

2013 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWS SUMMER INSTITUTE



The U.S. Embassy in Helsinki is pleased to invite applications for the **2013 Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute** for upper secondary school students. There will be two institutes in the summer of 2013 with approximately 45 students in each: up to 35 European students plus 10 Americans. Activities will include discussions of global issues of common interest, leadership and media training, collaborative project development, community service, educational travel, and plans for follow-on activities. Specific information on dates and location of the three- to four-week programs will be provided later.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows institute intends to foster relationships among the younger generations of Europeans and Americans to promote awareness of shared values in light of the global challenges of the 21st Century. The initiative is named after the legendary American statesman and diplomat Benjamin Franklin in honor of the inspiration his own life and career provides to those who are working to strengthen transatlantic cooperation.

INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION

The Summer Institute will enable teenagers ages 16-18 to participate in an intensive, three- to four-week exchange program in the United States that focuses on the global issues that both European and American youth face.

The students will learn more about democratic practices, volunteer service, conflict resolution, problem solving, communication skills, critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity, youth leadership, team building and the media.

Activities will include training sessions, workshops, community-based programs, study tours, and cultural events. The participants will work together to prepare a joint project that presents and promotes the stated goals and objectives of the Institute.

The participants will also explore how young people interact with media, both as consumers and producers of information, and how the freedom of expression both provides rights to and imposes responsibilities on citizens.

Community service activities, social and cultural activities, and home stays with American families will deepen the participants' experience of the U.S. society during the program.

FUNDING/TRAVEL

The program is funded by the U.S. Government and will provide a full scholarship for participants, which covers visa, travel, lodging, educational materials, ground transportation expenses and travel insurance.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

- √ 16-18 years of age as of July 1, 2013
- √ Highly proficient in English
- √ Committed to enrolling in high school or university in Finland in fall 2013
- √ Demonstrates strong leadership potential and interest in transatlantic relations
- √ Indicates a serious interest in learning about the United States
- √ Sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations
- √ Demonstrates a commitment to community and extracurricular activities
- √ Have had little or no prior U.S. study or travel experience in the United States
- √ Mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive
- √ Willing and able to fully participate in an intensive summer program, community service, and active educational travel program
- √ Comfortable with campus life, shared living accommodations, travel and interaction with a multinational, coed group of participants from across Europe and the U.S., and comfortable with engaging various Americans in the broader community.
- √ Able to adjust to different cultural and social practices.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

The selection process will be conducted by US Embassy officials and is merit based. After completing the application, the best qualified candidates will be interviewed by U.S. Embassy staff.

Applicants must be citizens of Finland.

To apply for the program, you will need:

- √ Completed application form (Application can be downloaded at: http://finland.usembassy.gov/benjaminfranklin_2013.html)
- √ A letter of recommendation in English (optional)



Deadline for applications: February 18, 2013.

Please send the application form and the supporting documents electronically to the Embassy of the United States, Education and Exchange Programs Coordinator Mirka McIntire, e-mail: USHelsinkiExchanges@state.gov

WWW.BFTE.ORG

*Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic
Fellows Summer Institute*

