

2014 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR SCHOLARS

Host Institution – Refer to program descriptions

June, 2014

Deadline for Applications: December 31, 2013



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1. Institute Objectives

This Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) 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. A total of six institutes will be offered in the following themes in U.S. Studies: Contemporary American Literature, Journalism and Media, Religious Pluralism in the United States, U.S. Culture and Society, U.S. Foreign Policy, and U.S. Political Thought.

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 our website page to obtain general information about the Institutes. The website address is:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

2. Program Descriptions

(i) Contemporary American Literature

Host Institution: The Institute host will be determined at a later date.

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 (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.

(ii) Journalism and Media

Host Institution: Ohio University

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.

(iii) Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host Institution: The Institute host will be determined at a later date.

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 and society.

(iv) 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, 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.

(v) U.S. Foreign Policy***Host Institution: Bard College in New York***

The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of how contemporary U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The Institute will explain the role of key players in U.S. foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, the U.S. public, think-tanks, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions.

(vi) U.S. Political Thought***Host Institution: The Institute host will be determined at a later date.***

The Institute on U.S. Political Thought will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. It will explore the shaping of American identity and the intersection and interplay between that identity and U.S. history and politics. It will cover a broad range of American experiences that have shaped and been shaped by our national identity including, but not limited to, the colonial period, the constitutional founding, the Civil War, industrialization, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights movement. The Institute will also use this lens to explore contemporary U.S. political and social debates and topics relating them back to the formation and development of U.S. political thought.

3. Funding

The Study of the U.S. Institute will cover all participant costs, including: costs for program administration; international and domestic travel; ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

4. Housing and meal arrangements

Typically, 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. Full details will be provided once the grants have been approved. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

5. 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 usdos.sevencorners.com.

6. Program requirements and restrictions

All 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. Participants 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. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods. 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, experienced scholars and professionals 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 program applied.

(B) 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.

(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.



AMERICAN STUDIES
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8. To apply for the institute

Applicants should submit an application for this program by e-mail. The application deadline is December 31, 2013. 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 Specialist Ms 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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