

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) Program for Scholars

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is soliciting nominations for scholars and professionals to participate in summer 2013 Study of the U.S. Institutes for multinational groups of university faculty, scholars, and other related professionals. English is the language of instruction.

Generally, mid-career scholars and professionals with expertise and teaching experience in the fields of foreign literature, political science, international relations, foreign policy, journalism, and religious pluralism will be considered.

The Institutes are projected to take place at various colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2013.

Nominations will be due to PAS by **December 18, 2012** via the KabulPDEXchanges@state.gov mailbox. We will be selecting one participant for each of the institutes.

*U.S. government employees (LES and American staff) are **not eligible** for any Public Affairs/ Public Diplomacy scholarship programs.*

Institute descriptions

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars are intensive post-graduate level academic programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, and institutions.

The ultimate goal of these Institutes is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad. Each Scholar Institute includes a four-week academic residency component and a two-week integrated study tour. Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will be held in the following themes:

A. The Institute on American Politics and Political Thought. This institute will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculties with a deeper understanding of U.S. political institutions and major currents in American political thought. The Institute will offer an overview of political thought during the founding period (constitutional foundations) and the development and current functioning of the American presidency, Congress, and the federal judiciary. The examination of political institutions will include the electoral system, political parties and interest groups, the civil service system, media and think tanks, and the welfare/regulatory state. The Institute will address modern political and cultural issues in the United States (including but not limited to immigration and labor, women, environmental, and civil rights) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy.

B. The Institute on Contemporary American Literature: The Institute on American Literature will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American literature. Its purpose is twofold: to explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres; and to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary American society and culture. The program will

explore the diversity of the American literary landscape, examining how major contemporary writers, schools, and movements reflect the traditions of the American literary canon. At the same time, the program will expose participants to writers who represent a departure from that tradition, and who are establishing new directions for American literature.

C. The Institute on Journalism and Media: The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism instructors and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the roles that journalism and the media play in U.S. society. The Institute will examine the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, international journalism, and media business models. The Institute will cover strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, reporting, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight technology's impact on journalism, such as the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other changes in media that are transforming the profession.

D. The Institute on Religious Pluralism: This institute will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach and drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law, and others, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Participants will examine the following aspects of religious pluralism in the United States: the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the diversity of contemporary religious beliefs and its impact on American politics.

E. The Institute on U.S. Culture and Society: The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base, and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society.

F. The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy: The institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base, and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society.

Who Can Apply?

Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced scholars and professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc.). While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or a related field. Ideal candidates are individuals whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the Institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme. 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: Study of the U.S. Institutes is 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 Institute.

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 package should include the following:

- **Justification:** Should be completed by the US Embassy.
- **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. The candidate must write their own personal statement without assistance (except for help proofreading).
- **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 Scholars and should make it clear to which institute they are applying.

The candidate must complete the application form and submit it by the deadline of December 18th to KabulPDExchanges@state.gov .

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) with another student of the same gender. 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.
- The U.S. Embassy will arrange economy class round trip international travel for each selected participant. These tickets will be funded by the SUSI program. The host institutions will cover all travel within the United States during the Institute.
- 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. 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 firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component; or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies or related fields;
- Have a strong interest in the topic and be interested and actively teaching about the topic;
- Be fluent in English;
- Be established in their career;

- Should have substantial knowledge of the general field of the institute (i.e. literature, international relations, political science, sociology, etc.);
- Have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by publications, awards, and recommendations;
- 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.
- Not be a U.S. government employee.** LES and American staff are **not eligible** for any Public Affairs/Public Diplomacy scholarship programs.

Questions?

Please address any questions about this program to the Kabul PD Exchanges mailbox (in the GAL or at KabulPDExchanges@state.gov) .