

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS SUMMER 2011 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR SCHOLARS AND SECONDARY EDUCATORS**

### 1. SUMMARY:

The U.S. Embassy in Montevideo solicits candidate nominations for seven Summer 2011 "Study of the United States Institutes" for multinational groups of university faculty, other related scholars and secondary educators. Deadline for candidate nominations to be received is **Friday, November 12, 2010**.

### 2. INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION AND GOAL:

Study of the United States Institutes are intensive post-graduate level academic programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and secondary educators the opportunity to deepen their understanding of American society, education, culture, and institutions, past and present. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in college, university, and secondary school classrooms abroad. This year **SEVEN** institute programs are offered:

- A. U.S. Culture and Society
- B. American Politics and Political Thought
- C. Contemporary American Literature
- D. U.S. Foreign Policy
- E. Journalism and Media
- F. Religious Pluralism in the U.S.
- G. Institute for Secondary School Educators

Pending grant approval from Washington, the institutes will take place at various colleges and universities throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in June 2011.

You are encouraged to visit the following website to obtain general information about the FY11 Institutes, <http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

**A. The Study of the U.S. 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, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society, and the ways in which these cultures have influenced both social movements and historical epochs 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.

Hosted by: [New York University](#)

**B. SUSI 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 provide the participants insight into how intellectual and political movements have influenced modern American political institutions. The institute will provide 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 civil rights, women's rights, immigration, etc.) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy.

Hosted by: [The University of Massachusetts, Amherst](#)

C. **SUSI 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.

Hosted by: [The University of Louisville](#)

D. **SUSI on U.S. Foreign Policy** will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented with an emphasis on the post Cold War period. This institute will begin with a review of the historical development of U.S. foreign policy and cover significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have dominated U.S. foreign policy. In addition, the institute will explain the role of key players in the field of foreign policy, including the executive and legislative branches, the media, public opinion, think-tanks, non-governmental and international organizations and how these players debate, cooperate, influence policy, and are held accountable.

Hosted by: [The University of Florida](#)

E. **SUSI on Journalism and Media** will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism faculty and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the role of journalism and the media in U.S. society. It will examine major topics in journalism, including the concept of a free press, First Amendment rights, and the media's relationship to the public interest. The legal and ethical questions posed by journalism will be incorporated into every aspect of the institute. 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, addressing the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other advances in media that are transforming the profession.

Hosted by: [Ohio University](#)

F. **SUSI 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, drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others where appropriate, 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.

Hosted by: [The University of California, Santa Barbara](#)

G. **SUSI for Secondary School Educators** provides two multinational groups of 30 experienced and highly-motivated secondary school educators\* with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present in order to enhance the scope and depth of the participants' own secondary school courses. The institute examines the political, social, and economic issues in America as well as the arts and education. A portion of the program will focus on developing individual or small group research projects such as a lesson plan, teacher training materials or an academic article.

Participants will be hosted by two institutions: those at the institute hosted by the Institute for Training and Development (ITD) will complement the campus program with a study tour that takes students to National Parks in

Wyoming and Montana, as well as to Boston and New York City. The participants at the institute hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) participate in a study tour of the Southwestern United States as well as Washington D.C. and Virginia. Both the ITD and the UIC study tours showcase the rich cultural, geographic and ethnic diversity of the United States. Participants also have the opportunity to visit sites that provide background to about events they are teaching about at home.

\*This includes teachers, teacher trainers, textbook writers, curriculum developers and education ministry officials.

Hosted by: [Institute for Training and Development](#), Amherst, Mass. and [University of Illinois, Carbondale](#)

### 3. OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

A. Program Funding: The U.S. State Department will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, housing and subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

B. 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 will have to share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). 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. Full details will be provided if the grants are approved. It is important that these arrangements be made clear to nominees and that they are comfortable with such housing arrangements, particularly sharing a hotel room with another participant for up to two weeks.

C. Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of States coverage of \$50,000 with a \$25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

D. Program Requirements and Restrictions: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected 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. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.

### 4. CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education. 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.

B. 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 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. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominees' home institution.

C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior faculty members are eligible applicants, we urge universities to give first consideration to younger and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

## 5. OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:

U.S. Embassy Montevideo will select one participant per institute to send to Washington as a candidate. Please be advised that the Study of the United States Institutes are highly competitive, therefore we cannot guarantee a slot for a Uruguayan candidate in each institute. **Slots are fully pending on consistent justification arguments and on the position and background information of each candidate on their respective universities.**

The following factors will be used in selecting participants from among the nominations. The Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo would like to emphasize that the clarity with which each candidate and the letter of recommendation from the university address each of these factors strongly affects a candidate's chance of selection. Nominations will be reviewed by the U.S Embassy in Montevideo to select one candidate per institute and by the Branch staff in the State Department in Washington for final candidate's approvals. The Embassy will notify candidates regarding their selection or non-selection by February 2011.

A. U.S Embassy Justification: The justification statement of the Embassy in Montevideo is a critical portion of the nomination, as it offers the Embassy the opportunity to provide Washington with specific reasons why the participation of a nominee is particularly desirable in terms of enhancing the study of the United States at the home institution, or more broadly, in the home country, while competing with other nominees from all over the world. We request each university in their letter of recommendation to provide the Embassy with the following information in order for us to write a strong justification: would the nomination serve to strengthen an already established faculty, or is it intended to give a boost to a fledgling program? Is the nominee a leader within his or her field who is in a unique position to have a significant and immediate impact on curricular development, or is the nominee a younger professional with exceptional promise whose participation is likely to result in a substantial benefit to their home institution in the long run? Describe the role that the nominees play at their home institution. Why, in short, does the nomination matter?

This justification does not need to be especially lengthy (500 words), but it should be included in the letter of recommendation addressing these and any other relevant issues.

B. Candidate Statement (essay): In order to get a better sense of potential participant's motivations and goals, Washington requests that each candidate provide a short personal statement (500 words) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience. See paragraph 6, T below for more details.

C. English Language Ability: 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, both for your participant and participants from other countries.

D. 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 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, Washington makes every effort to have both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the institute.

## 6. NOMINATION FORMAT AND DEADLINE:

Candidates should submit nominations forms to the U.S. Embassy by e-mail (Veronica Perez Urioste – [mvdccultural@state.gov](mailto:mvdccultural@state.gov)) no later than **Friday, November 12, 2010**.

- **We look forward to receiving your nominations. Thank you.**