



Announcement:
Study of the United States Institute (SUSI)
for Student Leaders program on Journalism and New Media
FY 2014

The American Center at U.S. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to announce the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders program. The SUSI program is a five week undergraduate exchange program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

This is an intensive short-term academic program whose purpose is to provide undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. It will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. This Institute is focused on journalism and new media, and will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a free press in American society. Academic sessions will examine First Amendment rights, editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, civic journalism, and social/digital media. The Institute will cover the basics of journalism tradecraft: researching, reporting, writing, and editing, and will also highlight the role of technology.

The program includes a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities with the local community. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another part of the United States where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with two to four days in Washington, D.C.

Participants are expected to be highly motivated and exemplary undergraduate students from universities and other institutions of higher education. All students with an interest in new media are encouraged to apply. We expect applications from students in diverse fields, including, but not limited to, Journalism, Media, Literature, Graphic Design, Information Technology, Computer Science, International Relations, and Photography.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- have a strong interest in new media;
- be fluent in English;
- be typically under 25 years of age;
- be in their second or third year of studying in a bachelors/honors program;
- be committed to returning to their home universities following completion of the SUSI program;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated in grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- have demonstrated commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive;

- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel program; 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.

Soft copies of this announcement and the application form can be found at http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational_cultural_exchanges.html

Application forms must either be typed or completed in clear handwriting. Please note that each application must include a both **letter of recommendation** from either a Department Head or Faculty Dean and a **passport size photograph**.

The deadline for submission of completed applications to the American Center is **Thursday, December 19, 2013**. Late applications will not be accepted.

The location of the American Center is as follows:

**American Center
U.S. Embassy Annex
J Block, Progati Sharoni,
Baridhara, Dhaka-1212**

(Opposite the U.S. Embassy and next to Notun Bazar)

Please note that the Embassy work week is Sunday to Thursday. Fridays and Saturdays are weekends.

For further information, please contact Ms. Tahnia Shahid at the American Center (Telephone: 8855500, ext. 2808; email: ShahidTX@state.gov).

Sincerely,

Bilal Faruqi
Cultural Affairs Officer for Education & Exchanges