



2012 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the U.S. Studies Institutes for scholars offered by the Branch for the Study of the United States of the Department of State. A total of six institutes will be offered for university-level faculty and other scholars during a six week period beginning in June 2012.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Study of the United States Institutes 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 and institutions. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

Institutes are held at various colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and focus on a particular theme or topic about the U.S. Each program includes two components: an intensive, four-week academic seminar and a study tour of up to two weeks designed to reinforce the academic content of the seminar. Eighteen candidates world-wide are selected on a competitive basis to participate in each institute. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program's website to obtain general information about the 2011 Institutes at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

CANDIDATES' DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (non-profits, think tanks, etc). While the educational levels may vary, most participants should have graduate degrees and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the institute.
- ❖ The ideal candidate will also 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 mutual understanding course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.
- ❖ 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 and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.
- ❖ Priority consideration 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 scholarships, accomplishments, and professional duties.

- ❖ **Mexican citizenship.** Interested parties with dual nationalities (U.S. and Mexican) or those holding resident status in the U.S. are ineligible.
- ❖ English language ability: 213 CB (computer-based) TOEFL or 550 Institutional TOEFL score. It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute for all participants.

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Financial Provisions: The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, international/domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, housing and subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

Accommodations and meals: Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and may share a hotel room with another participant of the same gender during the study tour (up to two weeks). 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 at a later date.

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of USD\$50,000 with a \$15 co-pay per medical visit for the duration of the program. **Pre-existing conditions are not covered.** Information on health benefit program may be found online at: www.usdos.sevencorners.com

Attendance: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program.

Methodology & Personal Research: Teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institutes. Candidates should be aware that they are applying for an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institutes should not be viewed as research program.

Health Conditions: A physical examination is not required in order to participate in the program. It is important, however, for U.S. host universities to know in advance about any medical conditions that might require special assistance (wheelchair access, limitations on walking, etc.) or chronic conditions, such as diabetes, for which treatment may be necessary during the program. All institute programs include substantial travel, as well as day or weekend trips that may require long walks or time spent standing.

Smoking: All applicants should be aware that smoking is prohibited or restricted in the United States, especially during domestic airline flights, in public buildings and on college and university campuses.

Selection process: Candidates selected by the U.S. Embassy will be nominated to the U.S. Department of State for final selection and approval. Candidates will be notified regarding selection or non-selection by late January 2011.

Description of Institutes

1. American Politics and Political Thought

Host Institution: University of Massachusetts, Amherst (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: Political Science, Political Theory, Sociology, Philosophy.

This program 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 with insight into how intellectual and political movements have influenced modern American political institutions. The institute will give 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.

2. Contemporary American Literature

Host Institution: University of Louisville (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: Literature in general, American literature or American studies.

This institute will provide a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American literature. Its purpose is twofold: first, 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.

3. Journalism and Media in the United States

Host Institution: Ohio University (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: Journalism instructors and related specialists

This program will provide 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.

4. Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host Institution: University of California, Santa Barbara (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: Political Science, Sociology, Religion, History, American Studies.

This program will focus on 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.

5. U.S. Culture and Society

Host Institution: New York University (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: History, American Studies, American Literature

This program will provide 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 the U.S. culture and society.

6. U.S. Foreign Policy

Host Institution: University of Florida (to be confirmed)
Designed for Specialists in: International Relations, Foreign Policy, History, Political Science.

The institute will provide 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, D.C. The institute program will also include day trips to Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee and historic St. Augustine.

DEADLINE FOR ALL INSTITUTES: January 2, 2012

If you are interested in applying, please complete and submit the enclosed application form by E-mail to: solicitudesbecas@state.gov. The subject of the E-mail should be your first name, last name and the Institute you are applying to. Example: Margarita González – SUSI U.S. Culture and Society.

For further information on the Institutes please contact:

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