

Winter 2027 Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Entrepreneurship and Economic Prosperity

Deadline for submitting applications: Sunday, October 7, 2026, at 11:59 pm

University students from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil interested in the topic of Entrepreneurship and Economic Prosperity. The five-week program will be conducted in English and will be held at the Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in Amherst, Massachusetts, from January 16 – February 20, 2027. Any changes will be shared at the time of selection.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from the Western Hemisphere (SUSIs for Student Leaders from WHA) will be intensive short-term, rigorous academic programs that provide groups of foreign undergraduate students with a deeper understanding of American society, innovations, and institutions through a thematic lens. Each SUSI includes 20 undergraduate students from the Western Hemisphere for a four-week academic residency, and a one-week integrated academic field experience. Programming will include lectures, key readings, field experiences, and visits to U.S. historical and natural landmarks. Site visits, cultural activities, and community service complement coursework and academic sessions that demonstrate American excellence and leadership in the program theme as well as highlight America's great legacies.

The Study of the U.S. Branch has sponsored Student Leader Institutes since 2003. This SUSI on Entrepreneurship and Economic Prosperity is one of three SUSIs under the umbrella of SUSIs for Student Leaders from the Western Hemisphere administered by ITD and the only SUSI conducted in winter 2027.

The SUSI on Entrepreneurship and Economic Prosperity will review the history, innovation, and global success of U.S. enterprises and business leadership. The program may include travel to Boston and New York City and an academic field experience to Denver, Colorado and Washington, DC. The ECA Program Office and implementer for assistance reserve the right to alter academic sessions and program activities.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students from colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education. Participants should demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Participants should be receptive to other cultures and be prepared to engage respectfully with others. Applicants should be aware that the program schedule and syllabus are designed for the group, and that sessions will not be customized to their individual interests.

Candidates nominated for this program will:

- demonstrate English language proficiency (speaking, reading, writing, listening);
- demonstrate interest in the topic of Entrepreneurship and Economic Prosperity;
- be between the ages of 18 and 25;
- 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 service 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; 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.

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Funding: ECA will cover all participant costs, including program administration; international and visa travel, travel allowances, domestic travel, and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence as well as arrange and pay for participants' international and visa travel costs and travel allowances within set limits and in coordination with U.S. Embassies.

Program Requirements and Restrictions: Note that you are applying for an intensive and rigorous academic program and are expected to fully participate in all aspects of the program. This SUSI is not a research 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: English Language proficiency is 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.

Housing and Meal Arrangements: Housing will be in 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. It is important that participants are comfortable with such accommodation before submitting their application. All participants will be expected to respectfully share communal spaces and any necessary responsibilities.

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

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the U.S. Department of State's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefit. More information about the plan will be shared at a later time.

Travel Policy: Participants are not allowed to arrive in the United States prior to the program's start date or remain in the United States after the end date. To avoid the logistical difficulties of delayed arrivals, participants will be expected to make accommodations with their university and exam schedules to be able to arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Similarly, participants will not be permitted to leave the SUSI to visit relatives or friends while in the United States. If a relative or friend wishes to visit a participant, it will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the ECA program office. Participants are required to return to their home countries immediately following the end of the SUSI.

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Applications must be submitted in English

Link to the application form: <https://forms.gle/EstEVppVLNHur846>