

## Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Scholars

*Deadline for submission: December 31, 2015*

The Public Diplomacy Section of the U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity the Summer 2016 Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Scholars.

SUSI for Scholars are intensive post-graduate level academic program with integrated study tours for the purpose of providing university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal of this program is to strengthen curricula and enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions around the world.

SUSI 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 2016. Each Institute includes a four-week academic residency component and up to two weeks of an integrated study tour.

SUSI for Scholars will be held in the following themes in U.S. Studies. *Each applicant must select one of these six themes when applying:*

1. Contemporary American Literature
2. Journalism and Media
3. Religious Pluralism in the United States
4. U.S. Culture and Society
5. U.S. Foreign Policy
6. U.S. Political Thought

### THE SIX THEMES

1. **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 (U.S.) 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville located in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. **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. Pending ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by Ohio University.

3. **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 and society. Pending ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara.
4. **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. Pending ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by New York University.
5. **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. Pending ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by Bard College in New York.

6. **The Institute on U.S. Political Thought** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. Drawing upon the American Political Development approach, the Institute will provide a full and diverse understanding of U.S. political thought its connection to U.S. politics and institutions by linking contemporary issues with historical debates. The Institute will explore particular themes including self-rule and limited government, liberty and freedom, individualism and identity, equality and inequality, and the American dream. The Institute concludes with an integrated two-week study tour to Boston, New York City, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Charlottesville, and Washington, D.C. Pending ECA grant approval, the Institute will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute located in Amherst, MA.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- 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.
- Be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated, 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.
- 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 applicant and participants from other countries.
- Be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the completed SUSI for Scholars Application Form to Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Embassy Vientiane Laos. Ban. Somvang, KM9, Thadeua Road, Vientiane, Laos. Please submit no later than *2 p.m. on December 31, 2015*. The application form can be [downloaded here](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/laos/19452/pdfs/Applicationform2016_SUSIforScholars.pdf)

**\*\*\*PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS:** All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Applicant should be aware that he/she is 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.

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For more information contact: Email: [USGScholarshipsLaos@state.gov](mailto:USGScholarshipsLaos@state.gov); Tel: 021 48 7055.