



Sumarnámsstefna á sviði umhverfismála fyrir ungt háskólafolk

Sumarið 2024 stendur mennta- og menningarmálaskrifstofa bandaríska utanríkisráðuneytisins fyrir sumarnámsstefnu um umhverfismál fyrir efnilegt ungt námsfolk á **grunnháskólastigi**. Námsstefnan stendur væntanlega frá 25. júní til 31. júlí 2024. Allur kostnaður er greiddur fyrir þátttakendur (ferðir, uppihald, bækur, tryggingar o.fl.). Námsstefnan, sem fer fram við Shippensburg háskóla í Pennsylvaníu fylki, verður gagnvirk og reynslumiðuð og mun samþætta hefðbundna kennslu við pallborðsumræður, vettvangsheimsóknir og sjálfboðavinna.

Skipulögð er krefjandi dagskrá fyrir þátttakendur þar sem áhersla er lögð á loftlagsbreytingar og áhrif þeirra á samfélög, náttúruauðlindir og efnahagsmál. Fjallað verður m.a. um hreina orku, sjálfbæra þróun, náttúruhamfarir af völdum loftslagsbreytinga og aktívisma. Mál verða skoðuð m.a. út frá samskiptatækni, félagslegu réttlæti, neyðaraðstoð, vatnsréttindum, landbúnaði, líffræðilegri fjölbreytni og sjálfbærni í orkumálum. Jafnframt kynnast þátttakendur bandarískri menningu og þjóðlífi, dvelja eina helgi hjá fjölskyldu, kynnast starfi umhverfissamtaka og stunda útivist og aðra afþreyingu. Námsstefnan byggir á virkri þátttöku, vettvangsferðum, verkefnum og umræðum. Gert er ráð fyrir að þátttakendur nýti reynslu sína af námsstefnunni til hagnýtra verkefna á sviði samfélagsþjónustu þegar heim er komið.

Fulbright-stofnunin á Íslandi mun tilnefna einn fulltrúa á námsstefnuna.

Skilyrði fyrir þátttöku eru eftirfarandi:

- Hafa sýnilegan áhuga á viðfangsefninu með tilliti til náms, sjálfboðaliðastarfs, áhugamála og/eða fyrri starfa.
- Leiðtogaþæfni, virk þátttaka í félagsstarfi og sjálfboðaliðastarfi
- Vera vel tal- og rittær á ensku
- Hafa íslenskt ríkisfang og hafa náð 18 ára aldri fyrir upphaf námsstefnunnar, en ekki vera eldri en 25 ára
- Vera á þessum tíma í grunnháskólanámi (BS/BA) og eiga a.m.k. eina önn eftir af því námi haustið 2024
- Hafa einlægan áhuga á því að kynnast Bandaríkjunum
- Hafa sýnt góðan námsárangur
- Hafa fengið takmörkuð tækifæri til ferðalaga erlendis fram til þessa, sérstaklega til BNA.
- Vera þroskuð/aður, ábyrg(ur), sjálfstæð(ur), sjálförugg(ur), víðsýn(n), umburðarlynd(ur), hugulsöm/samur, og forvitin(n)
- Vera tilbúin(n) til að taka fullan þátt í krefjandi námsdagskrá, sjálfboðastörfum og fræðsluferðum
- Vera reiðubúin(n) að takast á við daglegt líf á skólasvæðinu, að deila vistarverum, og að aðlagast sig að menningar- og félagslegum venjum sem eru frábrugðnar heimalandinu
- Vera tilbúin(n) til að taka þátt í nauðsynlegum undirbúningsfundum hjá Fulbright stofnuninni og skila skýrslu til stofnunarinnar eftir að heim er komið

Umsóknarfrestur er til og með 7. nóvember 2023. Umsókn má finna [hér](#).

1. Umsókn ásamt öllum gögnum skal skilað rafrænt á netfangið adviser@fulbright.is. Vinsamlegast setjið
2. Umsækjandi skal fá meðmælanda til að skrifa umsögn, en eyðublöð fyrir meðmælanda má finna [hér](#). Meðmælandi skal skila útfylltu eyðublaði beint til Fulbright stofnunarinnar á netfangið adviser@fulbright.is. Meðmæli mega alls ekki koma í gegnum umsækjanda og verða slík meðmæli ekki tekin gild, þar sem umsækjandi á ekki að sjá meðmælabréf. Umsækjandi ber þó ábyrgð á því að fylgjast með að meðmælum sé skilað innan umsóknarfrests.

Eyðublöð (umsókn, eyðublað fyrir meðmælanda) má einnig finna á heimasíðu Fulbright stofnunarinnar: <https://fulbright.is/grants-to-the-us/sumarnamskeid/sumarnamsstefnur/>

Hér fyrir neðan má finna nánari lýsingu. Öll ungmenni sem uppfylla ofangreind skilyrði og hafa áhuga á viðfangsefni námsstefnurnar eru hvött til að sækja um. Umsækjendur geta komið úr öllum námsgreinum og frá öllum háskólum á Íslandi.

Nánari lýsing á ensku:

SUSIs for Student Leaders 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 has 20 participants. The Institutes consist of a four-week academic residency with a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. Site visits, leadership development, cultural activities, and community service complement the coursework and academic sessions. If conditions allow, the Institutes will include a one-week integrated study tour in the United States. Note that if the program must take place virtually, participants would engage in similar activities online from their home countries.

The Study of the U.S. Institute on Environmental Issues, hosted by Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, 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.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first- or second-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.

Candidates nominated for this program should:

- demonstrate English language proficiency (speaking, reading, writing, listening);
- have an interest in the Institute topic;
- 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 sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- demonstrate commitment to community service and extracurricular university activities;
- have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or outside of Europe;
- be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;
- be willing to respectfully engage with fellow participants representing different backgrounds and different points of view;
- be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and
- 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.

Program Funding: All participant costs will be covered, including program administration; international and visa travel, travel allowances, domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence.

Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive and rigorous academic institute 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. Due to the intensive nature of the program, participants should not expect to fulfill professional or academic obligations, including remote work for jobs or internships, classwork, or examinations for their home university, while in the United States. Doing so will count as an unexcused absence from program activities. Family members and/or friends may not accompany or join participants for any part of the program.

English Language Ability: All candidates **must** be proficient in English so that they can actively participate in the academic program. Host institutions will consider the varying levels of participants' comprehension and speaking ability and will prepare lectures and discussions that meet the highest academic standards while using language appropriate for students where English is their second or third language.

Housing and Meal Arrangements: Housing will be shared or single university dorms on campus or full-service hotels within walking distance of most classroom activities. Male and female participants will be housed in separate quarters. In addition to regular group meals and a university meal plan, participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.

Special Accommodations: Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. Special accommodations will be made available to the greatest extent possible. Should a participant need to quarantine due to health and safety concerns, accommodations will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and host institution guidelines.

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.

Travel Policy: Participants are not allowed to arrive in the United States prior to the start date of the SUSI or remain in the United States after the end date. Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the SUSI to visit relatives or friends while in the United States. Participants are required to return to their home countries immediately following the end of the Institute.

Grounds for Program Dismissal: Violations of program rules, host institution rules, or local, state, or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

Virtual Program Contingency: Should health, safety, and travel conditions pose significant challenges, the SUSI will pivot to a virtual format. The virtual program would consist of at least 36 hours of required programming and include both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Virtual programming may include lectures, small group discussions, videos, readings, panels, leadership development, individual assignments, and group activities. Participants would be required to fully participate in the entire virtual program from their locations.