

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
for Study of the U.S. Institutes – Student Leaders, Scholars, and
Secondary Educators

Are posts/Fulbright commissions required to interview nominees? Yes. The Study of the U.S. Branch expects posts/Fulbright commissions to interview nominees before submitting the final nomination form on SharePoint. Where embassies are making the nomination, an American officer should interview the proposed nominee. The interviews should be conducted in English to confirm proficient English language abilities and fully evaluate whether the participant is suitable for the Institute. This will also serve as an opportunity for the nominee to ask questions and confirm their interest in the program. Interviews should take place in person or via video conference.

What degree of English proficiency should a nominee have? All participants **must** be fully proficient in English. They will need to fully understand lectures, actively participate in discussions, and read and write assignments in English throughout the Institute.

To what extent do the SUSIs for Secondary Educators cover teaching methods and pedagogy? SUSIs for Secondary Educators focus primarily on content, materials, and education related to the United States. The Institutes for teachers typically include a handful of sessions on teaching methodologies. However, these sessions are supplemental to the main focus of the Institute. Teachers more interested in teaching methods and pedagogy rather than U.S. content may wish to apply for the Teaching Excellence in Achievement (TEA) program or the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP).

Can a nominee who is a dual citizen of the United States 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.

Can we nominate an individual who is not a citizen of the nominating post country? Yes. Study of the U.S. Institutes are multi-country group programs designed to further mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and people of other countries. If you wish to nominate someone who is a permanent resident but not a

citizen of the nominating country, please explain the reasons for the nomination clearly on the application. Temporary or transient residents of the nominating country would normally not be considered.

My nominee has been to the United States before. Are they eligible to be nominated for Study of the U.S. Institutes? Yes. Nominees with 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. If you find it necessary to nominate a candidate with previous U.S. experience, please clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's visit to the United States, the year, and the length of their stay as requested on the nomination form.

Can family members of U.S. government and Fulbright commission employees apply for the program? No. Nominees who are employees or immediate family members of employees of the U.S. Government (including a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, USAID, or other U.S. Government entity) or Fulbright commissions are ineligible.

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.

Will participants have time to visit relatives or friends that may live in the United States during the program? Participants will **NOT** be allowed to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Occasionally it is possible for a relative or friend to visit the participant on a specific day designated during the Institute, if the schedule permits. These situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the implementing partners.

How important it is to nominate a gender-balanced group? Very important! We strive to have as much diversity and gender balance as possible in the Institutes.

Can a participant of the SUSIs for Student Leaders arrive early or stay in the U.S. after the Institute? No. Participants who choose to travel to the United States

on a Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders are required to abide by the terms 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.

Can a graduate student participate in a SUSI for Student Leaders Institute? No. Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders are designed exclusively for undergraduate students with at least one remaining semester of study following the program.

Can a participant miss one part or component of the Institute? All participants are expected to participate in all scheduled lectures, events, site visits, trips, and activities.

If my nominee is chosen as an alternate, what are the chances that my nominee will participate in the program? If a selected candidate is not able to participate, the Study of the U.S. Branch may choose a candidate from the list of alternates, if time allows.

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, the Institutes provide meals through a combination of a cafeteria meal plan, a pre-loaded debit card for use at local restaurants, and/or a cash allowance for participants to purchase food for cooking. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the implementing approximately 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.

My nominee participated in the English Access Microscholarship Program. Can they participate in this Institute? Yes.

Are you able to fully accommodate participants with disabilities? The Study of the U.S. Branch welcomes nominations for individuals with disabilities. We are committed to working with our partners to arrange reasonable accommodations for all participants. We ask that you identify disabilities during the nomination process so that we can begin working with our partners to ensure appropriate accommodations.