

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - FY26 John McCain Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on the Rule of Law and Public Service

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361460>

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017914

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-03-24

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-11

Purpose: The McCain SUSI is an intensive academic exchange program that provides a group of approximately 20 foreign undergraduate students and recent graduates who are pursuing careers in the military and law enforcement with a deeper understanding of American leadership and how it has shaped global stability and security. The goal is to deliver quality U.S. studies content and build productive relationships with emerging leaders in defense and law enforcement entities around the world. The program will provide participants with an appreciation of the country's founding principles and democratic values. The McCain SUSI should celebrate American achievements and innovations through academic sessions, coursework, and site visits.

Program Specific Guidelines: The McCain SUSI should be approximately five weeks in length. Participants should spend approximately four weeks at an accredited U.S. college or university campus for an intensive academic residency and approximately one week on an academic field experience. The academic field experience should bring participants to a U.S. region distinct from their residency location. Once participants return home, the program should provide opportunities for continued follow-on engagement activities.

1. Consist of a carefully integrated series of academic sessions that may include lectures, case studies, panel presentations, seminar discussions, debates, simulations, individual and group classroom activities, site visits, interactive workshops, and reading assignments. Sessions should be interactive, encourage critical thinking, and allow time for the exchange of views among participants and presenters.
2. Include engagement with American military, veterans, and law enforcement professionals; discussions about American stability and security efforts globally; and an overview of the U.S. government, military, and law enforcement institutions.
3. Include engagement with local American communities, which may include home hospitality and holiday celebrations.
4. Be tailored for the particular group of foreign students and include discussions of issues relevant to the McCain SUSI theme or countries/regions represented. It must not replicate an existing lecture, course, survey, or graduate seminar designed for degree candidates.
5. Encourage active student participation in the educational process. The curriculum design should consider that participants may have little or no prior knowledge of the United States and different levels of English proficiency.

6. Include cultural site visits that will reinforce the academic curriculum and deepen participants' understanding of historical and contemporary milestones demonstrating America's great legacies, including landmarks and monuments.
7. Be intensive, yet leave sufficient free time for individual interests and exercise. The program schedule should include adequate time for reading and preparation of class assignments. Supervised, optional cultural and weekend activities (such as group nights at the theater, concerts, and sporting events) where participants can celebrate and experience American culture.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/o1uwf9WUz7yoMRtF8> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on page 23, in the NOFO.
 - Quality of the program idea and ability to achieve program objectives
 - Institution's Record/Ability
 - Follow-on Activities
 - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

All internal applications must be submitted by 12:00 Noon Eastern Time on the deadline for the internal expression of interest.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.