



Teaching Excellence & Achievement Program



Participating Organizations and their Roles



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), United States Department of State

- Sponsors and oversees the program

U.S. Embassy and/or Fulbright Commission

- Manages recruitment, conducts pre-departure orientation, and engages with alumni

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IREX

IREX is an international non-profit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of **education**, strengthen **independent media** and foster pluralistic **civil society development**.

- Founded in 1968
- \$60 million annual portfolio
- 500 staff
- 20 field offices (active in 100+ countries)



Teaching Excellence & Achievement Program



The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) will provide approximately 178 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.



TEA is an intensive non-credit, non-degree six-week professional development program (February – March 2013 or September – November 2013) at a U.S. university including:

- A customized academic program in general pedagogical and discipline-specific education sessions
- A customized course in instructional technology
 - A practicum at a U.S. secondary school
- Organized U.S. civic and cultural activities

Sample Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
Morning- General Education Workshop	Morning- Practicum	Morning- Practicum	Morning- Practicum	Morning- General Education Workshop	Individual work on lesson plans
Afternoon- Technology Workshop	Afternoon – Discipline specific workshops	Afternoon- Technology Workshop	Afternoon - Practicum	Afternoon- Discipline- specific workshops	Trip to local museum and group lunch
Evening- Supplemental English Class	Evening - Dinner with Friendship Family	Evening- Group reflection; time to work on lesson plan development	Evening - PTA Meeting at U.S. Host School	Evening - Attend university hockey game	Personal time

TEA

Eligible

Countries

Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Bulgaria
Cambodia
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Estonia

Georgia
Ghana
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Mali
Morocco
Nepal
Nicaragua
Oman

Panama
Peru
Poland
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
South Africa
Tajikistan
Thailand
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Venezuela

Program Overview - Academic Program

Customized TEA Academic Program

General Pedagogical Seminars on topics such as:

- Student-centered teaching methodologies
- Lesson plan and curriculum development
- Teaching strategies for home classroom environments
- Teacher leadership
- Development of a micro-teaching demonstration that reflects best teaching practice(s)



Program Overview - Academic Program

Academic Seminars:

Workshops that focus on teaching methodologies, curriculum development, lesson planning, teaching strategies, and intensive English language instruction for English, English as a Foreign Language, Social Studies, Math, and Science teachers

Instructional Technology Seminars:

- Technology for classroom use
- General computer skills:
(Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.)



Program Overview - U.S. Secondary School Practicum



During a two week practicum at a secondary school fellows will:

- Observe a variety of teaching methods
- Co-teach with American teachers and work with students
- Work closely with a U.S. teacher to develop lesson plans and pilot testing lessons
- Participate in extra curricular activities as available

Program Overview - Alumni Small Grants

After successfully completing TEA, alumni are eligible to apply for small grants.

This grant program is designed to complement the TEA goal of improving teaching in participating countries.

Program Overview - Alumni Small Grants

Examples of projects implemented by past program alumni include:

A TEA alumnus of Kyrgyzstan was first awarded an alumni small grant to deliver workshops focusing on problem-solving, goal-setting, healthy living, and positive relationships to disabled students, peer leaders and their teachers in 2009. The project is currently being extended to 30 additional students and will focus on leadership through technology in collaboration with the Digital Youth Dialogue program which recently brought internet access to the region.

Program Overview - Alumni Small Grants

Examples of projects implemented by past program alumni include:

A TEA alumnus of Senegal successfully delivered a workshop on Teaching Scaffolding Writing Skills. Each of the 38 participants was trained in the content method as well as equipped with the skills necessary to deliver the workshop in their respective schools. The estimated indirect beneficiaries of the training are over 200 Senegalese teachers of English, and up to 8,000 students!

TEA Program Provisions

The U.S. fellowship is fully funded and provides:

- J-1 visa support
- A pre-departure orientation held in Managua, Nicaragua
- Round-trip airfare from your home city to and within the U.S. (for participation in the program)
- Academic program fees
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows)
- Accident and sickness medical insurance

TEA Program Provisions - Continued

- Transportation to the practicum school (if necessary)
- A daily allowance for meals and incidentals during the university academic program
- A book/professional development allowance
- A baggage/shipping allowance
- Welcome and Closing workshops in Washington, D.C.

Eligibility Requirements for TEA

Applicants must:

- Be current secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in disciplines including English, English as a Foreign Language, social studies, mathematics and science;
- Be citizens of **Nicaragua**;
- Have English-language proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum 450 paper-based or equivalent English language exam*;
- Commit to continue teaching after completion of the program; and
- Submit a completed application.

*** For Fall 2013, IREX and ECA will pilot a limited cohort for participants with paper-based TOEFL scores of 425 – 450 that features a greater concentration on English language learning as well as pedagogical professional development.**

TEA Program Regulations

- Fellows must return to their home countries for two years, immediately upon program completion. No exceptions will be made.
- Fellows may not accept paid work while in the U.S.
- Family members may not accompany participants on program.
- No fellowship extensions will be given.

TEA Selection Process

- Selection is made through a merit-based open competition.
- All applications are first reviewed for technical eligibility.
- Top candidates are interviewed by an interview panel and take the TOEFL examination or other comparable examination.
- Top nominees' applications and TOEFL scores will be reviewed by IREX and ECA in Washington, D.C., and, barring any ineligibilities, the nominees will be confirmed as finalists.

TEA Selection Criteria

- Preparedness for an **intensive** U.S.-based training program;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in secondary education;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;

TEA Selection Criteria, continued

- English language skills adequate to live, study, and function independently in the U.S.;
- Willingness and capacity to work collaboratively with international peers to foster a positive learning community for professional development; and
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively.

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

For further information or if you have questions,
you may contact:

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or

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Good Luck!