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| **STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES (SUSI) FOR STUDENT LEADERS** is an intensive short-term academic program whose purpose is to provide groups of undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. **Candidates nominated for this program must*** Be proficient in English
* Be interested in the Institute’s topic
* Be between 18 and 25 years of age
* Have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and therefore be committed to returning to their home universities following completion of the program
* Demonstrate strong leadership qualities 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
* Be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country

**Note:** 1st and 2nd year Bachelor students are the best fit for the program.**Not Eligible**Individuals in the following circumstances are not eligible for SUSI Programs:* U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the United States
* Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of their home country
* Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID and their immediate family members.)

**THE STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES,** hosted by Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, will provide participants with an overview of climate change along with its impact on local communities’ natural resources, and the local economy. Academic sessions and experiential learning opportunities will explore clean energy, sustainable development, the risks of natural disasters, and the intersection of climate justice and community activism. To enhance the academic experience, the Institute will focus on specific themes and sub-topics such as strategic communication, social justice, emergency response, water rights, agriculture and food systems, biodiversity, and energy efficiency and sustainability. Academic activities will be supplemented by opportunities to engage with the local community, including a weekend homestay and meeting with local environmental non-profits. Program components may include hiking a section of the Appalachian trail, a visit to the Chincoteague Bay Field Station, and a kayak tour with the Susquehanna Riverkeepers, an environmental organization.**THE STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES ON JOURNALISM AND** will be hosted by Arizona State University in Tempe. The program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for modern journalism.  The Institute will examine freedom of expression in democracy, leveraging multimedia tools, and exploring the role of journalists in promoting media literacy and preventing disinformation.  Academic sessions will examine First Amendment rights; fundamentals of multimedia journalism; compelling storytelling; editorial independence; journalistic ethics; legal constraints; civic journalism; media literacy; and digital and social media.  The Institute will encourage participants to analyze future trends in media and gain practical experience in the tradecraft of journalism, including building trust, interviewing, researching, writing, reporting, and editing.  Academic sessions will be complemented with hands-on sessions or workshops designed to build skills in the topics mentioned above. In addition to classroom activities, participants will meet with local news outlets. Program components may include a visit to the Phoenix courthouse for an overview of media and the legal system, a tour of The Arizona Republic newsroom, and meeting with representatives of Conecta Arizona, a local news organization that aims to combat misinformation for Spanish speakers.For more information and the application form is available visit the U.S. Embassy website: [The Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI) - U.S. Embassy in Albania (usembassy.gov)](https://al.usembassy.gov/the-study-of-u-s-institutes-susi/)**Application guidelines**Please fill in the [application](https://uploads.mwp.mprod.getusinfo.com/uploads/sites/108/2023/09/SUSI-Student-Leaders-2024-application-form.docx) (World Document 19 KB) with all the required information. Applications should be emailed to CultureandEducationTirana@state.gov as one Word document.Only applications submitted in the required format and marked with the subject line: 2024 SUSI for Young Leaders Application will be reviewed.Additional supporting documents such as: scanned copies of grade transcripts and reference letters are preferred but not required.**APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 12, 2023**For further information, contact: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy Tirana via e-mail at CultureandEducationTirana@state.gov |