

E-TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Program Purpose

Under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Office of English Language Programs offers nine innovative, online, graduate level classes to English teaching professional abroad through two different universities. The E-Teacher Scholarship Program explores nine major areas of the academic specialty of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).

In addition to specific knowledge of each of the nine major areas of TEFL, each course: Introduces participants to the most recent TEFL methods and techniques.

Engages participants in an innovative distance-learning program, employing the latest in modern technology.

Provides participants with direct access to U.S. experts.

Program Conditions

The 10-week courses will be offered in the fall of 2012 and the winter, spring, and summer of 2013, though not all nine courses will be offered each term. Participant costs are covered by the U.S. State Department. This includes tuition and the cost of any course materials sent from the institution, including CD-ROMs and books. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of participation directly from the course providers.

Course materials will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- downloadable or posted syllabi, assignments, and course readings;
- asynchronous contact between instructors and participants, between other experts and participants, and among participants;
- lectures via real-time, text, or audio-enhanced text;
- use of a bulletin board to post notes, assignments, feedback, etc.;
- information on additional web-based resources;
- Department of State resources for English teachers.

All materials will emphasize a learner-centered approach and will be in English. When possible, courses will integrate appropriate Department of State materials, such as "English Teaching Forum" articles and "Shaping the Way We Teach English".

Twenty-six of the top performing and geographically dispersed online course participants from the spring, summer, and fall sessions of 2012 and the winter session

of 2013 will be selected to attend a three-week professional development workshop in the U.S. in the summer of 2013.

Participant Requirements

Candidates for E-Teacher scholarships should be teacher trainers or teachers who are working, or plan to work, with one of the nine subjects covered by the courses. They should be highly motivated individuals who are dedicated both to their own professional development and to sharing the knowledge gained with colleagues through workshops or professional presentations. Candidates should also be committed to fulfilling the program requirements (dedicating on average 8-10 hours of work per week) and completing the course. In addition, candidates should meet the following criteria:

-- English language skills:

- ability to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a minimum TOEFL score of 550 or IBT score of 79-80);
- general understanding of technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet;
- good command of the necessary vocabulary for the topic of the course for which the candidate is applying.

-- Computer fundamentals:

- regular access to e-mail and the Internet (in some cases, Post may need to help arrange for regular computer access);
- ability to navigate in Windows or other appropriate programs and create a Word document;
- basic familiarity with the Internet and web browsers;
- ability to type in English well enough to perform online tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

How to Apply

To apply, download and fill out E-Teacher Scholarship Program application form. Please submit applications electronically to e-teacher@usembassy.minsk.by. Successful primary and alternate candidates will be notified about the results of selection via e-mail in late August.