Call for applications for a study visit entitled

INFORMED POLITICAL DECISION MAKING: POLLING AND PUBLIC OPINION

February 15th – 25th, 2011
Boston, Massachusetts & Washington, DC

Up to fourteen individuals, including academics, researchers, lobbyists and media representatives from Ireland and from Northern Ireland will be selected to engage with their American counterparts on issues relevant to political polling. Seminars and visits will examine how scientific and non-scientific polling may be used as a means of determining public opinion. It will examine how U.S. decision makers, and the electorate, respond to poll findings and the extent to which that information informs political policies and positions.

The programme is sponsored by the Irish Institute at the Centre for Irish Programmes, Boston College, and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Programme-related costs including travel, accommodation, tuition, and the majority of meals are provided.

The programme is not open to U.S. citizens, Green Card holders, or past participants of U.S. Government-funded Irish Institute programmes. Short-listed applicants must be available for interview either 30th November in Belfast or 1st December in Dublin. Please note that the programme is by necessity highly selective, and that consequently, not all applicants will be interviewed and not all interviewees will be invited to participate.

To apply: Visit our website at www.bc.edu/irishinstitute for an application. The completed form, in addition to a letter of interest, must be returned by email to Ms. Thea Gilien at gilien@bc.edu before 5 p.m. GMT on Friday, 19th November. The mandatory letter of interest should include: reason for application, your ability to contribute to the programme, and potential for sharing your experience upon your return home. For further information, please visit our website or telephone (353) 1 614 7450.