



Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) For Scholars

June-August 2017

Application Deadline: January 10, 2017

The 2017 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars are intensive, post-graduate programs for foreign university faculty and other scholars focused on specific themes: 1) U.S. Political Thought, 2) Contemporary American Literature, 3) Journalism and Media, 4) Religious Pluralism, 5) U.S. Culture and Society, and 6) U.S. Foreign Policy. These Institutes give scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions with the goal of enhancing the quality of teaching American (U.S.) Studies in academic institutions abroad.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place over six weeks beginning in or after June 2017. Participants will attend classes for four weeks at colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States, followed by a two-week study tour in the United States. The U.S. Department of State provides airfare, lodging, meals, and health insurance. The U.S. Embassy in Algiers manages the selection and nomination of candidates and organizes participants' travel.

Candidates compete globally for the opportunity to attend, and selection is highly competitive. 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 above themes.

Selection Criteria

Priority will be given to candidates who:

- are motivated, mid-career professionals (typically 30-50 years old) from higher-education institutions or research-focused organizations;
- have a graduate degree (master's or Ph.D.) and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or a related field;
- have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component;
- have no prior or limited experience in the United States;
- have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties;

- can speak, read, and write English fluently enough to handle substantial reading assignments and to understand and actively participate in seminars and discussions.

The Institutes are intensive academic programs; no time will be allotted for personal travel or pursuits unrelated to the program. Because these scholarships are unique opportunities and limited to 18 scholars per Institute, chosen participants are expected to participate fully in the program; they 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 Institute is not a research program. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.

The Six Themes

- (1) **The Institute on U.S. Political Thought** provides 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 (public sector), 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, and neo-conservatism. 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) **The Institute on Contemporary American Literature** provides 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) **The Institute on Journalism and Media** provides journalism instructors and 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 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, as well as other advances in media that are transforming the profession.

- (4) **The Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States** provides university faculty and related practitioners with a deeper understanding of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. 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. It 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) **The Institute on U.S. Culture and Society** provides 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 multi-disciplinary base, and provides a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society.
- (6) **The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy** provides 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

The deadline to submit applications is: January 10, 2017 to PASAlgiersProfessional@state.gov. Please use the application form posted on the Embassy website at: http://algiers.usembassy.gov/academic_exchanges.html.

For more information contact the U.S. Embassy Algiers Public Affairs Section at PASAlgiersProfessional@state.gov. Only non-U.S. citizens may apply.