

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) For Scholars
June-August 2015

Scholar Institutes are designed to strengthen curricula and improve the quality of teaching about the United States overseas. These Institutes host multinational groups of university faculty. Each Institute is thematically focused on a field or topic of U.S. studies. Participants interact with American scholars, meet with experts in their disciplines, visit civic institutions, and explore the diversity and culture of the United States. Scholar Institutes typically take place during the months of June, July, and August.

1. **US Political Thought:**

The Institute on US Political Thought provides a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and related professionals with a deeper understanding of U.S. political institutions and major currents in American political thought by focusing on the interplay between ideas and institutions in shaping the contemporary American polity. The Institute provides an overview of the origins, development, and current functioning of the American presidency, Congress and the federal judiciary. Examination of political institutions is further expanded to include the two-party system, the civil service system, interest groups, and the welfare/regulatory state. Participants also examine competing strains in modern American political thought/culture, such as liberalism, republicanism, libertarianism, communitarianism, conservatism, neo-conservatism, etc.

The Institute reviews the provenance and trajectory of these different intellectual strands or movements, and highlights how they have intersected with American political institutions to shape public discourse and public policy formulation in the contemporary United States.

2. US Contemporary American Literature:

The Institute on Contemporary American Literature provides a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of contemporary American literature. Its purpose is twofold: 1) to explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres; and, 2) to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary American society and culture. The Institute explores 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 Institute exposes participants to writers who represent a departure from that tradition, and who are establishing new directions for American literature.

3. Journalism and Media:

The Institute on Journalism and Media provides a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign 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 examines the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, foreign policy issues, and media business models. The Institute includes strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, reporting, writing, and editing.

The program also highlights 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.

4. Religious Pluralism in the United States:

The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States provides a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and related practitioners with a deeper understanding 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, and law, the Institute explores both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Additionally, the Institute examines the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by the development of American-style democracy; examines the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and explores 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.

5. U.S. Culture and Society

The Institute on U.S. Culture and Society provides 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 examines 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 social movements throughout U.S. history.

The program draws from a diverse disciplinary base, and provides a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society.

6. U.S. Foreign Policy

The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy provides a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly-motivated foreign university faculty and related professionals with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is conceptualized and enacted with emphasis on the post cold war era. The Institute examines the intersection of ideas and structures in the development of U.S. foreign policy, but focuses primarily on the main philosophical traditions on which U.S. foreign policy has been based; the grand strategies and frameworks that have been developed out of these philosophical trends; and, what actors-- both governmental and non-governmental--shape U.S. foreign policy from its conceptualization to its enactment. An overarching goal of the Institute is to illuminate the relationship between U.S. policies and the political, social, and economic forces in the United States that constitute the domestic context in which such policies are debated, formulated, and executed. Lastly, the Institute is structured to give attention to U.S. policy both globally and in particular geographic areas, by examining the role of U.S. foreign policy within the context of international relations and international institutions.

How to Apply:

Please use the form posted on Embassy web site. Interested persons should contact the Public Affairs section for up-to-date information about Study of the U.S. programs. U.S. Embassies manage the selection and nomination of candidates, as well as organize participants' travel to the U.S.

The contact person is Nadia Ouhenia at email address:
ouhenianx@state.gov. The deadline to submit applications is: January
2, 2015