

CALL FOR NOMINATION
For FY2018 Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders
On Global Environmental Issues



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Study of the U.S. Branch (ECA/A/E/USS) is pleased to invite candidate nominations for **a summer 2018 Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders** from Brazil, China, **Japan**, Russia, and India interested in the topic of Global Environmental Issues. The program will take place in July and August 2018; exact dates will be communicated at a later time. The Institute will be hosted by the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, pending availability of funds and the Department of State award approval.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

The Study of the U.S. Branch has sponsored Student Leader Institutes since 2003. This Institute is the only Institute on Global Environmental Issues offered in 2018. **Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) 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 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 explore the role that environmental policy has played in the economic and political development of the United States. The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulation. Finally, the Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society and draw comparisons between the United States and the participants' home countries. Students will also have the opportunity to leave the classroom to meet with community leaders and representatives of non-profit organizations. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the United States where they will meet with local, state, private, and nonprofit organizations working in the field. The Institute will then conclude with a three-day program in Washington, D.C.

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- **Program Funding:** Through the award given to the University of Montana, the Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; U.S. domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence.

- **Housing and Meal Arrangements:** Housing will be in shared university dorms on campus with common bathrooms. Male participants will be housed on one floor and female participants on a separate floor. 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.

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- Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.
- Travel Arrangements: The U.S. Embassy Tokyo will arrange economy class round trip international travel for each selected participant in this Institute.
- Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit and \$75 co-pay per emergency room visit for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at usdos.sevencorners.com.
- 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. 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. It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted.
- English Language Ability: All candidates must be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program. Host institutions will take into account that the level of comprehension and speaking ability of students may vary and will prepare lectures and discussions that meet the highest academic standards while using language appropriate for students where English is their second or third language. Applicants must indicate the level of his/her English language fluency.

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 groups, indigenous groups, disadvantaged groups, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minority communities.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- be proficient in English;

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- be interested in the topic of Global Environmental Issues;
- 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

This FAQ section addresses some commonly asked questions by applicants and candidates. If you cannot find an answer to your question please contact the U.S. Embassy Tokyo.

- What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have?** All participants must be fully proficient in English; throughout the Institute they will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English.
- 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.
- A nominee has been to the U.S. before; would he/she be disqualified?** No. Nominees with very minimal experience in the United States may be considered for the program. However, priority will be given to nominees with no previous experience in the United States. Please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's visit to the U.S., the year, and the length of his/her stay as requested on the nomination form.
- 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.
- 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

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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.

- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.

NOMINATION FORMAT:

Please fill out the nomination format in English as completely as possible. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting semi-finalists for this program. Answer the questions carefully and completely. The semi-finalists will be called for phone interview for the week of January 15th.

You may attach any additional documents such as resume.

All documents should be submitted to Ms. Noyuri Mitsuhashi, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Tokyo via email (MitsuhashiNX@state.gov) by January 8, 2016, 23:59 Japan Time.

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