

UNITED STATES EMBASSY HANOI
UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

Announcement

2015 STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES
FOR SCHOLARS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City are pleased to announce the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) programs for scholars in 2015. We seek qualified candidates to nominate for these programs. University lecturers, researchers, and secondary school educators who wish to apply for the programs are invited to complete the application form and submit online to PAS by Monday, December 15, 2014. Selections will be announced in early April 2015.

Program Overview

SUSI programs 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 American society, culture, and institutions. Knowledge and experience gained from these programs are expected to help the participants to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in their own universities and institutions when they return to their home country.

Each program will host a group of participants from different countries around the world, and will take place over the course of six weeks beginning in mid-June 2015. We hope to nominate one scholar from Vietnam for each of the programs below. All participant costs, including program administration,

international and domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances will be sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit our website page to obtain general information about the Institutes. The address is: <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>

Summary of the Institutes

1. American Politics and Political Thought

The Institute on U.S. Political Thought will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. Drawing upon the American Political Development approach, the Institute will provide a full and diverse understanding of U.S. political thought, its connection to U.S. politics and institutions by linking contemporary issues with historical debates. The Institute will explore particular themes including self-rule and limited government, liberty and freedom, individualism and identity, equality and inequality, and the American dream. The Institute concludes with an integrated two-week study tour to Boston, New York City, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Charlottesville, and Washington, D.C. The Institute will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute located in Amherst, MA.

2. U.S. Foreign Policy

The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy will provide a multinational group of experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of how contemporary U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The Institute will explain the role of key players in 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 Institute will be hosted by Bard College in New York.

3. Religious Pluralism in the United States

The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States will provide a multinational group of 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. The Institute will be hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara.

4. U.S. Culture and Society

SUSI 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, 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 U.S. culture and society. The Institute will be hosted by New York University.

5. Contemporary American Literature

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 (U.S.) 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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. The Institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville located in Louisville, Kentucky.

6. Journalism and Media

The Institute on Journalism and Media will provide a multinational group of 18 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 will examine the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, international journalism, and media business models. 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, such as the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other changes in media that are transforming the profession. The Institute will be hosted by Ohio University.

7. For Secondary School Educators

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators (Teachers) will provide a multinational group of 20 experienced secondary school teachers with

a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present. The focus of the Institute will be on providing content and materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States. The main focus of the Institutes for teachers is on content and materials about the United States rather than teaching methods and pedagogy. To this end, the Institutes are organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization, through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches. The four week academic residency will be complemented by a one week study tour. The aim of the study tour is to showcase the cultural, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the United States. The University of Montana and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will each host one Institute for teachers.

The Study of the U.S. Institute for Secondary Educators (Administrators) will provide a multinational group of 20 experienced administrators (including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present. The program's theme, "Exploring Access and Equity in U.S. Education and Society" will focus on education, immigration, and civic engagement within U.S. society and culture. The Institute will include an intellectually rigorous academic residency component, meetings with regional educators and prominent community leaders, guided independent research, visits to topically relevant sites, a two-week study tour, and the completion of a research project. The Institute will be hosted by the California State University, Chico.

Candidate Qualifications

Eligible candidates for the Study of the United States Institutes must:

- be between the ages of 30-50;

- For SUSI No. 1-6: be highly motivated and experienced university lecturers or researchers in American Studies, preferably those having graduate degrees and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute;
- For SUSI No.7: be highly-motivated secondary school teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, or other related professionals with responsibility for secondary education seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into their curricula;
- be comfortable with campus life and willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour; and
- have excellent command of English.

University lecturers, researchers or secondary school educators 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 subjects of the program they apply for, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for colleagues in areas related to the program theme are highly encouraged to apply for the programs.

Application

Eligible candidates are invited to submit complete application form online no later than 5:00 PM, Monday, December 15, 2014. No exceptions will be made regarding the deadline.

For inquiries, please contact pas.culture@gmail.com (for candidates living in provinces from Quảng Trị to the north of Vietnam), and PASHCMC@state.gov (for candidates living in provinces from Thua Thien-Hue to the south of Vietnam.)