



U.S. Embassy Branch Office Belo Horizonte

STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT LEADERS SUMMER 2020

SUMMARY:

1. U.S. Mission in Brazil is pleased to invite candidate nominations from **Brazil, India, Indonesia, Tunisia, and Nigeria** for a summer 2020 Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders on **Education and the Future of Work**. The **program will take place during the mid-June to early August timeframe** in 2020, exact dates will be communicated at a later time. The Institute is implemented by Meridian International Center and will be hosted at the **University of Washington in Seattle**.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

2. 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. Each Institute will have 20 participants and will include a four-week academic residency component and a one-week integrated study tour to another region of the United States. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

3. The Study of the U.S. Institute on Education and the Future of Work will explore how advances in technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation, and robotics are shaping how we work, where we work, and the skills and education required to work. The Institute will expose participants to global issues in the context of the future of work by examining educational, social, and economic trends. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the academic program will examine the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries and sectors including business, technology, science, higher education, the creative arts, and other fields. Topics may include but are not limited to: communication; entrepreneurship and the gig economy; globalization and urbanization; innovation and technology; organizational development and management; skills development; and reskilling and retraining. The Institute will also provide opportunities for participants to engage with educational and industry leaders, policy makers, trade associations, and other key actors.

4. The SUSIs for Global Student Leaders will begin with an Opening Forum in Washington, D.C., offering opportunities for networking, foundational leadership skills development, and exploring relevant topics from multi-regional perspectives. The 20 participants in this Institute will then travel to the University of Washington for their academic residency. The program will include a visit to Roslyn, Washington, as well as a study tour to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

5. **Program Funding:** The Study of the U.S. Institutes will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; international and domestic travel and ground transportation; visa travel; book, cultural,



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mailing and incidental allowances; housing and subsistence, as well as participants' international and visa travel costs and travel allowances.

6. Housing and Meal Arrangements: Housing will be in university dorms or a full-service hotel. Participants may be expected to share a room and bathroom with another student of the same gender. 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. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

7. Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit and a \$75 co-pay per emergency room visit, for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions may be covered up to \$100,000, subject to policy exclusions and limitations. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at <https://www.sevencorners.com/gov/usdos>.

8. 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.

9. Under no circumstances are participants allowed to arrive in the United States prior to the start date of the Institute or remain in the United States after its end date. Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the Institute to visit relatives or friends while in the United States. Participants are required to return to their home countries immediately following the end of the Institute.

10. 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.

11. 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.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

12. 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.



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13. Candidates nominated for this program must:

- be proficient in English;
- be interested in the topics of education, workforce development, and the future of work;
- 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:

14. This FAQ section addresses some commonly asked questions. If you cannot find an answer to your question, please contact your local consulate point of contact.

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. What type of English proficiency evidence is required? Preferable TOEFL or TOEIC exams but if the candidate doesn't have one of these exams' certificates, he/she present a letter from English or nominating professor stating an English interview was done and that the candidate is able to fully participate in the program. Please note that the Consulate staff may arrange an interview (in person or via skype) to verify the candidate's English level.

c. 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.



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d. My nominee has been to the United States 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. If you find it necessary to nominate a candidate with previous U.S. experience, please be sure to clearly indicate the purpose of the nominee's visit to the United States., the year, and the length of his/her stay as requested on the nomination form.

e. 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.

f. If a nominee has relatives in the U.S., would he/she have time to see them? 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 by the host institution if the schedule permits. These situations will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the ECA program officer and the host institution.

g. 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 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.

h. Can a graduate student participate in this 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.

i. 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.

j. 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.

k. 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



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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.

l. 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.

m. When will the selection be announced? There is a regional and selection process before the results is sent to Washington and confirmed. This might take a while but usually results are announced 2-3 months before the departure date.