participate or not to respond to specific questions on the survey; answers to the survey are confidential and anonymous, and no individual responses can be identified or traced; and only aggregate measures of the responses to this survey will be made available to the public (see Privacy Act Statement on survey instrument).

Program staff do not expect any non-response bias in the data collected.

- 4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.**

The Initial Intake Survey instrument was tested on a small sample of 9 or fewer FLAS fellows from the institutions of higher education which received an allocation of FLAS fellowships in the FY 2018-22 grant cycle. The test survey instrument is the IIS questionnaire proposed for this collection.

- 5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other persons who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

The grantees (institutions of higher education) receiving allocations of FLAS fellowships have the single role of distributing the IIS survey link to their fellows.

Office of Postsecondary Education program staff are responsible for collecting, cleaning, and analyzing the data, and for writing the survey report for the Department of Education.