

# Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators Program (SUSIs)

**Program:** Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators (SUSIs)

**Dates:** five weeks in May-June 2024

**Deadline to apply:** November 20, 2023.

**Eligibility:** school teachers and administrators; young graduates and adjunct professors (age 30-50).

**Requirement:** fluent English.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The **Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary School Educators Program (SUSIs)** provides three multinational groups of 20 experienced secondary school educators (including teachers, administrators, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, and others) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture – past and present.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators (SUSIs) are intensive post-graduate level academic programs that provide foreign secondary school educators and administrators 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 secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad.

SUSIs for Secondary Educators will take place at various academic institutions throughout the United States over the course of five weeks in summer 2024. Each Institute includes a four-week academic residency and a one-week integrated study tour in another region of the United States. The Institutes focus on providing content and materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States.

- **Host Institution:** University of Montana (UM)
  - Administered By: University of Montana
    - Program Dates: Summer 2024
- **Host Institution:** California State University, Chico (CSU Chico)
  - Administered By: University of Montana
    - Dates: Summer 2024
- **Host Institution:** Institute for Training and Development (ITD)
  - Administered By: University of Montana
    - Program Dates: Summer 2024

Under the shared theme of *Liberty, Equality, and the American Dream*, each Institute explores the theme through a different lens while capitalizing on the culture and resources of each location. The Institute for Teachers at UM explores democracy and active citizenship; the Institute for Teachers at ITD examines individual rights and social obligations; and the Institute for Administrators at CSU Chico explores access and equity in U.S. education and society.

Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary, and interdisciplinary approaches, program content will examine the history and evolution of U.S. institutions and values, broadly defined. The programs will also illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society. The four-week academic residencies will take place at U.S. university and college campuses and will consist of a balanced series of lectures, panels, seminar discussions, readings, workshops, site visits, meetings with practitioners in the field, and cultural activities. One-week study tours in a different region will complement the academic residencies and showcase the cultural, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the United States. The program features curriculum based on the study of how America's foundations and historical development have shaped and continue to inform U.S. politics, economics, and society. Community service activities are a key cultural component of the program and provide participants with a first-hand experience of how volunteerism plays a vital role in U.S. civil society. The program will offer multiple opportunities for

follow-on engagement through alumni webinars, grant-funded follow-on projects, social media, and an alumni workshop.

The programs highlight contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society. The four-week academic residencies consist of a balanced series of lectures, panels, seminar discussions, readings, workshops, site visits, meetings with practitioners in the field, and cultural activities that illuminate the overall program theme. One-week study tours to different regions of the United States complement the academic residencies and conclude in Washington, D.C.

### PROGRAM PERIOD AND LENGTH:

*May – June 2024*  
*Five weeks*

### CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must demonstrate **English language fluency**. 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 fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions.

Suitable candidates are **mid-career** but also **senior or entry-level**, typically between the **ages of 30-50, highly motivated**, possibly **experienced secondary school-teachers and administrators** whose students are approximately from 14-18 years of age. Young graduates and adjunct professors can also be considered.

### DESIRABLES:

Ideal candidates:

- Come from institutions seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into their curricula, to develop new courses in the Institute subject, 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.

- Possess nominees' scholarly and professional credentials.
- Have capacities to implement the potential impact and multiplier effect from the program participation.
- Have little or no prior experience living in or visiting the United States.

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Selection for SUSIs for Secondary Educators is 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 limited or no prior experience in the United States; and who have a special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties.

The selection process will take place as follows:

1. Expression of interest will be collected by email until **November 20, 2023**.
2. Received applications will be evaluated by a U.S. Embassy Officer (end November 2023)
3. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and interview via Zoom videocall (early/mid December 2023).
4. N.2 selected candidates will be asked to fill the call form and submit it by **January 20, 2024**.

## OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

**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 and travel allowances within set limits and in coordination with posts and Fulbright commissions. If the program is conducted virtually, ECA will work with UM to provide a technology stipend to all participants.

**Program Requirements and Restrictions:** All participants are expected to participate fully in the 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. Institutes focus on U.S. studies, with only a brief focus on the U.S. education system itself.

**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 (one week), 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 or nearby hotels. 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 will be expected to respectfully share communal spaces and any necessary responsibilities.

**Special Accommodations:** Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily or weekly 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 health and safety concerns, accommodations will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and host institution guidelines.

**Travel Arrangements:** The implementing partner (UM) will arrange and pay for international and visa travel for all Institutes. The host institution will provide each participant with a small travel allowance. The host institutions will arrange and cover the cost of any travel within the United States.

**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.

**Virtual Program Contingency:** Should health, safety, and travel conditions pose significant challenges to the program, SUSIs will pivot to a virtual format. The virtual program would consist of at least 36 hours of required programming and include both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Virtual programming may include lectures, small group discussions, videos, readings, panels, individual assignments, and group activities. Participants would 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 adequate computer or internet access, the UM will work with the participant to facilitate access on an as-needed basis. Additionally, 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, the University of Montana (UM) will work with the participant and post to facilitate

access. 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.

## TO APPLY:

Interested candidates to the Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators Program (SUSIs) can apply by **November 20, 2023** sending an email to [RomeCulturalOffice@state.gov](mailto:RomeCulturalOffice@state.gov) and to [cogol@state.gov](mailto:cogol@state.gov) specifying the following object "SUSI 2024 – Secondary Educators". Please include your CV and a short motivation letter answering the question below:

*What do you expect to gain from this experience in the United States and how would you use the know-how achieved once back in Italy?*

Additional documents such as English language certificates will be considered an asset. For further questions or information contact Lydia Cogo at [cogol@state.gov](mailto:cogol@state.gov).