

## **2017 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR STUDENT LEADERS FROM EUROPE**

### ***Overview:***

The Commission proposes to nominate a total of four candidates from Spain for the 2017 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Europe offered by the Study of the U.S. Branch (USS) of the United States Department of State. The three Institutes are entitled: **Civic Engagement, Environmental Issues**, and **Social Entrepreneurship**.

The Institutes will take place in June and July 2017 and 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. Each Institute will have up to 22 student participants and consist of a five-week program 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. The Institutes will include a four-week academic residency component and a one-week domestic study tour. During the academic residency, participants will have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

***Application:*** The application period is from December 12, 2016 to January 16, 2017. An electronic application and supporting documents (i.e. two letters of recommendation) are available at: [www.fulbright.es](http://www.fulbright.es)

### ***Selection process:***

Preselected applicants will be called in for English testing and a required personal interview in Madrid in January 2017. Proposed candidates will be presented to USS which reserves the right to finalize selection and disqualify any nominees that do not fulfill requirements.

### ***Program Requirements and Restrictions:***

The program will maintain a focus on young people from non-elite backgrounds with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of Spain. Priority will be given to applicants from the following groups: immigrants or second-generation immigrants; disability communities; religious, ethnic, and/or racial minorities; and/or under-served geographic areas. Candidates should exhibit leadership potential and demonstrate interest in the subject matter, although experience in the subject is not a prerequisite for participation.

Under no circumstances are participants allowed to arrive in the U.S. prior to the start date of the Institute(s) or remain in the U.S. after its end date. Violations of program rules, host institution rules, or local, state or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

All candidates should be proficient in English and actively participate in the academic program.

The Commission is seeking candidates who are:

- currently enrolled in the second or third year of university studies;
- at least 19 years old and no older than 23 by the start of the summer institute;
- committed to returning to Spain and continuing university study in the fall of 2017;
- students with a high level of academic achievement, indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- committed to community and/or other activities outside the university;
- 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.

- willing to participate fully in the Institute, including attending all sessions, arriving to class on time, completing assignments and activities, and contributing to classroom discussions; and
- prepared to submit a report to the Fulbright Commission on their program experience.

**Grant awards:**

All participant costs will be covered including shared housing in university dorms; meals provided at campus facilities; international and domestic transportation; and book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances. Participants will receive a health and accident insurance plan for the duration of the program.

**2017 Institute Descriptions and Country Assignments:**

The **Institute on Civic Engagement** (two candidates from Spain) will provide participants with an overview of how citizens have shaped U.S. history, government, and society both as individuals and groups. The academic program will be hosted by the **University of South Carolina** and define civic engagement, examine its development in the U.S., and explore topics such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, political leadership, and volunteerism. Other topics such as civil rights, entrepreneurship, ethics, leadership, and media will be discussed. Students will also have the opportunity to leave the classroom to meet with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives of non-profit organizations. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

The **Institute on Environmental Issues** (one candidate from Spain) will explore themes in environmental studies, which may include natural resource management, sustainable development/ sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation (new and traditional forms), and water management and treatment. The program, hosted by the **University of Oregon**, will be interactive and experiential, with field trips to research facilities and opportunities for classroom discussion. The issues will be explored from numerous angles: local grassroots activism and civic initiatives, market-oriented approaches, and federal government policies and regulation. The Institute might also examine the relationship between environmental security and national security. The Institute will explore environmental issues in the context of a globalized society, and draw comparisons between the U.S. and the participants' home countries. We expect the Institute to provide opportunities to engage policy makers, individuals in technical positions, community representatives, indigenous leaders, and other key actors committed to the protection and management of the environment. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour to another area of the U.S. where students will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

The **Institute on Social Entrepreneurship** (one candidate from Spain) will examine social entrepreneurship in the U.S., including the development, history, challenges, and successes of U.S. social enterprises. The program, hosted by the **University of Tennessee-Chattanooga**, will be interactive and experiential, and will combine classroom instruction with panel discussions, business visits, and volunteer opportunities. The Institute will give participants a foundation in how to employ entrepreneurial skills to address social issues and will provide opportunities to meet with American local community leaders. The Institute may address topics such as business ethics, negotiations, emerging markets and risk analysis, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, strategic business planning and innovation, and women and minorities in entrepreneurship. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational tour that will take participants to another area of the U.S. where they will meet with local, state, private, and not-for-profit organizations working in the field. The Institute will conclude with a visit to Washington, D.C.

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