



2025 Study of the U.S. Institutes for University Faculty and Scholars

Dates: June 2025 (exact dates to be determined)

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the U.S. Studies Institutes for scholars offered by the Department of State. A total of six Institutes will be offered for multinational groups of up to 18 experienced university faculty, scholars, and other related professionals around the world, during a six-week period in the summer of 2025. In principle, the Institutes will be conducted as traditional in-person programs at U.S. host institutions. Should health, safety, and travel conditions continue to pose significant challenges, the programs will pivot to a modified virtual format.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars (SUSIs) are **intensive post-graduate level academic programs** that provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to **deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions**. The program goal is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place at various colleges, universities, and academic institutions throughout the United States over the course of five-to-six weeks beginning in or after June 2025. Each Institute includes a four-week academic residency component and, if possible, up to two weeks of an integrated study tour to another region of the United States. Posts and prospective applicants may visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi> to obtain general information about the Institutes.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will be offered in the following themes:

- U.S. Studies: American Politics and Political Thought
- Contemporary American Literature
- Journalism and Media
- U.S. Culture, Identity, and Society
- U.S. Economics and Sustainable Development
- U.S. Foreign Policy

CANDIDATES' DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Selection for the Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars is highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update, or develop courses and/or educational materials with 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.
- Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly motivated, experienced scholars and professional holding a graduate degree and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or related field, generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc.).
- 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 from participation is equally important.
- **Mexican citizenship:** Interested parties with dual nationalities (U.S. and Mexican) or those holding resident status ("green cards") in the U.S. are not eligible.
- Candidates must demonstrate advanced English language fluency (*For specific information on tests and scores , please refer to page 8*). Institutes are rigorous and demanding academic programs conducted entirely in English. Participants will be expected to read and comprehend substantial written materials and assignments in English and to participate in all seminar and panel discussions fully and actively. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute for all participants as individuals and to foster a cohesive and interactive group.
- Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program. While senior faculty members and new professionals to the field are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals with little or no prior experience in the United States, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. The U.S. Department of State strives to recruit diverse nominees including candidates from disadvantaged groups and women.

IMPORTANT

Participants in this program will be traveling to the U.S. with a J-1 visa subject to the two-year home residency requirement. This means they cannot apply for a resident or work visa until they have returned to Mexico and stayed for at least two years. The Embassy, in principle, does not support waivers to this requirement.

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS

- **Program Funding:** All participant costs will be covered, including program administration; 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.
- **Program Requirements and Restrictions:** All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Interested applicants should be aware that this is an **intensive program** and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is **not** a research program. Participants must attend **all** lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends may **not** accompany participants on any part of the program. If the program is conducted virtually, the same participation requirements apply. *Note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.*
- **Housing and Meal Arrangements:** When possible, each participant will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the Institute. However, private room accommodations are not guaranteed. During the study tour (up to two weeks), participants will likely share a hotel room with another participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. All participants are expected to share respectfully share communal spaces and any necessary responsibilities.
- **Special Requirements:** Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. However, while Institute staff will make available special accommodations to the greatest extent possible, scholars must be reminded that full participation in all Institute activities is still expected. Should a participant need to quarantine due to positive COVID-19 test results, accommodations will follow Center for Disease Control (CDC) and host institution guidelines.

- **Travel Arrangements:** For all Institutes, the implementing partner (UM) will arrange and pay for international and visa travel. The host institution will provide each participant with a small travel allowance. In all Institutes, the host institutions will cover the cost of any travel within the United States during the program.
- **Health Benefits:** All participants will receive the Department of State's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit, 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. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at <https://www.sevencorners.com/gov/usdos>.
- **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. If selected, candidates are required to sign the SUSI Terms and Conditions. This document will outline SUSI policies and rules for participation in more detail.
- **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:** Participants should have access to a computer and a stable internet connection for virtual pre-departure orientation sessions. If a participant does not have a computer or adequate internet access, the University of Montana (UM) will work with the participant to facilitate access on an as-needed basis. Participants are expected to actively engage in all program activities and therefore should immediately notify UM and post of any issues during the program as well as any difficulties affecting their participation.

INSTITUTE THEMES

1. U.S. Studies: American Politics and Political Thought

Host Institution: University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and practitioners insight into how intellectual and political movements have influenced American political institutions and American democracy. The Institute will explore the shaping of American identity and the chemistry between that identity and U.S. history, politics, and the democratic process.

