

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars are highly competitive. 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 no prior or 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. In addition, ECA/A/E/USS makes every effort to have both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the Institute.

1. Candidates should be mid-career, highly-motivated, experienced scholars and professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc.). 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 or a related field.
2. Ideal candidates are individuals 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. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important.
3. Ideal candidates will have little or no prior experience in the United States.
4. Candidates ***must*** demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate 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.
5. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- a. **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.
- b. **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.
- c. **Can we nominate an individual who is not a citizen of the nominating post country?** Study of the U.S. Institutes are programs designed to further mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries.

- d. **My nominee has been to the U.S. before; would he/she be disqualified?** No. Nominees with some experience in the United States can be considered for the program.
- e. **How much free time/time for independent research will a participant have during the program?** There will be some free time during the program as well as some time designated for independent research. However, this is an intensive academic program and candidates are expected to participate in all lectures, activities, and scheduled events. Participants in Scholar Institutes may, at their own expense, opt to extend their stay in the United States after the close of their program to the extent allowed by visa regulations.
- f. **My nominee is not a college professor; can he/she be considered for the program?** Yes. Nominees from a variety of professional backgrounds who are professors at all stages of their careers, practitioners in a designated field, college and university administrators, and community leaders, among others, will be considered.
- g. **If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would he/she have time to see them?** Because of the intensive nature of the Institutes, participants will **NOT** be able to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends. Participants in Scholar Institutes may, at their own expense, opt to extend their stay in the United States after the close of their program to the extent allowed by visa regulations.
- h. **Can a relative travel and stay with the participant during the Institute?** No. Relatives are **NOT** permitted to travel or stay with a participant during the program. Participants in Scholar Institutes may, at their own expense, opt to extend their stay in the U.S. after the close of their program to the extent allowed by visa regulations.
- i. **Can a participant arrive early/late for the Institute?** Occasionally flight schedules necessitate that a participant to arrive a day early. However, flights should arrive on the start date.
- j. **Can a participant stay after the end of the Institute?** Yes. Under the terms of their J-1 visas, participants have up to 30 days after the end of the program to depart from the U.S. However, the participant must be aware that s/he is responsible for all expenses after the end of the Institute.
- k. **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.
- l. **How much money will participants need to bring for the program?** The Study of the U.S. Institutes covers all 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 and cash allowance to permit participants to cook or eat at local restaurants. Information on housing and meal arrangements will be provided by the host institution six weeks prior to the

start of 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. All participating scholars will receive a stipend to purchase books and research materials while in the U.S. as well as a certain amount to cover mailing costs.

- m. 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.