



2012 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the United States Institutes offered by the Branch for the Study of the United States of the Department of State over a six week period beginning in mid-June 2012. Two institutes for secondary educators will be offered, including classroom teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, and ministry of education officials, among others.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Institutes will provide two multinational groups of 30 secondary educators each with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education and culture, past and present. The programs will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. studies and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, the programs will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values. The programs also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

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

One institute is tentatively scheduled to take place at the Institute for Training and Development in Amherst, MA and the second institute will take place at California State University, Chico. As in 2011, the institute in Amherst, MA will host mainly secondary educators whose primary activities are classroom teaching while the institute in Chico, CA will host administrators (including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others).

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>

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly motivated and experienced secondary school educators. The ideal candidate will be a secondary teacher, teacher trainer, curriculum developer, textbook writer, ministry of education official, or other related professional with responsibility for secondary education who is seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. studies into his/her curricula.
- ❖ 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 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. In this respect, while the nominee's professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance teachings and courses about the United States at the nominee's home institution.
- ❖ Candidates should be willing and able to take part fully in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior educators are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

- ❖ **Priority Consideration:** Priority 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 scholarship, 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 RESTRICTIONS:

Financial Provisions: The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including costs for program administration, international/domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, books, cultural activities, mail and incidentals.

Accommodations and meals: Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will have to 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 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 USD\$15.00 co-pay per office visit for the duration of the program. **Pre-existing conditions are not covered.**

Attendance: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program and 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: Candidates should be aware that the institutes are intensive and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institutes should not be viewed as a 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. Nominated candidates will be notified regarding selection or non-selection in March 2012.

DEADLINE FOR BOTH 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 – 2012 SUSI Secondary School Educators – Amherst, MA or California State University, Chico (as applicable).

For further information on the Institutes please contact:

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