



Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)

*Program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA),
U.S. Department of State, and implemented by IREX*

Application for International Teachers

The U.S. Department of State and IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) announce an open competition for a program that will bring outstanding secondary-level school teachers to the U.S. for a professional development opportunity. TEA seeks to:

- Enhance teachers' expertise in their teaching discipline and equip them with a deeper understanding of best practices in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and the use of technology in teaching.
- Create among educators a more nuanced understanding of the U.S.
- Develop productive and lasting relationships and mutual understanding between U.S. and international teachers and their students.
- Contribute to improving teaching in participating countries by preparing participants to serve as teacher leaders, who upon returning home will apply and share their experience and skills with their peers and students.

ELIGIBLE TEACHING DISCIPLINES FOR TEA ARE:

- English as a Foreign Language,
- Social Sciences (social studies, civics, history, or geography)
- Mathematics and Science

Please return completed applications to:

Please consult the TEA representative at the US Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country for further details.

Note: Applications are also available on-line at: www.irex.org

DEADLINE:

Please note that deadlines vary by country. Check with your local Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy for local deadlines.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) Program Application for International Teachers</p> |
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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) will provide international teachers with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge of the United States.

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) is a bilateral exchange program that will provide 154 secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with a six-week professional development program at one of three or four selected U.S. universities. The international participants will travel to the United States in two cohorts of 75-78 teachers each in spring or fall 2011. Their program will include customized seminars and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The 6-week program will also include a 2-week internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with American teachers and students. Trips to U.S. cultural sites and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

In spring and summer 2012, 80 U.S. teachers will reciprocate the visits of the TEA teachers. Each U.S. teacher will be hosted by a TEA alumni school in the participating country where they will team-teach, discuss best teaching practices, curriculum, and educational issues in the host country. The U.S. teachers' trip will be fully funded and will include visits to local schools and parent committees, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and local government offices. International participants will have the opportunity to apply to host a U.S. teacher at their home school.

Also, TEA will provide follow-on grants to the international teachers to purchase essential materials for their schools, to offer follow-on training for other teachers, and to conduct other activities that will build on their exchange experience.

ABOUT THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world. ECA strives to achieve this goal through a wide range of international exchanges as authorized by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. ECA works in close cooperation with U.S. Embassies overseas to promote personal, professional, and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the United States and abroad.

ABOUT IREX (INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXCHANGES BOARD)

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$60 million and a staff of 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

PROGRAM DATES

Application Deadline: Application deadlines vary by country. Please consult with the program contact at the US Embassy/ Fulbright Commission in your country for details.

Semi-Finalist Interviews: May 2010

Notification of Program Finalists: September 2010

TEA U.S. Program Dates: Cohort 1: February – March 2011
Cohort 2: September – November 2011

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be secondary school-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in TEA teaching disciplines: EFL, Social Studies, Mathematics, or Science;
- Be citizens of and residents in eligible TEA countries;
- Have proficiency in written and spoken English;
- Continue teaching for at least five years after completion of the program; and
- Have submitted a complete application.

Former participants of ILEP, TEA, Partners in Education (PiE) or the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program are ineligible to apply. If you have participated in other programs, please talk to the Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy in your country about your eligibility.

Staff or families of staff at a US Post or Fulbright Commission are not eligible to apply.

Applications not meeting the above eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-implemented grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant. IREX does not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law.

IREX reserves the right to verify all of the information included in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation held in participant's home country;
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.;
- A Welcome Orientation in Washington, D.C.;
- Academic program fees;
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals;
- Accident and sickness coverage;
- Transportation to the internship school (if necessary);
- A book/professional development allowance;
- A Closing Seminar;
- The opportunity to host a U.S. teacher for two weeks; and
- The opportunity to apply for follow-on grants.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

TEA fellows will be selected through a merit-based open competition based on the criteria below. For both programs, top candidates will be interviewed by an interview panel and must take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) examination or provide valid results no more than 1 year old.

Selection Criteria (not in order of importance):

- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in the field of secondary education;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;
- Preparedness (including maturity, flexibility, and ability to function independently) for an intensive U.S.-based training program.
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively; and
- English language skills adequate to develop lesson plans, conduct research, audit graduate classes in U.S. host universities, and team-teach in U.S. schools (a minimum score of 450 in TOEFL is required for TEA program participation).

Applicants who have had few or no opportunities to travel to the U.S. will be given priority.

GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Please answer **all** questions on the application.
- Please type or print in black ink.
- If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full, legal name as spelled on your passport (if available) or other photo identification.
- Include complete contact information (including zip codes for all addresses and city codes for all phone and fax numbers if available).
- Write your full name, city, and country in the top right corner of each page.
- Please indicate in which cohort (spring, or fall 2011) you would prefer to participate. (Please note that effort will be made to accommodate your first choice; however, applicants will be considered for both cohorts and placement in your first choice is not guaranteed.)

Completed applications must be submitted to the U.S. Embassy or Commission. Please note that deadlines vary by country, check with your local Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy for local deadlines. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND REFERENCE FORM

All applicants must include the Institutional Support and Reference Form, which must be completed by your supervisor at the school you are employed. The form must be signed. An English translation must be provided if the form and reference letter are not written in English.

A completed application includes all elements listed below. You may submit your application to the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country electronically or in paper form in the following order:

1. Application,
2. Completed Institutional Support and Reference Form, and
3. A copy of your passport (or photo identification).

If you submit a paper application, it should be stapled. No other form of binding is permitted.