



2022 Study of the U.S. Institutes for University Faculty and Scholars

Dates: June 2022 (exact dates to be determined)

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the U.S. Studies Institutes for scholars offered by the Department of State. A total of six Institutes will be offered for multinational groups of up to 18 experienced university faculty, scholars, and other related professionals during a six-week period in the summer of 2022. In principle, the Institutes will be conducted as traditional in-person programs at U.S. host institutions. Should health, safety, and travel conditions continue to pose significant challenges, the programs will pivot to a modified virtual format.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Study of the United States Institutes (SUSIs) are intensive post-graduate level academic programs whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty, practitioners, and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

The Institutes will take place at various colleges, universities, and academic institutions throughout the United States and focus on a particular theme or topic about the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2022. Each Institute includes: a four-week academic residency component and up to two weeks of an integrated study tour to another region of the United States. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program's website to obtain general information about the Institutes at: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will be offered in the following themes:

- American Culture and Values
- Journalism and Media
- Religious Pluralism in the United States
- U.S. Economics and Business
- U.S. Foreign Policy, and
- Workforce Development

CANDIDATES' DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

❖ The Institutes are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update, or develop courses and/or educational materials with 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.

❖ Candidates should 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 substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or related field.

❖ Ideal candidates are individuals 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. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect from participation is equally important.

❖ **Mexican citizenship:** Interested parties with dual nationalities (U.S. and Mexican) or those holding resident status (“green cards”) in the U.S. are ineligible.

❖ Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency, i.e., 213 CB (computer-based) TOEFL or 550 Institutional TOEFL score or equivalents are required. Institutes are rigorous and demanding academic programs conducted entirely in English. Participants will be expected to read and comprehend substantial written materials and assignments in English and to participate in all seminar and panel discussions fully and actively. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute for all participants as individuals and to foster a cohesive and interactive group. For information and facilitative assistance on how to take the TOEFL ITP digital (at home) please contact Mr. Jesús Rojas at: JRojas@iie.org, mentioning your interest in applying for a SUSI.

❖ Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program. While senior faculty members and new professionals to the field are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals with little or no prior experience in the United States, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. The U.S. Department of State strives to recruit diverse nominees including candidates from disadvantaged groups and women.

IMPORTANT:

Participants in this program will be traveling to the U.S. with a J-1 visa subject to the two-year home residency requirement. This means they cannot apply for a resident or work visa until they have returned to Mexico for at least two years. The Embassy, in principle, does not support waivers to this requirement.

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Financial provisions: The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including program administration, travel allowances, domestic travel, and ground transportation in the United States, housing and subsistence, book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances, as well as arrange and pay for international and visa travel costs and travel allowances with set limits and in coordination with the U.S. Embassy.

Housing and meal arrangements: Each participant will have a private room but may be required to share a bathroom with a participant of the same gender during the Institute. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities; participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.

Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. However, while Institute staff will make available special accommodations to the greatest extent possible, participants must keep in mind that full participation in all Institute activities is still expected. Should a participant need to quarantine due to positive COVID-19 test results, accommodations will follow Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Travel Arrangements: The implementing partner (Institute for Training and Development - ITD or University of Montana - UM) will arrange to pay for international and visa travel. The host institution will provide each participant with a \$100 travel allowance and will cover any travel within the United States during the Institute.

Health benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State’s Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit, that provides coverage of up to \$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit and \$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. COVID-19 is treated like any other illness under the ASPE policy. Information on health benefit program may be found online at:

<https://www.sevencorners.com/gov/usdos>

Expectations: Violations of program rules, U.S. host institution rules, or U.S. local, state, or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

Virtual Program Contingency: Should health, safety, and travel conditions continue to pose significant challenges, the SUSI will pivot to a virtual format. The virtual program will consist of a minimum of 36 hours of required programming and will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. To the extent

possible, the virtual programming will include lectures, small discussions, videos, readings, panels, site visits, assignments, and individual and group activities. Participants are required to fully participate in the entire virtual program from their home location outside the United States.

