



## Study of the United States Institute for Student Leaders 2016 Program Pakistan



### Information for Applicants

Students from Pakistan interested in the topic of Local, State, and Federal Public Policymaking are invited to apply for participation in the Study of the United States Institute for Student Leaders. The Institute will take place at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in from late June to early August 2016; please note that the entirety of this Institute will take place during Ramadan. The program will be intensive, academic, and highly interactive. The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

## **Program Description:**

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders are intensive short term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. Institutes consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Coursework and classroom activities are complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. During the four-week academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

The six-week Institute on Local, State, and Federal Public Policymaking for Pakistani Student Leaders will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. The program will bring together 30 Pakistani undergraduate students with up to 15 U.S. students to address issues of public policy and democracy within Pakistan and the United States. Entitled *Getting Things Done: The Context of Public Policy*, the Institute examines questions such as: How do problems get on the public agenda? Who has the power to define a problem and how? Where do policy options come from? How are forces mobilized for and against this or that solution? How are responses actually formulated, implemented, and evaluated? Participants will explore the institute theme through hands-on activities including case studies, simulations, presentations, leadership activities, community service, visits, with elected officials, and discussions with the local community. These activities coupled with lectures on policymaking at the federal, state, and local levels of government, the role of the private sector in policymaking, and various other policy topics, will weave together a strong understanding of American institutions, and how they function in practicality on a day-to-day basis. The Pakistani students will also travel to New York City, Boston, Charlottesville, and Washington, D.C. during a two-week study tour component.

## **Other Essential Program Information:**

**A. Program Funding:** Through the award to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; international and domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence.

**B. Housing and Meal Arrangements:** Housing will be in university dorms on campus. Participants may be expected to share a room and bathroom with another student of the same gender. Most meals will be provided at the campus dining hall where Halal food is served. Participants may also have access to a shared kitchen facility and basic cooking equipment in order to cook some meals on their own. It is important that applicants are comfortable with such accommodations.

Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. Please note that a portion of this Institute will take place during Ramadan. While the host institution will make every effort to accommodate participants who are fasting, applicants should understand the rigorous nature of the Institute and the expectation that the success of the Institute depends on their full participation. It should also be noted that the hours of daylight in Massachusetts during summer are significantly long or longer than what participants may be accustomed to. Daylight may be longer than 15 hours per day.

**C. Health Benefits:** All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000 with \$25 co-pay for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

**D. Program Requirements and Restrictions:** Participants are expected to fully participate in the academic program. They should attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. 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 permitted to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends while in the U.S.

**E. English Language Ability:** All candidates must be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program. Host institutions will take into account that the level of comprehension and speaking ability of students may vary, and will prepare lectures and discussions that meet the highest academic standards while using language appropriate for students where English is their second or third language.

#### **4. Candidate Description and Qualifications:**

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied, and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be proficient in English;
- be interested in the topic of local, state, and federal public policymaking;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program;
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- 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;
- demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- have 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.

#### **How do I apply?**

Complete an application form and submit it to **IslamabadExchanges@state.gov** by **Sunday November 29, 2015**. Only emailed applications will be considered for review. Take special care in answering the essay questions. While saving the file and e-mailing the application kindly use the

following format for the subject line: **Applicant Name, Name of Institution, city in which you study**, for e.g. **GULSHAN BATOOL, NUST, ISLAMABAD**. (This is important, please do not ignore this)

### Frequently Asked Questions

- a. What degree of English proficiency should I have?** All participants must be fully proficient in English; throughout the Institute they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.
- b. Can a dual citizen (U.S. and country of origin) participate in Study of the U.S. Institutes?** No. U.S. citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are **NOT** eligible to participate in this program.
- c. I have been to the U.S. before; would I qualify?** No. Applicants with very minimal experience in the United States may be considered for the program. However, priority will be given to applicants with no previous experience in the United States.
- d. I will be fasting during Ramadan. How will this impact my participation in the program?** Participants who will be fasting during Ramadan are still expected to **fully participate** in the program. Participants must be aware of the rigorous nature of the program and the expectation of full participation in planned activities. Some activities such as community service and site visits may take place outdoors in high temperatures and humidity. Participants should be aware of the challenging nature of the program, especially on long travel days during the educational study tour and in locations that experience long hours of sunlight. .
- e. What accommodations will host institutions make for participants who are observing Ramadan?** Host institutions will make every effort to accommodate fasting participants. For example, host institutions should provide access to kitchens and refrigerators so participants can prepare and store food. Participants should be aware that Halal food may not be readily available in some parts of the United States. Host institutions will also accommodate participants who may wish to attend Friday prayers at the local mosque.
- f. How much free time will a participant have during the program?** There will be some free time during the program. However, applicants **MUST** understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to fully participate in all lectures, activities, site visits, and scheduled events.
- g. If I have relatives in the U.S., would I have time to see them?** Participants will **NOT** be allowed to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a relative or friend to visit the participant on a specific day designated by the host institution if the schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the Department of State program officer and the host institution.
- h. Can a participant arrive early/late or stay after the Institute?** No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Study of the U.S. Institute are required to abide by the terms and conditions of the program. These terms state clearly that student leaders may **NOT** arrive in the United States before the program start date or remain in the country after the close of the institute.
- i. Can a graduate student participate in this Institute?** No. Study of the U.S. Institutes are designed exclusively for undergraduate students with at least one remaining semester of study.
- j. Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute?** No. All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.

**k. How much money will participants need to bring for the program?** The Study of the U.S. Institutes cover all basic costs of an individual's participation including transportation, lodging, and meals. Generally, host institutions provide for meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan, a pre-loaded debit card for use at local restaurants, and/or a cash allowance to permit participants to purchase food for cooking. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the start of the Institute. Other than the meal stipend mentioned above, participants should not expect to receive any spending money from the Institute. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.

**l. I have participated in the English Access Micro scholarship Program; can I participate in this Institute?** Yes.

**m. Are participants permitted to smoke during the Institute?** Yes. However, participants should be aware that many places in the United States now prohibit smoking. Smoking in such places could be considered a violation of the law. Some places that may prohibit smoking are university housing, classrooms, office buildings, restaurants, public parks, and other locations. Smoking laws will vary from location to location so participants who smoke should look for designated smoking areas.