



Call for Applications: 2023 Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) on Civic Engagement for Student Leaders

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to invite third- and fourth-year undergraduate students with civic engagement acumen to apply for the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) on Civic Engagement for Student Leaders. The deadline for applications is **September 19, 2022**. Email complete applications to FulbrightBotswana@state.gov

SUSI for Student Leaders is U.S. Department of State-funded exchange program that started in 2003 targeting students in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The Civic Engagement institute will be hosted by the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) at the University of Washington in coordination with Meridian International Center from January 10 – February 15, 2023. Depending on health, safety, and travel conditions, the program may pivot to a virtual format. The U.S. Embassy in Gaborone has been granted four places for Botswana.

SUSI for Student Leaders are a five-week 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. 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 exchange program 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, political leadership, and volunteerism. Academic sessions will be complemented with hands-on sessions or workshops designed to build skills in the topics mentioned above. The Institute will encourage participants to develop innovative and practical plans to become engaged citizens in their own communities.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study will be varied and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Participants from historically underserved and disadvantaged groups, including women, minority communities, and individuals with



disabilities, and who have little or no international experience are encouraged to apply.

Applicants of this program must:

- be proficient in English.
- be interested in the topic of civic engagement.
- be between 18 and 25 years of age.
- have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies and be committed to returning to their home universities following completion of the program.
- demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities.
- indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States.
- have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations.
- demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities.
- have 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.
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel.
- if the program is conducted in-person, 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.

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Program Funding: The program covers all participant costs, including program administration; international round-air ticket, and visa travel costs and travel allowances for the in-person component; domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances; technology stipends; and housing and subsistence. Participants will also receive a technology stipend to offset costs associated with participation in the virtual program component.

Program Requirements and Restrictions: 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.

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 participants 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.

Travel Arrangements: The implementing partner will arrange and pay for international and visa travel for the in-person component. The implementing partner will also provide each participant with a \$150 travel allowance. The host institutions will cover any travel within the United States during the in-person program component.

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit during the U.S.-based in-person component, 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. ASPE also covers up to \$500 for routine COVID-19 testing requirements in the United States. COVID-19 is treated like any other illness under the ASPE health benefits plan. Information on the health benefit program may be found online at <https://www.sevencorners.com/gov/usdos>.

Apply before the deadline by submitting a motivation letter with the attached form, a CV, a recent academic transcript, and two references as well as a provisional leave of absence approval from your university to: FulbrightBotswana@state.gov.

Your motivation letter must include following: a personal statement of not more than 500 words detailing your community engagement profile, the subjects and year you are currently studying at the university, why you believe you should be considered for this program, and what you will contribute to your community when you returned. Selected participants are required to submit an action plan prior and after the exchange program.