

## **Summer 2013 Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders**

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of U.S. Embassy Baghdad is pleased to invite candidate nominations for summer 2013 Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders. Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders are intensive academic programs whose purpose is to provide undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The Institutes will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities. The Institutes will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

Three institutes are open for Iraqi students interested in the topics of “New Media in Journalism”, “Religious Pluralism in the United States” and “Women’s Leadership”. Posts and prospective applicants are encouraged to visit program’s website to obtain general information about the Institutes. The address is: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

Deadline for candidate nominations to PAS Baghdad is **Friday, December 7, 2012**.

### **2013 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Palestinian Territories, and Yemen on New Media in Journalism**

The Institute on New Media in Journalism will be hosted by Washington State University in Pullman, WA, pending availability of funds and U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) grant approval and will take place in June and July; exact dates will be announced at a later time. During the four week academic residency, participants will explore the following topics: the changing nature of the news media; journalistic ethics and responsibility; the history of journalism; basic journalism and new media skills. Through interactive lectures, workshops, case studies, and field reporting excursions, participants will gain the skills and knowledge they need to use digital new media for both the reporting and dissemination of news. Participants will learn how to shoot and edit video for the web, create blogs, and use Twitter and other distribution systems. Participants will also gain enhanced basic reporting and leadership skills, appreciation for the importance of ethical and responsible journalism, and a better understanding of the U.S. political system. A study tour to U.S. media outlets in Seattle, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. will likely complement the academic residency.

### **2013 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey on Religious Pluralism in the United States**

The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States will take place in June and July 2013. Exact dates and host institution will be announced at a later time. The four week academic residency will focus on U.S. history, society, and institutions within the context of religious pluralism and interfaith dialogue. Participants will discuss topics such as early religious traditions in the U.S.; the separation of church and state; immigration and the introduction of new religions in the U.S.; protection and representation of minority groups and religions; and interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Participants will meet with community leaders of different faiths that advocate for collaboration and tolerance among religious groups. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local leaders of different

faiths, leaders of nonprofit organizations, and visit important religious sites. The Institute will then conclude with a 3 day program in Washington, D.C.

### **2013 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, and Tunisia on Women's Leadership**

The Study of the U.S. Institute on Women's Leadership for Student Leaders will be hosted by Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. This Institute will examine the history and participation of women in public life in the United States. The Institute will focus on two major areas: (1) developing participants' leadership skills by focusing on areas such as critical thinking, communication, decision-making, and managerial abilities; and, (2) placing these abilities in the context of the history and participation of women in U.S. politics, economics, culture, and society. The Institute will examine the fields of women's study, U.S. Women's history, women's economic empowerment, global women's movements to address challenges, U.S. public institutions such as health, legal and education systems, women's leadership, and intercultural skill development. Information on the 2012 program can be found at <http://snip.state.gov/3m5>.

The four-week academic residency will be complemented by an educational study tour that will likely take participants to Chicago, rural New York, New York City, and Washington, D.C. where they will meet with local, state, private, and nonprofit leaders for firsthand discussions on women's leadership. The program will conclude in Washington, D.C. with a closing conference including women from the other three Institutes on Women's Leadership. The joint conference is tentatively scheduled for July 24, 2013.

#### **Other Essential Program Information**

*Program Funding:* Through awards to host institutions, ECA will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; travel and ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

*Housing and Meal Arrangements:* Housing will be in university dorms. Participants may be expected to share a room and bathroom with another student of the same gender. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. It is important that nominees are aware of these arrangements and that they are comfortable with such accommodations.

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://usdos.sevencorners.com>.

*Program Requirements and Restrictions:* Participants are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. They should attend all lectures and organized academic and cultural activities, and complete assigned readings. 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.

Under no circumstances are participants allowed to arrive in the U.S. prior to the start date of the Institute or remain in the U.S. after its end date. Similarly, participants will not be allowed to leave the

Institute to visit relatives or friends while in the U.S. If a relative or friend wishes to visit them, it will be addressed on a case by case basis, in consultation with ECA program officer and the host institution.

Violations of program rules, host institution rules, or local, state or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.

*English Language Ability:* All candidates should be proficient in English so that they can be active participants in the academic program. Host institutions will take into account that the level of comprehension and speaking ability of students may vary, and will prepare lectures and discussions that meet the highest academic standards while using language appropriate for students where English is their second or third language.

### **Candidate Description and Qualifications**

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study can vary, and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Emphasis should be made on recruiting participants from non-elite backgrounds, from both rural and urban sectors, and with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country. In addition, recruitment of participants should be focused on historically underserved, indigenous groups, and ethnic minority communities.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- have a strong interest in new media in journalism/religious pluralism/women's leadership (in accordance with the theme of the institute);
- be fluent in English;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the 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 by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- have 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; 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.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have?**

All participants must be fully proficient in English (minimum of 550 on the TOEFL); throughout the Institute they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.

**2. Can a nominee who is a dual citizen (U.S. and country of origin) participate in Study of the U.S. Institutes?**

No. U.S. citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are NOT eligible to participate in this program.

**3. Can we nominate an individual who is not a citizen of the nominating post country?**

Study of the U.S. Institutes are programs designed to further mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries. If you wish to nominate someone who is not a citizen of the nominating country, please explain clearly on the application the reasons for the nomination.

**4. My nominee has been to the U.S. before; would he/she be disqualified?**

No. Nominees with some experience in the United States can be considered for the program. Please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's prior visit(s) to the United States, the year, and the length of his/her stay as requested on the nomination form.

**5. How much free time will a participant have during the program?**

There will be some free time during the program. However, nominees MUST understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to participate in all lectures, activities, and scheduled events.

**6. If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would he/she have time to see them?**

Participants will NOT be allowed to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a relative or friend to visit the participant on a specific day designated by the host institution if the schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the host institution.

**7. How important it is to nominate a gender balanced group?**

Very important! We strive to have the best possible diversity and gender balance in the Institutes (except for Women's Leadership institutes).

**8. Can a participant arrive early/late or stay after the Institute?**

No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Study of the U.S. program are required to abide by the terms and conditions of the program. These terms state clearly that student leaders may NOT arrive in the United States before the program start date or remain in the country after the close of the institute.

**9. Can a graduate student participate in this Institute?**

No. Study of the U.S. Institutes are designed exclusively for undergraduate students.

**10. Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute?**

No. All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.

**11. How much money will participants need to bring for the program?**

The Study of the U.S. Institutes covers all costs of an individual's participation including transportation, lodging, and meals. Generally, host institutions provide for meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan and cash allowance to permit participants to cook or eat at local restaurants. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the start of the Institute. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.

**12. My nominee participated in the English Access Microscholarship Program; can he/she participate in this Institute?**

Yes.