



Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) For Scholars June-August 2019

The U.S. Embassy in Algiers in partnership with the Study of the US Institutes for Scholars – SUSI for Scholars are intensive, post-graduate programs for foreign university faculty and other scholars focused on specific themes: 1) U.S. Political Thought, 2) Contemporary American Literature, 3) Journalism and Media, 4) Religious Pluralism, 5) U.S. Culture and Society, 6) U.S. Foreign Policy, and 7) Youth, Workforce Development, and Closing the Skills Gap. These Institutes give scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions with the goal of enhancing the quality of teaching American (U.S.) Studies in academic institutions abroad.

The Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars will take place over six weeks beginning in or after June 2019. Participants will attend classes for four weeks at colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States, followed by a two-week study tour in the United States. The U.S. Department of State provides airfare, lodging, meals, and health insurance. The U.S. Embassy in Algiers manages the selection and nomination of candidates and organizes participants' travel. Candidates compete globally for the opportunity to attend, and selection is highly competitive. 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 above themes.

Selection Criteria

Priority will be given to candidates who:

- are motivated, mid-career professionals (typically 30-50 years old) from higher-education institutions or research-focused organizations;
- have a graduate degree (master's or Ph.D.) and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or a related field;
- have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component;
- have no prior or limited experience in the United States;
- have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties;
- can speak, read, and write English fluently enough to handle substantial reading assignments and to understand and actively participate in seminars and discussions.
- are Algerian citizens and reside in Algeria.

The Institutes are intensive academic programs; no time will be allotted for personal travel or pursuits unrelated to the program. Because these scholarships are unique opportunities and limited to 18 scholars per Institute, chosen participants are expected to participate fully in the program; they 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.

The Institute is not a research program. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.

The Seven Themes

1. **The Institute on American Culture and Values** will promote American culture, leadership, and values by providing a multinational group of 18 experienced and highly motivated foreign university faculty and other specialists with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, civil society institutions, democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law. The Institute will examine the concepts of American exceptionalism and American resilience through social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which, historically, various cultures have manifested and shaped contemporary U.S. culture, values, and society. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base and should itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and values. The program will take place during the June to August timeframe in 2019.
2. **The Institute on American Politics and Political Thought** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign university faculty and practitioners insight into how intellectual and political movements have influenced modern American political institutions and a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. Drawing upon the American Political Development approach, the Institute will provide a full and diverse understanding of U.S. political thought and its connection to U.S. politics, public policy, and institutions by linking contemporary issues with historical and social debates. The Institute will explore particular themes including self-rule and limited government, liberty and freedom, individualism and identity, equality and inequality, and the American Dream. The Institute will conclude with an integrated two-week study tour to New York City; Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Shepherdstown, West Virginia; Charlottesville, Virginia; and Washington, D.C.
3. **The Institute on Contemporary American Literature** will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and scholars with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American (U.S.) literature. Its purpose is twofold: to explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres; and to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary U.S. society and culture. The program will explore the diversity of the American literary landscape, examining how major contemporary writers, schools, and movements reflect the traditions of the U.S.

literary canon. At the same time, the program will expose participants to writers who represent a departure from that tradition, and who are establishing new directions for American literature.

4. **The Institute on Journalism and Media** 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. Also, the Institute will examine pedagogical strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, critical thinking, reporting, interviewing, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight the impact of technology in journalism, including the influence of the Internet, globalization of the news media, and other changes that are transforming the profession. The program will take place during the June to August timeframe in 2019.
5. **The Institute on Religious Freedom and Pluralism** will provide a multinational group of up to 18 foreign university faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach and drawing on fields such as history, political science, anthropology and sociology, law, and others, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between religion and state in the United States. Participants will examine the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by the development of American-style democracy. Study will also include a survey of the diversity of contemporary religious beliefs in relation to the first amendment to the U.S. constitution, elections, public policy, and the demography of the United States. Interfaith dialogue in the American context will be practiced in the context of the group itself as well as site visits to a diversity of religious communities.
6. **The Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced 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 Institute will explain the role of key players in 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 program will also examine the current U.S. foreign policymaking and the new trends that are shaping policy. Topics such as the concept of American sovereignty, shifting attitudes towards globalism, U.S. foreign aid, the monitoring of foreign investment in the United States, the efforts to combat terrorism and radicalization, new trade policies and agreements, immigration and border safety, and cybersecurity will be included.

The program will also discuss the reorganization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the new U.S. approaches to international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The program will take place during the June to August timeframe in 2019.

7. **The Institute on Youth, Workforce Development, and Closing the Skills Gap** will provide a multinational group of 18 experienced foreign faculty and practitioners with a deeper understanding of how new socioeconomic trends have changed the concept of work, workforce development, and career paths in the United States. The academic program will include a thorough discussion of the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries including business, technology, science, the creative arts, and other emerging fields. Topics such as urbanization, globalization, economic development, and advances in technology such as automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence will also be included. The Institute will offer opportunities for participants to research new ideas, in conjunction with American peers, to better understand the evolution of work, the changing demand for skills, and the advancements in workforce development through retraining, reskilling, and closing the skills gap. The program will take place during the June to August timeframe in 2019.

How to Apply

Please complete the application form posted on the Embassy website at: <https://dz.usembassy.gov/education-culture/exchanges/> and send it to PASAlgiersProfessional@state.gov. For more information, contact the U.S. Embassy Algiers Public Affairs Section at PASAlgiersProfessional@state.gov. Only non-U.S. citizens may apply.