

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

Four-weeks Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is soliciting nominations for four-weeks Study of The U.S. Institute for Secondary School Educators (teacher and administrators) to participate in the program in the U.S. in summer2013. The Institute is projected to take place in June 2013; exact dates for the programs to be announced later. Applications are due to PAS by **December 15, 2012** via the KabulPASExchange@state.gov mailbox. We will be selecting one participant for each of the institute.

Institute Description:

Two Institutes for Secondary Educators will be offered one with a focus on classroom teachers and the other with a focus on administrators, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, and ministry of education officials, among others. Each Institute includes a four week academic residency component and a two week integrated study tour. This year as follow:

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators-Teacher

The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (**Teachers**) will provide a multinational group of 30 experienced secondary school teachers with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present. The focus of the Institute will be on providing materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States. To this end, the Institute may be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. The program will also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators-Administrators

The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (**Administrators**) will provide a multinational group of 30 experienced administrators (including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture - past and present. The program's theme, "Exploring Access and Equity in U.S. Education and Society" will focus on education, immigration, and civic engagement within U. S. society and culture.

The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad.

Who can apply for the program?

Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced secondary school educators. Ideal candidates are secondary school teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, secondary school administrators, or other related professionals with responsibility for secondary education. Ideal candidates for Secondary Educator Institutes are individuals who are seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. studies into their curricula or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields. Afghan citizen, both male and female, Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency, limited experience in the United States, strong leadership potential, and an interest to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program. Ideal candidates for Secondary Educator Institutes are individuals who are seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. studies into their curricula or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important. Ideal candidates will have little or no prior experience in the United States.

English language fluency: It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute.

Priority consideration: Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. It is important that posts and Commissions nominate only persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. Studies of the U.S. Institutes are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have no prior or limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties. In addition, ECA/A/E/USS makes every effort to have both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the Institutes.

How to nominate a candidate:

Nominations should be coordinated by Embassy section or regional platform. In addition to the basic information in the attached form, a complete nomination packet should include the following:

- **Justification:** Specific reasons why the participation of a nominee is particularly desirable in terms of enhancing the study of the United States at the home

institution, or more broadly, in the home country. For example, Is it intended to give a boost to a fledgling program? Is the nominee a leader within his or her field who is in a unique position to have a significant and immediate impact on curricular development, or is the nominee a younger professional with exceptional promise whose participation is likely to result in a substantial benefit to his/her home School Administration in the long run? Why, in short, does the nomination matter? Information about the candidate's prior experiences in the U.S. should also be included. If you are self applier you don't need to write the justification, leave it blank.

- **Candidate Personal Statement:** Each candidate should provide a short personal statement indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience.
- **Candidate CV:** This document should include the candidate's current title, position, and institution, work experience, prior training, professional memberships, and publications related to the institute theme.
- **Candidate Application:** Each candidate must complete the application for the Study of U.S. Institute for Educators and should make it clear which institute they are apply to (the Institute for Administrators or Teachers)

The candidate must complete the application form and submit it to the KabulPasExchange@state.gov by the deadline of **December 15th**. The candidate must write their own personal statement without assistance.

Key Program Information:

The final nomination(s) from Mission Afghanistan will be determined by Kabul PAS in accordance with the program objectives and guidelines. Kabul PAS will handle all logistics concerning any accepted nominee's participation. Please note:

- Participants typically will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will have to share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). Housing will usually be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.
- Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings.
- Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program.
- Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that the institute is very

intensive and that there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program.

It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted. Applications will be reviewed by a panel in Cultural Affairs at Embassy Kabul and selections will be made for interviews. One candidate will be selected for each institute and a total of two candidates from Afghanistan. Candidates will be notified of their interview time by email within three weeks of the deadline. Post/Commissions will be notified regarding selection or non-selection of candidates by early April 2013.

The following factors will be used in selecting participants from among the nominations.

- Have a strong interest in the area of study;
- Be fluent in English;
- Be established in their career;
- Should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the institute;
- Demonstrate strong leadership qualities
- Indicate a serious interest in learning about the institute;
- Have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by publications, awards, and recommendations;
- Demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular secondary education activities;
- Have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- Be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and,
- Be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

Questions?

Please address any questions about this program to the Kabul PAS Exchange mailbox (in the GAL or at KabulPASExchange@state.gov).