Connectivity: Should the program need to pivot to a virtual format, participants would need access to a computer and stable internet connection. If a participant does not have a computer or adequate internet access, ITD and UM will work with the participant to facilitate computer access on an as-needed basis. Participants would be expected to actively engage in all program activities, and therefore, they should notify **immediately** the host institution and the U.S. Embassy of any issues with their online access during the duration of the program as well as any difficulties affecting their participation.

Program Requirements and Restrictions: All participants are expected to participate fully in the program and be aware they are applying for an intensive seminar with 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. The Institutes' curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods. If the program is conducted virtually, the same participation expectations apply.

Selection process: Candidates selected by the U.S. Embassy will be nominated to the U.S. Department of State for final selection and approval. Candidates will be notified regarding selection by early April 2022.

INSTITUTE THEMES:

1. American Culture and Values

Host Institution: New York University in New York, NY (pending final approval)
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide participants 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 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 American culture and society. The University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, MT will oversee and administer this program; New York University in New York City will conduct and host the Institute.

2. Journalism and Media

Host Institution: Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the role that journalism and the media play in U.S. society. The Institute will examine the role of journalists in recognizing and preventing disinformation and will explore strategies for media and information literacy to counter disinformation. Additionally, the Institute will examine best practices in journalism by discussing the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, and international journalism and will examine pedagogical strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the trade: researching, critical thinking, reporting, interviewing, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight the impact of technology in journalism, including the influence of the Internet, globalization of the news media, and other changes that are transforming the profession. The University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, MT will oversee and administer this program; Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ will conduct and host the Institute.

3. Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host Institution: Seattle University
Dates: to be determined

This Institute will provide participants, including religious leaders, 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. The program will include a survey of the religious landscape of the United States,

including religious groups; an exploration of the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States; an examination of the ways in which religious thought and practice have modified and have been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; and discussions on the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy. Participants will have opportunities to meet with U.S. community leaders of different faiths who advocate for collaboration and tolerance among religious groups. The Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in Amherst, MA will oversee and administer this program; Seattle University will conduct and host the Institute.

4. U.S. Economics and Business

Host Institution: Institute for Training and Development, Boston, MA
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide participants, including policymakers, with a deeper understanding of key components and structures of the U.S. economy. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the program will explore various topics of socioeconomics; how financial institutions, investors, and businesses interact to support sustainable economic development and growth; and increasing diverse and equitable employment through institutional regulation, social inclusion strategies, and private and public policies. Throughout the Institute, participants will engage in a case study involving the fishing industry, which will examine the interplay of climate change, U.S. business innovation, corporate regulation, entrepreneurship, and economic theory. Participants will have opportunities to learn about key institutions and stakeholders in the U.S. economy and meet with a diverse range of business leaders and small business owners, among others. A symposium where scholars will present their own research and scholarly practices will allow for robust discussion and an exchange of diverse perspectives. The Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in Amherst, MA will conduct and host the Institute in Boston, MA.

5. U.S. Foreign Policy

Host Institution: University of Delaware
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide participants with a deeper understanding of new approaches to U.S. foreign policy and how it is formulated and implemented. It will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy and will explain the role of key influences on 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. The program will also examine the current U.S. foreign policymaking landscape and recent trends that are shaping policy. The University of Montana in Missoula, MT will oversee and administer this program; the University of Delaware will conduct and host the Institute in Newark, DE.

6. Workforce Development

Host Institution: University of Montana in Missoula, MT
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide participants a deeper understanding of how recent socioeconomic trends have changed the concept of work, workforce development, and career paths in the United States. The academic program will include a thorough discussion of the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries including business, technology, science, the creative arts, and other emerging fields. The Institute will offer opportunities for participants to research new ideas, in conjunction with American peers, to better understand the evolution of work, the changing demand for skills, and the advancements in workforce development through retraining and reskilling. The University of Montana will conduct and host this Institute.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ALL INSTITUTES:
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 (11:59 p.m. Mexico City time)**

The application form is available [here](#)

For questions and requests for further information, please send an e-mail to: partearroyoa@state.gov