



Announcement: Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program FY2014

The American Center at the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is pleased to announce the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program. This program is a six-week exchange program for secondary school teachers. The program will take place in Spring (February - March) or Fall (September - November) 2014.

The TEA program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and implemented by IREX, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization. TEA will provide 156 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 unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The international participants will travel to the United States in two cohorts of 75-78 teachers each in Spring or Fall 2014. The program will include coursework 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 six-week program will also include a two-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.

Financial provisions of this fellowship include: 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 health insurance, transportation to the internship school (if necessary), a book/professional development allowance, a closing seminar hosted by one of the TEA host universities in the U.S., the opportunity to host a U.S. teacher for two weeks, and the opportunity to apply for follow-on grants.

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for the program:

- be a secondary-level, full-time teacher with five or more years of classroom experience in disciplines including **English as a Foreign Language, Social Studies, Civics, Mathematics, and Science;**
- be a citizen of Bangladesh;
- have demonstrated leadership qualities and be committed to continue teaching for at least five years after completion of the TEA program;
- be proficient in written and spoken English. The program requires English language skills sufficient to function independently in the U.S and the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively in university and professional settings;

- have general computer skills, including word processing, basic file management, and familiarity with Microsoft Office;
- have submitted a complete application which includes:
 1. a completed application form;
 2. a current CV;
 3. completed recommendation and institutional support forms,
 4. a photocopy of the applicant's passport up to page 5; and
 5. 1 passport size photo.

Please note that this is a program for practicing teachers. Ministry of Education officials, educational administrators, and full-time teacher trainers, university faculty, and private English-language tutors are not eligible.

Short-listed candidates will be required to sit for a TOEFL/IELTS test, as strong English skills are a requirement for the program. An internet-based TOEFL score of at least 53-64 or higher, or an IELTS minimum score of 4.5 or higher, is required to participate in the TEA program. However, a candidate with a valid score will not be required to test again. The American Center will arrange all testing as required.

Applicants must follow all application instructions and submission guidelines. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will not be forwarded to the selection committee. Short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

Please send completed applications to the attention of Ms. Tahnia Shahid at the American Center, U.S. Embassy Annex, J Block, Progoti Sharoni, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, **no later than Wednesday, March 20, 2013**. A copy of this announcement and the application forms are available at http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational_cultural_exchanges.html

Please note that the closing date for applications is final. Previous candidates may reapply, although this is a worldwide competition and all applicants will go through a rigorous screening process. Finalists will be notified at the end of September 2013.

For additional information about this program, please contact Cultural Affairs Assistant Ms. Tahnia Shahid (Phone: 8855500, Ext.2808; e-mail address: ShahidTX@state.gov).

Sincerely,

Bilal Faruqi
Cultural Affairs Officer for Education & Exchanges