

2012 Study of the United States Institutes Announcement

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is pleased to announce a competition for the **2012 Study of the United States Institutes**. This program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

The highly competitive Study of the United States Institutes are rigorous post-graduate-level academic programs with integrated study tours which will provide a group of educators from throughout the world with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of American life and institutions, past and present, in order to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the U.S. in colleges and universities. Each program is designed for a multinational group of 18 educators and professionals and focuses on a particular American Studies discipline or theme, and is planned and conducted by a U.S.-based host institution (typically a college or university). Participants are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete all assigned readings. The institutes should *not* be viewed as research programs. *Note: English teaching methodology and pedagogical techniques will not be addressed in these Institutes.*

The *2012 Study of the United States Institutes* will take place during various six-week periods between early June and early August. **One institute** will be offered **for secondary educators and six (6) institutes for university instructors and scholars**. Brief descriptions of each institute follow.

Applications are available at no charge at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy or at the U.S. Embassy's website:

http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/grants_exchanges_eng.html

Deadline for receiving applications at Public Affairs Section is November 28, 2011.

I. Study of the United States Institute for Secondary Educators:

Eligibility: The candidate should be a mid-career, highly-motivated, and experienced faculty member from an institution of higher education or teacher training institute, curriculum developer, textbook writer, or Ministry of Education official, who speaks English fluently and is between the ages of 30-50. He or she should be a specialist in the field related to the institute title, have a graduate degree and be in the position to introduce aspects of American Studies into school curricula, develop new courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars for secondary educators.

The ideal candidate will have little or no prior experience in the United States.

Study of the United States Institute for Secondary Educators will provide participants with a more comprehensive understanding of U.S. politics, culture, and society. Through a variety of traditional, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, the program will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined, and have a strong contemporary component. They illuminate contemporary political, social and economic debates in American society. Classroom lectures, presentations, and discussions will be integrated with relevant field trips (including school visits), and supplemented with intensive direct exposure to American life.

Study of the United States Institutes for University Faculty:

Eligibility for all Institutes: University faculty and curriculum developers.

The candidate should be a mid-career, highly-motivated, and experienced faculty member from an institution of higher education who speaks English fluently and is between the ages of 30-50. He or she should be a specialist in the field related to the institute title, have a graduate degree and a substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute.

The ideal candidate will have little or no prior experience in the United States.

The U.S. Embassy's nominee should be in a position to have a significant impact on curriculum development and should come from an institution that is seeking to enhance the teaching of U.S. Studies, by developing new courses, by improving and updating existing courses on the United States, and/or by offering specialized seminars/workshops for professionals. While the candidate'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 candidate's home institution.

1. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON U.S. CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Designed for Specialists in: American History, American Studies

This Institute 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, and the ways in which these cultures have influenced both social movements and historical epochs 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. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will take place at the New York University.

2. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

Designed for Specialists in: Political Science, Political Theory, Sociology, and Philosophy who have substantial knowledge of U.S. political system

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. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Massachusetts.

3. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Designed for Specialists in American Literature

Study of the U.S. Institute on Contemporary American Literature will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university instructors from throughout the world 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. The ideal candidate will be a specialist in American literature fluent in English and who has substantial knowledge of the subject. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Louisville.

4. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Designed for Specialists in: Political Science, Government, History, International Relations, and American Studies who have substantial knowledge of U.S. foreign affairs

Study of the U.S. Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy will provide a multinational group of 18 foreign university faculty from throughout the world 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. The ideal candidate will be a specialist in Political Science or International Relations fluent in English and who has substantial knowledge of U.S. foreign affairs. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of Florida.

5. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON JOURNALISM AND MEDIA

Designed for: Journalism instructors

Study of the U.S. Institute on Journalism and Media will provide a multinational group of 18 journalism faculty and other related specialists from throughout the world with a deeper understanding of journalism and the media in U.S. society. It will examine major topics in journalism, including the concept of a "free press," First Amendment rights, and the media 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. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will take place at Ohio University.

6. STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Designed for Specialists in: History, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Political Science

Study of the U.S. Institute 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. Participants will examine the following aspects of religious pluralism in the U.S.: 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 impact on American politics. Pending ECA grant approval, the institute will be hosted by the University of California at Santa Barbara.