A close-up of a clock

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Summer 2023 Study of the U.S. Institute for Global Student Leaders on Young Women Leaders**

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 Institutes consist of a four-week academic residency with a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures.  Site visits, leadership development, cultural activities, and community service complement the coursework academic sessions.  If conditions allow, the Institutes will include a one-week integrated study tour in the United States.  Note that if the program must take place virtually, participants will engage in similar activities but online from their home countries.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Young Women Leaders enhance participants’ knowledge of U.S. democratic principles and society, culture, values, and institutions, while developing their leadership skills in areas such as critical thinking, communication, decision-making, and management.  The Institutes will incorporate a focus on American historical events as well as contemporary American life including current political, social, and economic debates in a pluralistic society.  The Institutes will examine how American government policies, business and private sector practices, and socio-cultural norms and values engage and affect women through the four thematic lenses presented below.  The Institutes will also provide participants with opportunities to discuss current U.S. and global women’s issues such as: progress and opportunities for women’s leadership; combatting violence against women; addressing income disparity and other challenges to women in the workplace; women’s health issues; and the ways in which women can contribute to global peace, security, and stability.  Four Institutes will examine these topics within the following themes:  Civic Engagement, Economic Empowerment, Environmental Issues, and Public Policy.  In addition to the Institutes’ unique themes, they will each include content related to democracy and citizen engagement such as freedom of expression, rule of law, civil rights and protections, and gender equity, as well as women’s leadership and participation in public life.  As noted above, content reflecting Sec. Albright’s values and achievements will be incorporated into all four Institutes.

**Candidates’ Qualifications:**

* be female.

·        demonstrate English language proficiency (speaking, reading, writing, listening);

·        demonstrate interest in the topic of Religious Diversity and Democracy;

·        be between 18 and 25 years of age;

·        have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and be committed to returning 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 service 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;

* be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country

**Other essential program information**

**Program Funding**: Program will cover all participant costs, including program administration; international and visa travel, travel allowances, domestic travel, and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence as well as arrange and pay for participants’ international and visa travel costs and travel allowances within set limits and in coordination with posts.  If the program is conducted virtually, program will provide a technology stipend to all participants.

**Program Requirements and Restrictions**: this is an intensive and rigorous academic Institute; participants must fully participate in all aspects of the program. Participants must attend all lectures, participate in all required organized activities, and complete all assignments.  Due to the intensive nature of the program, participants should not expect to fulfill professional or academic obligations, including remote work for jobs or internships, classwork, or examinations for their home university, while in the United States.  Doing so will not count as an excused absence from program activities.  Family members and/or friends may not accompany or join participants for any part of the program.

**English Language Ability:** **English Language proficiency is required to participate in this program**.  All candidates **must** be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program.  Therefore, candidate interviews will be conducted in English.

**Housing and Meal Arrangements**: Housing will be in shared or single university dorms on campus or full-service hotels within walking distance of most classroom activities.  Male and female participants will be housed in separate quarters.  In addition to regular group meals and a university meal plan, participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.

**Special Accommodations**: Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.  Special accommodations will be made available to the greatest extent possible.  Should a participant need to quarantine due to positive COVID-19 test results, accommodations will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and host institution guidelines.

**Health Benefits**: All participants will receive the Department of State’s Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit during the U.S.-based in-person component, which provides coverage of up to $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.  ASPE also covers up to $500 for routine COVID-19 testing requirements in the United States.  COVID-19 is treated like any other illness under the ASPE health benefits plan.

**Travel Policy**: Participants are not allowed to arrive in the United States prior to the start date of the SUSI or remain in the United States after the end date.  Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the SUSI 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.

**Grounds for Program Dismissal**: Violations of program rules, host institution rules, or local, state, or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

**Virtual Program Contingency**: Should health, safety, and travel conditions pose significant challenges to the program, the SUSIs will pivot to a virtual format.  The virtual program will consist of a minimum of 36 hours of required programming and will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning.  To the extent possible, the virtual programming will include lectures, small group discussions, videos, readings, panels, site visits, assignments, and individual and group activities.  Participants will be required to fully participate in the entire virtual program from their location.

**Connectivity**: Should the program need to pivot to a virtual format, participants would need access to a computer and a stable internet connection.  If a participant does not have access to these two items, program will work with the participant to facilitate access.  Participants would be expected to actively engage in all program activities, and therefore, they should immediately give notice of any issues with their online access during the duration of the program as well as any difficulties affecting their participation.

**How to Apply:**

• Deadline for submissions is **Thursday, November 10th, 2022.** Late submissions will **not** be considered.

• Applications must be submitted to IraqSUSI@state.gov. Email Subject-line must be **(SUSI for Young Women Leaders Application)**