

2012 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR SCHOLARS

Host Institution – Refer to program descriptions

June, 2012

Deadline for Applications: December 10, 2011



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1. Institute Objectives

This Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) is an intensive, rigorous six-week academic seminar whose purpose is to provide university faculty and other professionals from countries worldwide with a deeper understanding of American society, culture and institutions, past and present. The program's ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States at universities and other educational, training and research institutions. A total of six institutes will be offered for university-level faculty and other scholars. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website to obtain general information about the FY11 Institutes at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>.

The Institute is tentatively scheduled for early June 2012.

2. Program Descriptions

(i) American Politics and Political Thought

Host Institution: University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Institute on American Politics and Political Thought will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty 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 civil rights, women's rights, immigration, etc.) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy.

(ii) Contemporary American Literature

Host Institution: University of Louisville

The 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 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.

(iii) Journalism and Media

Host Institution: Ohio University

The Institute on Journalism and Media will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism faculty and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the role of journalism and the media in U.S. society. It will examine major topics in journalism, including the concept of a free press, First Amendment rights, and the media's relationship to the public interest. The legal and ethical questions inherent in journalistic endeavors will be incorporated into every aspect of the institute. 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, addressing the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite

television and radio networks, and other advances in media that are transforming the profession.

(iv) Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host Institution: University of California at Santa Barbara

The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States 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.

(v) U.S. Culture and Society

Host Institution: New York University

The Institute on U.S. Culture and Society 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, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society, and the ways in which these cultures have influenced both social movements and historical epochs 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.

(vi) U.S. Foreign Policy***Host Institution: University of Florida***

The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will focus on United States Foreign Policy making through an exploration of domestic politics and players with emphasis on how each entity shapes U.S. perspectives and action on international issues. The four-week academic residency program will be complemented by two weeks of study tours of diverse loci of foreign policy-making: including Chicago and Washington, DC. The Institute program will also include day trips to Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee, and historic St. Augustine.

3. Housing and meal arrangements

Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will 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. Full details will be provided once the grants have been approved. It is important that nominees are clear of these arrangements and are comfortable with such housing arrangements, particularly sharing a hotel room with another participant for up to two weeks.

4. Health Insurance

All participants will receive the Department of States coverage of \$50,000 with a \$25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

5. Funding

The Study of the U.S. Institute will cover all participant costs including costs for program administration, international travel costs, domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, books, cultural activities, mail, and incidentals.

6. Program requirements and restrictions

Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and to complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program [no exceptions]. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be aware that this is an intensive institute and 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 applicants understand and accept these requirements and restrictions.

7. Candidate qualifications

(A) Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, fluent in English, highly-motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education. While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the program applied.

(B) The ideal candidate will be an experienced professional with little or no prior experience in the United States, 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. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.

(C) In order to get a better sense of potential participants motivations and goals, candidates are requested to 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.

(D) Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior faculty members are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to younger, mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life (including campus-style accommodations) and an active program schedule.

(E) Priority will be given to candidates with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to enhance and update existing courses that include information about the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields.

8. To apply for the institute

Applicants should submit an application for this program by e-mail. The application deadline is December 10, 2011. The electronic application form may be viewed and downloaded from <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/susi.html> .

To submit an application or to request more program details, all interested candidates are welcome to contact Cultural Affairs Assistant Helena Bridget, Public Affairs, American Embassy, 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: (03) 2168-5106; e-mail: publicaffairskl@gmail.com

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