



ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Who is eligible to apply to MLI?

To ensure that participants learn in an environment of their peers, the Getty Leadership Institute (GLI) has established these standards for eligibility:

- Candidates should be employed in a nonprofit museum on a fulltime, paid basis. Candidates who work in nonprofit museum service organizations may also be considered for admission, provided they have a minimum of five years of challenging work experience in museums and meet all other eligibility requirements. Employment solely in a university-related museum studies program does not qualify candidates for participation; however, a joint appointment as a museum executive and a faculty member is acceptable.
- Candidates should have at least five years of challenging work experience in museums. At the discretion of the selection committee, highly qualified candidates with less museum experience may be considered for admission, provided that they have comparable experience managing other complex organizations and meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Candidates should be in a position to influence policy and effect change in their institution. They should have broad experience, including staff supervision; project planning and management; audience outreach, development, and service; and solid financial skills such as developing budgets, reading balance sheets, and understanding financial statements. In general, candidates should be museum directors or senior executives.
- Candidates should be sponsored by their institutions, receiving paid release time and financial support where institutional policies allow.
- Because the effectiveness of MLI depends on classroom discussions and extensive interaction among participants, candidates should be highly fluent in conversational English.

How are MLI participants selected?

Up to thirty-five participants are selected through a competitive process, guided by a selection committee made up of senior professionals representing the museum field and executive education. The selection committee evaluates each application based on evidence of the following:

- Leadership experience
- Ability to influence policy and effect change in candidate's institution and the museum field
- Commitment to the museum field
- Career progress
- Motivation and goals for participating in MLI, both professionally and institutionally
- Institutional support for MLI participation
- Broad strategic thinking
- Collaborative spirit and intellectual playfulness

The selection process strives to include participants with a range of specializations from museums of various disciplines, sizes, budgets, and geographical locations across the U.S. In addition, we actively seek the participation of U.S. museum professionals from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. While MLI focuses primarily on U.S. museums and their environment, each year a number of participants from around the world are selected, individuals who bring perspectives that are as useful as they are varied.

Generally, we are reluctant to admit more than one staff member from a given institution to the same MLI class; however, we do wish to encourage museums to sponsor multiple staff members over several years.