

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: SUMMER 2012 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS

## 1. SUMMARY:

This note solicits candidate nominations for the Summer 2012 Study of the United States Institutes for Secondary School Educators. The deadline for candidate nominations to be received in the United States Embassy in Lima is **December 30, 2011**.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM:

The Office for the Study of the United States is pleased to invite candidate nominations for the summer 2012 **Study of the United States Institutes for Secondary School Educators** to take place over the course of six weeks beginning in mid June 2012. Two institutes for secondary educators will be offered. For this program Secondary Educators include classroom teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, and ministry of education officials, among others.

Please note that Study of the United States Institutes are not considered Fulbright programs. This change occurred in FY 2005 when the program changed from the Fulbright American Studies Institutes to the Study of the United States Institutes.

## 3. INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:

The Study of the United States Institutes for Secondary School Educators will provide two multinational groups of 30 secondary educators each with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture, past and present. The programs will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. studies and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches, the programs will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. educational institutions and values. The programs also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad. The course will take place at the Institute for Training and Development in Amherst, MA, and the second institute will take place at California State University, Chico. As in 2011, THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN LIMA intends that the institute in Amherst, MA will host mainly secondary educators whose primary activities are classroom teaching while the institute in Chico, CA will host administrators (including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others). In the nomination form, posts are asked to identify which institute they feel their candidate is most suited for. This is intended for informational purposes as THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN LIMA retains the final decision on placement of successful candidates.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website to obtain general information about the Institutes. The website address is:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

## 4. OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

A. **Program Funding:** Through grants to the host institutions, The program will cover all participant costs including costs for program administration, domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, books, cultural activities, mail, and incidentals.

**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 share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). Housing will usually 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 once the grants have been 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 State's coverage of \$50,000 with a \$15 co-pay per office visit 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 to complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. Candidates should be made aware that this is 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.

## **5. CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. Candidates should be **mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50**, highly-motivated and experienced secondary school educators. The ideal candidate will be a secondary teacher, teacher trainer, curriculum developer, textbook writer, ministry of education official, or other related professional with responsibility for secondary education who is seeking to introduce or enhance aspects of U.S. studies into his/her curricula.

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 enhance and update existing courses that include information about the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies or related fields. In this respect, while the nominee's professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance teachings and courses about the United States at the nominee's home institution, community, or country.

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

## **6. OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

We invite secondary educators to nominate one candidate per institute (for up to two nominations per country: one for the teacher institute and one for the administrator institute). Please be aware that as a general rule, the program will not select more than one participant per country.

**A. Post/Commission Justification:** The justification statement is a critical portion of the application, as it offers the post/Commission the opportunity to provide 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.

**B. Candidate Statement:** In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, the program requests that each candidate provide a short personal statement (application) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience. In addition, candidate statements should describe the candidate's capacity/plans to amplify the impact of the institute beyond just their own knowledge and research.

**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 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.

#### **7. NOMINATION FORMAT:**

Nomination forms will be sent directly to interested candidates that comply with the requirements.

**8. Deadline to send the nomination form to the United States Embassy in Lima is December 30, 2011**

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS SUMMER 2012 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES FOR SCHOLARS

1. SUMMARY: This call solicits candidate nominations for six summers 2012 Study of the United States Institutes for multinational groups of university faculty and other related scholars. The deadline for candidate nominations to be received in the Branch for the Study of the United States is, **December 30, 2011**.

2. The Branch for the Study of the United States is pleased to invite candidate nominations for the summer 2012 Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars. A total of six institutes will be offered for university-level faculty and other scholars. Please note that Study of the United States Institutes are not considered Fulbright programs. This change occurred in FY 2005 when the program changed from the Fulbright American Studies Institutes to the Study of the United States Institutes.

### 3. INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:

Study of the United States 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 is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

**A. 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 civil rights, women's rights, immigration, etc.) and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**B. 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 ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville.

**C. The Institute 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 inherent in journalistic endeavors 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. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by Ohio University.

**D. 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 ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**E. 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, 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. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by New York University.

**F. The Institute 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. The Institute will focus on United States Foreign Policy making through an exploration of domestic politics and players with emphasis on how each entity shapes U.S. perspectives and action on international issues. The four-week academic residency program will be complemented by two weeks of study tours of diverse loci of foreign policy-making: including Chicago and Washington, DC. The Institute program will also include day trips to Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee, and historic St. Augustine. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Florida.

#### **4. OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

**A. Program Funding:** The program will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; travel and ground transportation in the United States; and book, cultural, housing, 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 may share a hotel room with another participant of the same gender 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 once the grants have been 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 State's coverage of \$50,000, with a \$15 co-payper medical visit, for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Information on the health benefit program may be found online [atusdos.sevencorners.com](http://atusdos.sevencorners.com)

**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 method 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 pursuit 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.

## **5. CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. Candidates should be **mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50**, highly-motivated and experienced professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (non-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.

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 mutual understanding course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.

C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. It is important that posts and commissions nominate only persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

**6. OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:** As a general rule, we will not select more than one participant per country, per institute. We therefore invite to nominate only one candidate for each program. However, where there are multiple posts in a given country, multiple nominations will be accepted.

The following factors will be used in selecting participants from among the nominations:

**A. Post/Commission Justification:** The justification state merits a critical portion of the nomination, as it offers the post/Commission the opportunity to provide 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.

**B. Candidate Statement:** In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, the program requests that each candidate provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience. In addition, candidate statements should describe the candidate's capacity/plans to amplify the impact of the institute beyond just their own knowledge and research.

**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 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.

#### 7. NOMINATION FORMAT:

Candidate nominations from posts and commissions must be received by **December 30, 2011**. PAS will send formats to interested participants.