

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS SUMMER 2013 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR SCHOLARS

The U.S. Embassy solicits candidate nominations for six Summer 2013 Study of the U.S. Institutes for multinational groups of university faculty, scholars, and other related professionals.

The deadline for candidate nominations to be received is December 17, 2012, 5 pm.

Prior to sending the proposal, please express your intention to participate sending a message to the following e-mail address: alexandrescui@state.gov, in order to receive the application form.

Please send your application to the same e-mail address: alexandrescui@state.gov.

When sending the application form, it is requested that applicants ask for confirmation that their applications have been received. You may also ask for confirmation at the following phone number: 021-200-3684. Public Diplomacy Office does not take responsibility for e-mails from applicants that for any reason do not reach the intended recipient e-mail address for the Summer Institutes 2013.

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

2. 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 2013. Each Institute includes a four week academic residency component and a two week integrated study tour.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit this website page to obtain general information about the Institutes: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

3. Pending FY 2013 funding and final grant approvals, Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will be held in the following themes in U.S. Studies:

- **American Politics and Political Thought**
- **Contemporary American Literature**
- **Journalism and Media**
- **Religious Pluralism in the United States**
- **U.S. Culture and Society and**
- **U.S. Foreign Policy.**

INSTITUTE THEMES:

4. The Institute on American Politics and Political Thought 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.

The Institute will offer 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 immigration and labor, women, environmental, and civil rights) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy. **Pending grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.**

5. 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 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 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. **Pending grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville.**

6. 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. **The Institute host will be determined at a later date.**

7. 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. **Pending grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of California at Santa Barbara.**

8. 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. **The Institute host will be determined at a later date.**

9. 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. **The Institute host will be determined at a later date.**

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

10. Program Funding: Through Cooperative Agreements to host institutions, **all participant costs will be covered**, including: program administration; travel and ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

11. Housing and Meal Arrangements: 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). 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.

12. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

13. Travel Arrangements: economy class round trip international travel for each selected participant.

14. 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.

15. Program Requirements and Restrictions: All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive program and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is not a research program. Participants must attend all lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends may not accompany participants on any part of the program. Please

note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods. Please make these requirements clear to all nominees.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

16. Study of the U.S. Institutes is highly competitive. 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. In addition, every effort will be made to have both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the Institute.

17. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced scholars and professionals generally 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 thematic area of the Institute or a related field.

18. 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.

19. Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions. **English fluency** is vital to a successful experience in the Institute, both for the participant and participants from other countries.

20. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour and to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedules. While senior faculty members and new professionals to the field are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals.

21. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

a. What degree of English proficiency should a nominee 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 nominee who is 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.

d. The nominee has been to the U.S. before; would he/she be disqualified?

No. Nominees with some experience in the United States can be considered for the program. Please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the prior visit(s) to the United States, the year, and the length of his/her stay as requested on the nomination form.

e. How much free time/time for independent research will a participant have during the program?

There will be some free time during the program as well as some time designated for independent research. However, nominees MUST understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to participate in all lectures, activities, and scheduled events.

f. Can a relative travel and stay with the participant during the Institute?

No. Relatives are NOT permitted to travel or stay with a participant during the program. There are no exceptions to this rule.

k. Can a participant stay after the end of the Institute?

Yes. Under the terms of their J-1 Visas, participants have up to 30 days after the end of the program to depart from the U.S. However, the participant must be aware that he/she is responsible for all expenses after the end of the Institute and will no longer have sponsored health benefits.

l. 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.

m. How much money will participants need to bring for the program?

The Study of the U.S. Institutes covers all 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 and cash allowance to permit participants to cook or eat at local restaurants.

Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the start of 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. All participating scholars will receive a stipend to purchase books and research materials while in the U.S. as well as a certain amount to cover mailing costs.