



STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES (SUSI) FOR STUDENT LEADERS 2019 ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-LATINA WOMEN

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1. Overview:

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders are intensive short term academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The program will take place between June and August, 2018 (exact dates will be informed in May 2018) and it will be conducted in Spanish.

The five-week Institutes will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. The Institutes will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

The four-week academic residency will provide participants with an overview of the history and contributions of diverse women in public life in the United States to promote effective democracies. The Institute will focus on two major areas: (1) Developing participants' leadership skills in areas such as critical thinking, communication, decision-making, and political advocacy; and, (2) Placing these abilities in the context of the history and participation of diverse women in U.S. politics, economics, culture, and society. The Institutes should examine the historical domestic progress towards women's equality in the United States, the current domestic successes and challenges to women in a variety of fields, and current challenges in global women's issues, especially issues related to indigenous and Afro-Latina women.

The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. Throughout the Institute, participants will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. They will also be challenged to create follow up community projects to implement in their home communities upon returning to their countries of origin.

Another two institutes for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policymaking will take place concurrently at different locations. All three programs will convene for two to four days in Washington, D.C. for the conclusion of the program.

2. Funding:

The program will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; international and visa travel; domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence.

3. Housing and Meal Arrangements:

Housing will be in shared university dorms on campus with common bathrooms. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though 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. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

4. Health Benefits:

All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay medical visit and \$75 co-pay per emergency room visit for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

5. Program Requirements and Restrictions:

Participants are expected to fully participate in the academic program. They should attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Candidates should be made aware that the Institute is very intensive and that there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program.

Under no circumstances are participants allowed to arrive in the U.S. prior to the start date of the Institute or remain in the U.S. after its end date. Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends while in the U.S. If a relative or friend wishes to visit them, it will be addressed on a case by case basis, in consultation with the program officer and the host institution. Participants are required to return to their home countries immediately following the end of the Institute.

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

6. Candidate description and qualifications:

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied, and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Emphasis should be made on recruiting participants from non-elite backgrounds, from both rural and urban areas, and with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country. In addition, recruitment of participants should include historically underserved, indigenous groups, Afro-Latinas, disadvantaged groups, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minority communities.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be fluent in Spanish (English Language knowledge and/or proficiency are NOT required to participate in this program).
- be female;
- be interested in the topic of Women's Leadership;
- be between 18 and 25 years of age;
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to return 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 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 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 make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.

7. Nominations:

Nominations must be submitted by the Office of International Relations by e-mail to PatinoD@state.gov before **March 22nd 2019**. Each institution is allowed to submit only one candidate. In order to nominate a candidate, please fill out the nomination form, the reference form and attach: a scanned copy/print-screen of the student transcript and a scanned copy of the nominee's ID (cédula de ciudadanía).

8. Contact:

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9. FAQ Frequently asked questions:

- Can a nominee who is a dual citizen (U.S. 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.

- How much free time will a participant have during the program?

There will be some free time during the program. However, nominees MUST understand that this is an intensive academic program and they are expected to fully participate in all lectures, activities, site visits, and scheduled events.

- If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would he/she have time to see them?
Participants will NOT be allowed to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a relative or friend to visit the participant on a specific day designated by the host institution if the schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the program officer and the host institution.

- Can a participant arrive early/late or stay after the Institute?
No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States on a Study of the U.S. Institute 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 this Institute?
No. Study of the U.S. Institutes are designed exclusively for undergraduate students with at least one remaining semester of study.

- Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute?
No. All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.

- How much money will participants need to bring for the program?
The Study of the U.S. Institutes cover all basic costs of an individual's participation including transportation, lodging, and meals. Generally, host institutions provide for meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan, a pre-loaded debit card for use at local restaurants, and/or a cash allowance to permit participants to purchase food for cooking. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the start of the Institute. Other than the meal stipend mentioned above, participants should not expect to receive any spending money from the Institute. Participants should bring their own spending money if they wish to purchase souvenirs or other items during their time in the United States.

- Are participants permitted to smoke during the Institute?
Yes. However, participants should be aware that many places in the United States now prohibit smoking. Smoking in such places could be considered a violation of the law. Some places that may prohibit smoking are university housing, classrooms, office buildings, restaurants, public parks, and other locations. Smoking laws will vary from location to location so participants who smoke should look for designated smoking areas.

- Will applicants with disabilities be considered? Yes, the Study of the U.S. Branch welcomes nominations for individuals with disabilities.
We are committed to working with our Institute hosts to arrange reasonable accommodations for all participants. While notification of a disability will not negatively impact selection, we ask that you identify disabilities during the nomination process so that we can begin working with our Institute hosts to ensure appropriate accommodations.