

2016 Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders **Announcement**

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is pleased to announce a competition for the **2016 Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders**. This program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders from Europe 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. The SUSI programs for Student Leaders from Europe are five-week Institutes that consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Each Institute will have up to 22 international participants and will include a four week academic residency component and a one week integrated study tour. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

Program dates are June and July 2016. Brief descriptions of each of the three institutes follow. Applications are available at the U.S. Embassy's website (<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov>) or by email to ShyloLP@state.gov.

The deadline for receiving applications at the Public Affairs Section is January 1, 2016.

Institute Descriptions:

A. The Study of the U.S. Institute for European Student Leaders on Civic Engagement will provide participants with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society both as individuals and groups. The academic program will define civic engagement, examine its development in the United States, and explore topics such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, political leadership, and volunteerism. Other topics such as civil rights, entrepreneurship, ethics, leadership, and media will be discussed. Students will also have the opportunity to leave the classroom to meet with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of non-profit organizations. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

B. The Study of the U.S. Institute for European Student Leaders on Environmental Issues will explore current themes in environmental studies, which may include natural resource management, sustainable development/ sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The program will be interactive and experiential, with field trips to research facilities and opportunities for classroom discussion. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-

oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulation. The Institute might also examine the relationship between environmental security and national security. In addition, the Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and will draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries. We expect the Institute on Environmental Issues to provide opportunities for participants to engage with policy makers, individuals in technical positions, community representatives, indigenous leaders, and other key actors committed to the protection and management of the environment. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

C. The Study of the U.S. Institute for European Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship will examine social entrepreneurship in the United States, including the development, history, challenges, and successes of U.S. social enterprises. The program will be interactive and experiential, and will combine classroom instruction with panel discussions, business visits, and volunteer opportunities. The Institute will give participants a foundation in how to employ entrepreneurial skills to address social issues and will provide opportunities to meet with American local community leaders. The Institute may address topics such as business ethics, negotiations, emerging markets and risk analysis, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, strategic business planning and innovation, and women and minorities in entrepreneurship. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

Candidate Description and Qualifications:

The candidates 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. Participants from non-elite backgrounds, ethnic minority communities from both rural and urban areas, and those with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country will be given priority.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be proficient in English;
- be interested in the Institute topic;
- 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.