**Young Writers Exchange in the United States!**

The U.S. Embassy in Tunis is pleased to announce the 2018 Between the Lines: Peace and the Writing Experience program.

Between the Lines is a summer creative writing program that brings together young Arab and Russian writers with their American peers for a cultural and academic exchange. Hosted by the University of Iowa, this two-week initiative (July 24-28, 2018) serves as inspiration for students to grow as writers through workshops and seminars, cultural visits, and other extracurricular activities. Participants from diverse backgrounds will explore their distinct histories, languages, and cultures while also approaching world literatures and writing as a dialogue that leads to empathy and a shared understanding of the human condition.

Participants must be between the ages of 15-18 as of July 14, 2018. All participants must be proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking). Participants will stay in dorms at the University of Iowa, which is located in Iowa City, a UNESCO City of Literature.

**Application Process:**

To apply for the program, please complete the application form below and attach the following:

1. A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose (fiction or creative nonfiction) and/or poetry in English. Critical essays will not be accepted.
2. A writing sample of no more than 3 pages in response to the following:

*In our daily lives, we navigate many different roles—student, sibling, daughter, son, peer. We negotiate family, friends, religious groups, as well as class, gender, race, country, and so many other groups, adjusting the way we speak or behave to fit the demands of each encounter. As we move through the day, we work through how and why we occupy each particular role. What do you consider to be the strongest, most central aspects of your identity? What does it mean to you to be a member of (or seen as a member of) a particular group? In what way does your identity influence you as a creative writer and reader?*

1. A brief statement of purpose (no more than 250 words), written in English describing why writing is important to the applicant’s life, and what he/she hopes to learn at BTL.

Please note that all writing samples must be sent in 12-point font and have one-inch margins all around.

Applications must be sent to the U.S. Embassy in Tunis at TunisExchanges@state.gov no later than March 1, 2018. Late submissions and incomplete applications will not be considered. Questions should be sent to TunisExchangesHelp@state.gov.

**U.S. Embassy, Tunis
Website**: <https://tn.usembassy.gov/>

**Facebook**: [www.facebook.com/usdos.tunisia](https://www.facebook.com/usdos.tunisia)

**Between the Lines 2018**

**International Student Application Form – due March 1, 2018**

**BTL Russia/Arabic Session, July 14-28, 2018**

First Name Middle Name

Family Name Gender

(month/date/year)

Date of Birth

Home Address (Street)

City, State, Zip Code

City of Birth Country of Birth

Country of Current Residence

Country of Permanent Residence

Country of Citizenship

Other Cultural Ties

*(if applicable, ethnicity, etc)*

 Home Phone Cell Phone

Email Address

School Grade Level

(School Name and Address)

School

Are you fluent in any other languages other than English? If so, please list:

Previous Travel (including U.S.)

Have you participated in summer camps or other exchange programs?

Awards and Honors

Have you ever been a University of Iowa student or scholar?

Yes    No