



## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders are intensive short-term academic programs that provide groups of foreign undergraduate students with a deeper understanding of American excellence and leadership through a thematic lens. **Each Institute hosts 20 participants.** The Institutes consist of a **four-week academic residency** with a series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Site visits, cultural activities, and community service complement coursework and academic sessions. The Institutes will include a one-week integrated academic field experience in the United States.

The Study of the U.S. Branch has sponsored Student Leader Institutes since 2003. This Institute is one of five under the umbrella of SUSIs for Student Leaders the Western Hemisphere administered by the Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in Amherst, Massachusetts.

## **CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Participants are expected to be highly motivated **first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education.** Participants should demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Participants should be receptive of other cultures and be prepared to engage with others in mutual respect. Their fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Posts should nominate using a merit-based selection process. Applicants should be made aware that the program schedule and syllabus are designed for the group, and that sessions will not be customized to their individual interests.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- demonstrate English language proficiency (speaking, reading, writing, listening);
- demonstrate interest in the topic of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and be committed to returning 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 service 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 to respectfully engage with fellow participants representing different backgrounds and different points of view;
- 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 adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

#### **OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**Program Funding:** Department of State will cover all participant costs, including program administration; international and visa travel, travel allowances, domestic travel, and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence, as well as arrange and pay for participants' international and visa travel costs and travel allowances within set limits and in coordination with posts.

**Program Requirements and Restrictions:** Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive and rigorous academic Institute and are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. Participants must attend all lectures, participate in all required organized activities, and complete all assignments. Due to the intensive nature of the program, participants should not expect to fulfill professional or academic obligations, including remote work for jobs or internships, classwork, or examinations for their home university, while in the United States. Doing so will count as an unexcused absence from program activities. Family members and/or friends may not accompany or join participants for any part of the program. Please make these requirements clear to all nominees.

**English Language Ability:** English Language proficiency is required to participate in this program. All candidates must be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program. Therefore, candidate interviews must be conducted in English.

**Housing and Meal Arrangements:** Housing will be in shared or single university dorms on campus or full-service hotels within walking distance of most classroom activities. Male and



female participants will be housed in separate quarters. In addition to regular group meals and a university meal plan, participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. It is important that nominees are aware of these arrangements and that they are comfortable with such accommodations. All participants will be expected to respectfully share communal spaces and any necessary responsibilities.

**Special Accommodations:** Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. Special accommodations will be made available to the greatest extent possible. Should a participant need accommodations due to health and safety concerns, the institute will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or host institution guidelines.

**Health Benefits:** All participants will receive the Department of State's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit during the U.S.-based in-person component, which provides coverage of up to \$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit and a \$75 co-pay per emergency room visit, for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions may be covered up to \$100,000, subject to policy exclusions and limitations.

**Travel Policy:** Participants are not allowed to arrive in the United States prior to the start date of the SUSI or remain in the United States after the end date. To avoid the logistical difficulties of delayed arrivals, participants will be expected to make accommodations with their university and exam schedules to be able to arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the SUSI to visit relatives or friends while in the United States. If a relative or friend wishes to visit a participant, it will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the host institution. Participants are required to return to their home countries immediately following the end of the Institute.

**Grounds for Program Dismissal:** Violations of program rules, host institution rules, or local, state, or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.



## **Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have?** All participants must be fully proficient in English. They will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English throughout the Institute.

**Can a nominee who is a dual citizen of the United States 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.

**Can a participant of the SUSIs for Student Leaders arrive early or stay in the U.S. after the Institute?** No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders 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.

**Can a graduate student participate in a SUSI for Student Leaders Institute?** No. Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders are designed exclusively for undergraduate students with at least one remaining semester of study following the program.

**Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute?** All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.