



2014 Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars Call for Applicants

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy at Bridgetown, Barbados is now accepting applications from scholars to participate in a summer *Study of the United States Institute for Scholars*. **The deadline is January 27, 2014 at 12:00 p.m**

Program Dates

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place at various colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2014.

Program Description

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, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal of these Institutes is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place at various colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2014. Each Institute includes a four week academic residency component and up to two weeks of an integrated study tour. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit this website page to obtain general information about the Institutes: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

The Study of the U.S. **Institute on Contemporary 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 (U.S.) 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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. The Institute host will be determined at a later date.

The Institute on **Journalism and Media** 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. Pending grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by Ohio University.

Program Funding: The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; international travel, travel and ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

Housing and Meal Arrangements: When possible, each participant will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the Institute. However, private room accommodations cannot be guaranteed during the residency portion of the program. During the study tour (up to two weeks), participants will likely share a hotel room with

another participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically 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. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000, with a \$15 co-pay per medical visit, for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at <http://www.usdos.sevencorners.com>.

Program Requirements and Restrictions: All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive program and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is not a research program. Participants must attend all lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends may not accompany participants on any part of the program. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.

Applicant Description and Qualifications: Study 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.

Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated, 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.

Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. First consideration will be given to mid-career professionals with little or no prior experience in the United States.

Additional Information: Under the terms of their J-1 Visas, participants have up to 30 days after the end of the program to depart from the U.S. However, the participant must be aware that he/she is responsible for all expenses after the end of the Institute and will no longer have Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored health benefits. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.

Applicant Statements

In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, applicants should provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience. In addition, statements should describe the applicant's capacity/plans to amplify the impact of the institute beyond just their own knowledge and research. Priority will be given to applicants 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.

Applications should send a personal statement and current curriculum vitae to BridgetownExchanges@state.gov by **January 27, 2014 at 12pm.**

If you have questions send an email to: BridgetownExchanges@state.gov, or call staff assistant Juanita Lynch at 246-227-4102.