

HYBRID Winter 2022 Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship

Deadline for submitting applications: Sunday, **October 17, 2021, 23:59**

Study of the United States Institutes for Student Leaders Program is for participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay, and provides undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The HYBRID 2022 Institute will focus on the theme of Social Entrepreneurship. It will consist of a three-week virtual component in January and February 2022, offering both synchronous and asynchronous activities, and a two-week in-person component tentatively scheduled for spring 2022, contingent upon health, safety, and travel conditions related to the pandemic. Exact dates for both components will be communicated at the time of selection in November. Both components will be conducted in English, and will be hosted by the Institute for Training and Development (ITD), in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Program Description

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders are intensive short-term academic programs. Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, Institutes have converted to a hybrid format with virtual and in-person components. Each Institute will include a virtual academic residency and an integrated in-person experience of approximately two weeks at the host institution in the United States. The U.S. component will be organized taking into consideration all necessary safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, local, and campus authorities.

The program will provide participants with an overview of how entrepreneurial skills can address social issues. The Institute will review the development, history, challenges, and successes of social enterprises and community leaders, in the United States and globally. The program will give participants a foundation in how to employ entrepreneurial skills to address social issues. It will address topics such as organizational development and management, business ethics, negotiations, emerging markets and risk analysis, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, strategic business planning and innovation, and women and minorities in

entrepreneurship. Participants will also be challenged to create follow-up community projects to implement in their home communities upon return.

The institute will conclude with a virtual closing forum where participants will come together and engage in conversations on relevant topics. During the forum, participants will have the opportunity to meet with their peers from Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru who are participating in the other Institute.

Program Funding

The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, international and domestic travel, ground transportation, materials, cultural activities, mailing and incidental allowances, housing and subsistence, and a technology stipend to offset costs associated with participation in the virtual program component.

Program Requirements and Restrictions

Participants must fully complete the virtual program to be eligible for the in-person U.S. component. Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive, rigorous, academic program and are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. Participants must attend all lectures, participate in all required organized activities, and complete all assignments. Family members and/or friends may not accompany or join participants for any part of the program. Participants will not be allowed to arrive or leave the institute to visit relatives or friends while in the U.S.

Program Model

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 are required to fully participate in the entire virtual program. Participants must complete the virtual program to be eligible for the in-person program in the United States. However, if a participant is not able to participate in the in-person U.S. component, they will still receive ECA alumni status and be eligible for all ECA alumni benefits after completion of the virtual program.

Technology Requirements

In order to successfully participate in the initial virtual program component in their home country, participants must have access to a computer and a stable internet connection. If a participant does not have a computer or adequate internet access ITD will work with the participant to facilitate access on an as-needed basis. For the in-person component of the program, the host institutions will provide participants with access to a computer and internet.

Participation

Participants will be expected to actively engage in all program activities, and therefore, they should notify immediately the host institution of any issues with their online access during the duration of the program as well as any difficulties affecting their participation.

Housing and Meal Arrangements for the In-Person Component

During the in-person component, housing will be in shared university dorms on campus with common bathrooms or a full-service hotel on or near campus. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. It is important that nominees are aware of these arrangements and that they are comfortable with such accommodations. Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied.

English Language Ability

English Language knowledge and/or proficiency are required to participate in this program. All candidates **must** be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program. Therefore, candidate interviews will be conducted in English.

Candidate Description and Qualifications

The participants are expected to be highly motivated, first through third year undergraduate students from higher education institutions, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields.

We will put a special emphasis on recruiting participants:

- from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds with an emphasis on underserved and disadvantaged groups, Afro-Latinos, indigenous, and minority communities
- with disabilities
- with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country
- who have had one year of studies and/or who still have at least one more year to finish their bachelor's degree.

Requirements

- Be between 18-25 years old
- Be enrolled at a Chilean higher education institution (public or private).
- Be interested in the topic of Social Entrepreneurship.
- Have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and, therefore, be committed to returning to their home universities, following completion of their institute program.
- Demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities.
- Demonstrate very good level of English (minimum B2) as shown in the application form and interview (no need to take an international English test).
- Have a sustained high level of academic achievement.
- Have demonstrated commitment to community and extracurricular university activities.
- Have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country.
- Be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive.
- Indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States and about U.S. history and government.
- Be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive virtual academic program (note that participation in the in-person program component of the Institute is expected and encouraged, but not required).

- During the in-person component, be 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.

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***Applications must be submitted in English.* Link to the application**

form: <https://forms.office.com/g/CJsLkhuyNP>

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