

## **Call For Nominations: FY-09 Study Of The United States Institutes For Scholars**

Nomination deadline: **February 1, 2009**

The Public Affairs Section (the American Center) of the U.S. Embassy Vilnius is pleased to invite candidate nominations for the Summer Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI).

**INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:** Study of the United States Institutes 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. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

The institutes will take place at various colleges and universities throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in June 2009. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the website to obtain general information about the Institutes at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/amstudy/>

A total of six institutes will be offered for university-level faculty.

1. **SUSI on American Civilization** will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions. The program examines some of the critical historical epochs, movements, issues and conflicts that have influenced the development of the U.S. nation and its people and includes a strong contemporary component, particularly current political, social, and economic issues and debates. The complexity and heterogeneous nature of American society is highlighted, as well as the institutions and values that have enabled the nation to accommodate that diversity.

2. **SUSI on American Politics and Political Thought** will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of U.S. political institutions and major currents in American political thought. The institute will provide the participants insight into how intellectual and political movements have influenced modern American political institutions. The institute will provide an overview of political thought during the founding period (constitutional foundations), and the development and current functioning of the American presidency, Congress and the federal judiciary. The examination of political institutions should be

expanded to include the electoral system, political parties and interest groups, the civil service system, media and think tanks, or the welfare/regulatory state. The institute will address modern political and cultural issues in the United States (including but not limited to civil rights, women's rights, immigration, etc.), and the significance of public discourse in the formulation of public policy

3. **SUSI 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 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 American 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 American 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.

4. **SUSI on U.S. Foreign Policy** will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented with an emphasis on the post Cold War period. This institute will begin with a review of the historical development of U.S. foreign policy and cover significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have dominated U.S. foreign policy. In addition, the institute will explain the role of key players in the field of foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches, the media, public opinion, think-tanks, non-governmental and international organizations and how these players debate, cooperate, influence policy, and are held accountable. Regional sessions, for the entire group, highlighting salient topics such as energy security and environmental policy in Europe; trade and human rights issues in Asia; foreign aid and humanitarian assistance in Africa; drug trafficking and immigration issues for the Western Hemisphere; and combating terrorism in the Near East and South Asia are among the relevant issues that might be explored. In addition, sessions focusing on current issues such nuclear disarmament, the Middle East peace process, or U.S. military actions would be appropriate.

5. **SUSI on Journalism and Media** will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism faculty and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of journalism's and the media's roles in U.S. society. It

will examine major topics in journalism, including the concept of a "free press," First Amendment rights, and the media's relationship to the public interest. The legal and ethical questions posed by journalism will be incorporated into every aspect of the institute. 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, addressing the influence of the Internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other advances in media that are transforming the profession.

**6. SUSI on Religious Pluralism in the United States**

will provide a multinational group of up to 18 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, drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others where appropriate, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States; examine the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; examine the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and explore 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.

**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. It is important that these arrangements be clear to nominees and that they be 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.

**CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 25-50, highly-motivated and experienced professionals from institutions of higher education. While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute.

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 professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme. 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 faculty members are eligible applicants, first consideration to younger and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule will be given.

**OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:** 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 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? The justification statement need not be especially lengthy, but it should address these and other relevant issues noted in paragraph below.

B. Candidate Statement: In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, each candidate should 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 Email: [BaukuvieneR@state.gov](mailto:BaukuvieneR@state.gov) Friday, **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

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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 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 come institution (in terms of enhanced teaching and curricula, etc.);

(4) The relevance of the candidate's participation in the Institute to the post/commission long-term U.S. studies goals and the post's MPP

T. Personal Statement (no more than one page)

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Each nomination e-mail should be submitted to Rasa Baukuviene no later than February 1, 2009. Applicants will be notified regarding selection or non-selection by mid-March. Nominations must be submitted in the format provided above. Please be sure to include SUSI title.

All communications and questions regarding the Institutes should be addressed to Rasa Baukuviene, Educational Affairs Specialist, telephone: 370-5-266-5430 or e-mail: [BaukuvieneR@state.gov](mailto:BaukuvieneR@state.gov)  
We look forward to receiving your nominations.