



Announcement

Middle East Partnership Initiative MEPI Student Leaders Program Five-Week program from June 22-July 26, 2011 “Deadline for Applications January 20, 2011.”

Executive Summary

The Middle East Partnership initiative (MEPI) is pleased to announce the 2011 "**Student Leaders**" Program, a fully-funded five-week intensive leadership training program in the U.S. for undergraduates. It is implemented by five host institutions that annually receive a multinational group of exemplary undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa. Approximately 90 students are expected to participate in 2011, joining more nearly 1000 alumni. The principal objective of this Student Leaders Program is to develop the participants' leadership and collective problem-solving skills, and explore U.S. history and culture. It also includes a two-day orientation in Washington D.C., a four-week academic residency program at a U.S. university or college, and a one-week educational study tour to other regions of the U.S. A follow-up workshop for 2011 alumni will be organized at a site in the Middle East/North Africa region approximately six to eight months after the conclusion of the U.S.-based program (i.e. in early 2012).

Applicants for the Student Leaders program should be current university students, aged 20-24, demonstrate English Language ability, are mature, responsible, independent, open-minded, tolerant, and thoughtful, inquisitive, and have a strong interest in learning about the United States. Deadline for application submission is January 20th, 2011

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MEPI Student Leaders Institutes Program is some of the most successful programs sponsored by MEPI's Education Pillar. Since 2004, nearly 1000 future leaders have participated in this opportunity and have returned home to implement change at the local level. MEPI hopes that participants will utilize their experiences to practice leadership and promote democratic principles in their home countries. Selected students will have the opportunity to interact with a multinational group of undergraduate student leaders from selected countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

HOST INSTITUTIONS AND COURSE MATERIALS

Each host institution, generally a U.S. college or university, will design its own course materials and scheduling. However, all will be designed around the theme of how leadership is conceived and practiced in different capacities (governmental, community, civil society, private sector, etc.) and in different regions of the United States. The programs will also share two key components: A four-week academic residency at the host institution, and a one-week educational study tour within the host university's geographic region to directly complement and reinforce the concepts explored in the academic residency program.

PARTICIPANTS QUALIFICATIONS

While nominees may be undergraduate students in any field of academic specialization, it is critical that they exhibit a serious interest in pursuing leadership opportunities in their home countries, and demonstrate a genuine desire to learn firsthand about civic engagement, as well as the United States and its societal institutions. All students must be prepared to engage seriously in class discussions and other activities. In addition, they will be expected to take advantage of opportunities to inform and educate Americans about the cultures and societies of their home countries. MEPI will not accept candidates who have traveled to the United States before.

Participants must demonstrate proficiency in conversational and written English

FUNDING & TRAVEL:

The program is fully funded. The costs of the programs and the alumni workshop(s) including international airfare travel within the United States, accommodation, food, and program fees will be covered by MEPI.

All participants will arrive and depart through Washington; D.C. in order to participate in official U.S. Department of State welcome and farewell ceremonies and informational briefings and debriefings. Participants will be met at U.S. Customs and Immigration in Washington by their respective host institutions. Travel to visit family or friends elsewhere in the United States will not be permitted before, during or after the program, including on weekends during the academic residency period. Students must return home immediately at the conclusion of the program.

Applicants for the MEPI Student Leaders Program should meet the following criteria:

- a. Are 20 to 24 years of age.
- b. Demonstrate English language ability.
- c. Committed to returning to their home country following completion of

the program.

- d. Demonstrates strong leadership potential
- e. Indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States
- f. Have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- g. Demonstrates a commitment to community
- h. Have no travel experience in the United States and limited to no study or travel experience outside home country
- i. Mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive
- j. Are willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, active educational travel program,
- k. Are comfortable with campus life, sharing living accommodations while traveling with a multinational group of participants from the Middle East North Africa and with U.S. citizens, and making adjustments to Cultural, and social practices different from those of their home Countries.

For more information about the SLP, please visit the following link:
<http://mepi.state.gov/opportunities/mepi-exchange-programs/student-leaders.html>

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit their CVs and applications (Click [here](#)) electronically to MEPI Amman at: MEPI_amman@state.gov

Deadline for applications submission is January 20th, 2011