

## **Call For Nominations: FY-09 Study Of The United States Institutes (Susi) For Secondary Educators**

Deadline for candidate nominations to be received at the American Center (Public Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy Vilnius) is  
**February 1, 2009.**

Two institutes for secondary educators will be offered over the course of six weeks beginning in mid June 2009. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad.

**INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:** The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators will provide two multinational groups of 30 secondary educators each (English teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, etc.) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture, past and present. The programs will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, the programs will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. educational institutions and values. The programs also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

Specific program information will be posted on the website as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the website to obtain general information about the FY-08 Institutes at:  
<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/amstudy/>

### **OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

A. Program Funding: all participant costs, including: program administration, domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances, housing and subsistence will be covered.

B. Housing and Meal Arrangements: Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will have to share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks). Housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. Full details will be provided later. It is important that these arrangements

be made clear to nominees and that they are comfortable with such housing arrangements, particularly sharing a hotel room with another participant for up to two weeks.

C. Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$50,000 with a \$25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

D. Program Requirements and Restrictions: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that this is an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.

**CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 25-50, highly-motivated and experienced secondary educators. The ideal candidate will be a secondary teacher, teacher trainer, curriculum developer, textbook writer, ministry of education official, or other related professional with responsibility for secondary education.

B. The ideal candidate will also be an experienced professional 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 subject of the institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.

C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior educators are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to younger and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

**OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:** As a general rule, Only one participant will be selected per institute per country. Please be advised that the Study of the United States Institutes are highly competitive.

The following factors will be used in selecting participants from among the nominations.

A. Institutional Justification: The justification statement is a critical portion of the nomination, as it offers the institution the opportunity to provide specific reasons why the participation of a nominee is particularly desirable in terms of enhancing the study of the United States at the home institution, or more broadly, in the home country. For example, would the nomination serve to strengthen an already established faculty, or is it intended to give a boost to a fledgling program? Is the nominee a leader within his or her field who is in a unique position to have a significant and immediate impact on curricular development, or is the nominee a younger professional with exceptional promise whose participation is likely to result in a substantial benefit to their home institution in the long run? Why, in short, does the nomination matter? The justification statement need not be especially lengthy, but it should address these and other relevant issues.

B. Candidate Statement: In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, it is requested that each candidate provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience.

C. English Language Ability: It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute, both for your participant and participants from other countries.

D. Priority Consideration: Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have 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.

**NOMINATION FORMAT:** Please submit candidate nominations by e-mail: [Baukuvienere@state.gov](mailto:Baukuvienere@state.gov) by February

1, 2009. Hard-copy applications will not be accepted. Nominations must follow the format below. It is essential that items A-F are included and completely accurate.

A. Nominee's Full Name, exactly as it appears on his/her passport. Clearly identify what the nominee's first, middle and surnames are as they appear on his/her passport.

B. Date of Birth (please spell out Month, Day, Year)

C. City of Birth

D. Country of Birth

E. Country of Residence

F. Country(ies) of Citizenship

G. Home Address, Telephone and E-mail

H. Gender

I. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations: Please state if the candidate has any existing medical conditions or is currently taking any prescription medication. This will not affect candidate selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.

J. Current Position and Title

K. Current Institutional Affiliation and complete address

L. Work Experience, including previous positions and titles

M. Education, Academic and Professional Training, including degree earned and fields of specialization

N. Active Professional Memberships

O. Publications (please do not list any more than 10)

P. Previous Experience in the United States: Please list any and all trips the candidate has made to the United States and include approximate dates, funding and the reason for travel.

Q. Family Residing in the United States: Please list any immediate family members who are currently residing in the United States, including city and state.

R. Evidence of English Fluency (e.g. personal

interview, test score, etc.)

S. Statement by the institution justifying participation of nominee in the institute:

- (1) Current or projected extent of the U.S. Studies content of the course(s) and materials being taught or developed by the candidate;
- (2) Likely relevance of the program to the professional responsibilities of the candidate;
- (3) The potential impact of the candidate's participation on a greater understanding of American society and/or culture at his/her home institution (in terms of enhanced teaching and curricula, etc.);

T. Personal Statement (no more than one page)

**ACTION REQUESTED:** candidates will be notified regarding selection or non-selection by mid March. Nominations must be submitted in the format provided above no later than February 1, 2009.

9. All communications and questions regarding the FY-09 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators should be addressed to Rasa Baukuviene, Telephone: 370-5-266-5430, Email: BaukuvieneR@state.gov