

2013 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Host Institution – To be determined

June - July, 2013

Deadline for Applications: December 15, 2012



1. Institute Objectives

This Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues is an intensive, rigorous five-week program whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The program's ultimate goal is to explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United States and examine the relationship between environmental security and national security. The program will also explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries.

2. Program Description

The Institute on Global Environmental Issues will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures for a group of 25 students from four participating countries i.e. Burma, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The program includes four weeks of academic residency component complemented by a 4-day educational tour to another area of the U.S. where participants will meet with local, state, private, and nonprofit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a 3-day program in Washington, D.C.

The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulations.

The Institute is tentatively scheduled for early June of 2013. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website to obtain general information about the FY12 Institutes at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/students.html>.

3. Housing and meal arrangements

Housing will be in university owned dormitories. Participants will 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 will also have access to a kitchen where they may 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. Full details will be provided once the grant has been approved.

4. Health Benefits

All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000 with a \$15 co-pay for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

5. Program Funding

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

6. Program requirements and restrictions

Participants are expected to participate fully in the academic program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Candidates should be 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 and the program director.

Violations of host institution rules or local, state or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. It is important that applicants understand and accept these requirements and restrictions.

7. Candidate qualifications

(A) Candidates are expected to be highly motivated and exemplary undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education. While all candidates must have a strong interest in the environment, their fields of study can include disciplines such as Agriculture, Biology, Ecotourism, Engineering, Environmental Law, Environmental Science, International Affairs, Public Policy, and Sustainable Development.

(B) Candidates nominated for this program must:

- be a Malaysian citizen;
- have a strong interest in the environment;
- be fluent in English;
- be between ages 18 and 25 years of age;
- have completed at least one semester of university and have at least one semester remaining in their university studies;
- be committed to returning home to complete their degree;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities;
- 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;
- 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; 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.

8. Program Description

Applicants should submit an application for this program by e-mail. The application deadline is December 15, 2012. The application form may be viewed and downloaded from

<http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/susi.html>

Applications must include the following documents:

1. Application Form which includes a one-page maximum personal statement
2. Scanned copy of biographic page of passport
3. Scanned copy of transcript of completed university years/semesters
4. 2 recommendation letters (one must be from university)

To submit an application or to request more program details, all interested candidates are welcome to contact Cultural Affairs Assistant Ms. Nur Farizan Zulkifli, Public Affairs, American Embassy, 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel: (03) 2168-5102; e-mail: publicaffairskl@gmail.com

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