The Institute will cover a broad range of American experiences that have influenced and been influenced by American national identity. The Institute will provide a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought, from the colonial period to the present, and explore contemporary U.S. political and social debates and public policy, relating them back to U.S. political thought and American identity. The University of Montana (UM) will administer this program; the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA will host the Institute in Amherst, Massachusetts.

2. Contemporary American Literature

Host Institution: University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, MT
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American literature. The Institute will examine how major contemporary writers, schools, and movements reflect the U.S. literary canon.

The Institute will also explore the diverse communities and voices that constitute the American literary landscape and expose participants to writers who are establishing new directions for American literature. The Institute will cover a variety of contemporary American writers and writing and suggest how the themes explored reflect larger currents within contemporary U.S. society and culture. The University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, Montana will administer and host this Institute.

3. Journalism and Media

Host Institution: Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign journalism instructors and other related specialists with a deeper understanding of the roles that journalism and the media play in U.S. society.

The Institute will examine the role of journalists in recognizing and preventing disinformation and will explore strategies for media and information literacy to counter disinformation. Additionally, the Institute will examine best practices in journalism by discussing the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, and international journalism. The program will also highlight the impact of technology in journalism, including the influence of the digital economy, globalization of the news media, and other changes that are transforming the profession. The University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, MT will administer this program; Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona will host the Institute.

4. U.S. Culture, Identity, and Society

Host Institution: Seattle University in Seattle, WA
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions through the lens of diversity and national unity.

The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested in U.S. society while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of American culture and society. The University of Montana (UM) will administer this program; Seattle University in Seattle, Washington will host the Institute.

5. U.S. Economics and Sustainable Development

Host Institution: Institute for Training and Development (ITD), in conjunction with
Suffolk University
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers with a deeper understanding of key components and structures of the U.S. economy. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the program will explore various topics of socioeconomics; how financial institutions, investors, and businesses interact to support sustainable economic development, innovation, and growth; and increasing diverse and equitable employment through institutional regulation, social inclusion strategies, and private and public policies.

Throughout the Institute, participants will examine the interplay of climate change, U.S. business innovation, corporate regulation, entrepreneurship, and economic theory. Participants will have opportunities to learn about key institutions and stakeholders in the U.S. economy and meet with a diverse range of business leaders and small business owners, among others. The University of Montana (UM) in Missoula, MT will administer this program; the Institute for Training and Development (ITD), in conjunction with Suffolk University, will host the Institute in Amherst and Boston, Massachusetts.

6. U.S. Foreign Policy

Host Institution: University of Delaware in Newark, DE
Dates: to be determined

The Institute will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of new approaches to U.S. foreign policy and how U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented.

The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The program will explain the role of key influences on U.S. foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, the U.S. public, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions. The Institute will also examine the current U.S. foreign policymaking landscape and emerging trends that are shaping policy. The University of Montana (UM) will administer this program; the University of Delaware will host the Institute in Newark, Delaware.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ALL INSTITUTES:
November 29, 2024 (11:59 p.m. Mexico City time)**

If you are interested in applying, please complete and submit the application form: <https://forms.gle/uty19XPCH6mUgJMC9> including ID (Passport or INE), recommendation letter in English and certificate of advanced English proficiency in PDF format.

Please note **recommendation letter's minimum requirements** are:

- issued after October 2019,
- written by an academic representative (dean, professor, or adviser), leader of extracurricular activity, or professional contact (work supervisor),
- drafted in English,
- include recommender's details (full name, job position, organization, email, and telephone number(s),
- printed in letterhead paper,
- signed by recommender,
- include period of time in which recommender and applicant worked together.

For guidance, please refer to the following resources:

- <https://www.betterup.com/blog/how-to-write-a-letter-of-recommendation>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-write-a-letter-of-recommendation-with-examples?from=careerguide-autohyperlink-en-US>

Only English Language Certificates (issued **after** October 2019) will be accepted. **Only the following scores will be considered:**

- **CENNI** - 15 or above
- **TOEFL PBT** - 590 or above
- **TOEFL ITP** – 627 or above
- **TOEFL IBT** - 95 or above
- **IELTS** - 7.0 or above
- **CAE (Cambridge English Advanced)** - Any score

General timeline



*This timeline may suffer changes if needed.

For questions and requests for further information, please send an e-mail to:
MexCityPExchanges@state.gov