

2020 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR STUDENT LEADERS FROM EUROPE

Overview:

The Commission proposes to nominate three candidates from Spain for the 2020 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; Education and the Future of Work; and Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.**

The Institutes will take place from June to August 2020 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. The five-week long Institutes consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Each Institute will have up to 20 participants and will include a four-week academic residency component and a one-week integrated study tour to another region of the U.S. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities within the local community. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

Application: The application period is from November 29, 2019 to January 2, 2020. An electronic application and supporting documents (i.e. two letters of recommendation) are available at: www.fulbright.es

Selection process:

Preselected applicants will be called in for English testing and a required personal interview in Madrid on January 27th, 2020. 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. Traditionally this program has given priority to applicants from historically underserved groups, indigenous groups, disadvantaged groups, individuals with disabilities, and ethnic minority communities. Candidates should exhibit leadership potential and demonstrate interest both in learning about the U. S. and 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:

- Spanish nationals;
- at least 19 years old and no older than 23 by the start of the summer institute;
- currently enrolled in the second, third (or fourth only in the case of double degrees) year of university studies;
- committed to returning to Spain and continuing university study in the fall of 2020;
- 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 an intensive academic program (Institute), including attending all sessions, arriving to class on time, completing assignments and activities, and contributing to classroom discussions;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive; 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.

2020 Institute Descriptions and Country Assignments:

The **Institute on Civic Engagement** (one candidate from Spain), hosted by the University of South Carolina at Columbia, 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 define civic engagement, examine its development in the United States, and explore topics such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grassroots activism, and volunteerism. The Institute also includes workshop sessions that will allow participants to develop skills for journalism, story-telling, and media literacy. The program will encourage students to develop innovative and practical plans to become engaged citizens in their own communities. Study tours to Charleston, South Carolina; Williamsburg, Virginia; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will explore civic engagement through the unique perspective of different communities in the U.S.

The **Study of the U.S. Institute on Education and the Future of Work** (one candidate from Spain), hosted by the University of Massachusetts-Boston, will explore how technology, the job economy, and skill based education are interconnected in the United States. The Institute will expose participants to global issues in the context of the future of work by examining educational, social, and economic trends. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the academic program will examine the role of U.S. educational institutions, particularly community colleges, in preparing Americans with the skills needed to succeed in multiple industries and sectors including business, technology, science, higher education, the creative arts, and other fields. Topics will include, but are not limited to, communication, entrepreneurship, globalization and urbanization, innovation and technology, organizational development and management, skills development, and reskilling and retraining. The program will also provide opportunities for participants to engage with educational and industry leaders through site visits around the greater Boston metropolitan area. A study tour to a different region in the United States will explore the theme from a different perspective.

The **Institute on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development** (one candidate from Spain), hosted by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will provide participants with an overview of entrepreneurial approaches by reviewing the development, history, challenges, and successes of U.S. entrepreneurial enterprises, including social enterprises, business leadership and women's economic empowerment, in the United States and globally. Topics will include, but are not limited to, business development in a global setting, diversity in the workforce, management strategies and techniques, and the relationship among businesses, governments and NGOs. Academic activities will be supplemented by opportunities to engage with the local community, including meeting with local entrepreneurs, and a study tour to Atlanta, Georgia.

The three programs will end in Washington, D.C. where participants from all Institutes will come together for a closing forum. During the closing forum, participants will have opportunities to network, discuss their action plans, and engage in conversations on relevant topics with local subject matter experts.

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Asesoría Académica: <https://fulbright.es/estudios-en-eeuu/solicita-mas-informacion/>

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