



# After delays, Jackson School awarded \$16 million for education

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While most students were settling in for the start of autumn quarter, more than 100 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellows weren't feeling as relaxed. Due to delays from the U.S. Department of Education (ED), they waited anxiously for the announcement of the FLAS awards.

If funding was denied, those students would be left without the majority of their tuition money and be forced to scramble for alternative funds. Some may have been forced to drop out.

About a month after originally scheduled, the ED notified the Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS) that grants were approved.

In late September, JSIS received grants totaling \$16 million toward efforts to increase outreach and education to all eight of the Jackson School's Title VI national resource centers (NRCs). This grant money was used to fund the FLAS awards, explaining their delay.

"They're tough," Anand Yang, director of the South Asia Center, said of the grants. "Getting one center is hard enough, getting eight centers is phenomenal."

The UW stayed ahead of the competition, beating out other competitive and prestigious NRCs in the nation and receiving more total grants than any other institution.

William Lavelly, director of the East Asia Center and professor of international studies and sociology, believes this is due to the university's support, faculty, and infrastructure as well as its dedication to outreach initiatives.

"I think the college is very well attuned to how important these grants are to us," Lavelly said. "The [ED] is very interested in outreach. They want to leverage all our knowledge ... to spread to other communities. So, a lot of our proposal is dedicated to outlining how we will go about that. We are very interested in this kind of outreach and the UW is very, very good at it."

A top priority of both the ED and JSIS is to reach out to underrepresented and underprivileged minorities in order to increase diversity within these disciplines.

"[We want to] bring in more students of color, whether it's by attracting them on the UW campus or to use some of these monies to bring in students from historically black colleges to come study at the UW," Yang said.

Many NRCs, like the South Asia Center, are also using these grants to work with local community colleges with significant minority populations such as Highline and Shoreline Community Colleges.

Each NRC wrote 50-page proposals to outline their plans for these funds. Each proposal took about three to six months to draft, and complete compilation of the proposal took nearly a year.

Directors also discussed ideas for activities with faculty members and created new positions such as the East Asia

Center's Chinese language coordinator.

For Saadia Pekkanen, associate director of JSIS, the UW stood out because of its dedication to the field.

"It really comes down to the way the Jackson School continues to believe in the mission of area studies," Pekkanen said. "We are constantly amazed by the work of the centers, the amount of outreach work they do by connecting to and informing students and people in schools, businesses, institutes, and also local governments and agencies. ... We are tremendously proud and supportive of the role they play in connecting the Jackson School to the local and global."

After having to deal with uncertainty for an extra month, the directors said the grants came with a mixture of joy and relief.

"We wanted to pop open champagne bottles," Pekkanen said.

Reach contributing writer Christiana Nguyen at [development@dailyuw.com](mailto:development@dailyuw.com). Twitter: @CNguyen27

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