APPLICATION FOR

The Advanced TESOL Course

AT TEACHER TRAINING COSTA RICA AND CENTRO ESPIRAL MANA
www.espiralmana.org

Scholarships granted by the U.S. Department of State, Western Hemisphere Affairs office via the U.S. Embassy in Managua

Please email this application to Leda Chavarria at ChavarriaLM@state.gov

Deadline to submit application: January 19, 2015.

Course Date: February 8-March 7, 2015

More Information: Cell phone 88069543.

Advanced TESOL Course: Connecting learning and Teaching in the 21st Century

In this month long course teachers will confront and delve into the reality that the traditional role of teacher as informants, disciplinarian and information managers, while still part of a teachers' job, are no longer sufficient for learning in the 21st century. We will consider complexity theory, current theories about second language acquisition, and learning in general that include but are not limited to constructive-developmental theory, situated learning theory, learning through experience, and transformative learning theory. We will discuss and use a variety of forms of technology in both our teaching and our reflecting. We will work on how planning, teaching and reflection with particular attention to these theories can significantly impact learning in the English language classroom.

This course is appropriate for all experienced teachers who have a firm understanding of how to plan, teach and reflect on lessons based on second language acquisition theory and who are ready to incorporate more complex theoretical concepts and more technology into their teaching practice.

The course provides practical training through reading, classroom discussions, teaching demonstrations, lesson planning and analysis, and practice teaching and feedback. Participants refine skills in teaching, speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and culture and develop skills in implementing situated learning theory, learning through experience, constructive developmental theory and transformative learning theory. The course begins with a brief review of second language acquisition and its application in the classroom and then focuses on how current learning theories can support language learning and teaching. Participants examine specific teaching areas each day, which they apply in their daily practice teaching of adult ESOL learners. Participants gain skills in analysis through examining their lessons with trainers. There is a maximum trainer-participant ratio of 7 to 1.

APPLICATION FORM
(Advanced TESOL Course)

NAME:_____
Country:_____
email:_____
second email: _____
Best phone number to reach me: _____
2nd best phone number to reach me: _____
Skype or other way to reach me _____

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION FORM:

Entry Requirements

In order to be accepted into the Certificate course, applicants must:

1) Possess a high school diploma.
2) Demonstrate a clear interest in teaching ESOL and have taught for at least five years.
3) Demonstrate the ability to plan both productive and receptive skill lessons based on a chosen framework or set of criteria.
4) Have an ability to focus on student learning and reflect upon the impact of one's own teaching.
5) Have a positive attitude regarding experiential activities and working in groups. This means that you are not only willing to fully participate in such activities, but also recognize the value in doing so.

6) Demonstrate English language proficiency (CI level on the CEF or TOEFL 550 non-native speakers)
7) Complete the application form and a short essay.
8) Complete an informal phone interview (s).

Key factors for interview:

- Educational background, dedication to teaching English
- Appropriateness of the course for the applicant's needs/goals
- Applicants' ability to design productive and receptive skill lessons.
- Attitude regarding reflection, experiential and collaborative learning, and group work
- Language proficiency

Attendance Policy

- Participants are expected to attend all course sessions. Those who know in advance that they are unable to attend the whole course cannot be accepted. Participants should understand that the course is a full time endeavor. In order to complete the demands of the course successfully, participants should not expect to be able to work or attend to other commitments during the course.

- In the event of a serious illness or emergency, participants should notify a trainer as soon as possible. The participant must make up all missed work and practice teaching.

- The first full two days of the course cannot be missed. If this should occur, the participant must withdraw.

- If the participant must take a prolonged absence (more than two days) s/he must withdraw from the course.

- Attendance only is not a guarantee that the certificate will be issued. Participants must fulfill the requirements of the course in order to receive the certificate.

Personal Data

Name (as you wish it to appear on your certificate) _____

_____

Current mailing address/phone number (**make sure to include zip codes and country names, and country codes for phone numbers**) _____

_____

_____

Permanent address/ phone number _____

_____

Cell Phone:

Best time to reach me by phone_____

E-mail: _____second email: _____

_____

Other ways to reach me (skype, google+

etc)_____

Occupation _____Citizenship _____

Gender **M**/**F**

Native language _____ Date of Birth _____

Educational Background Feel free to submit your resume instead of filling out this section.

Schools Attended **Dates** **Degree/Diploma**

_____

_____

_____

Work Experience (non teaching)

Feel free to submit your resume instead of filling out this section.

Position/place **Dates**

_____

_____

_____

Teaching Experience

Describe your teaching experience. Where have you taught? What levels, texts, contexts? (Make sure to include the name of the institution as well as your position(s) there.) Feel free to submit your resume instead of filling out this section.

_____

_____

Language Learning Experience

Do you have experience learning other languages? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which languages and for how long?

Self introduction: Please write a brief **paragraph (between 3 and 8 sentences)** about yourself to be included in the program documents and shared with other participants and trainers.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Why do you want to take the Advanced TESOL course?
2. What is exciting to you about English to speakers of other languages?
3. Why do you want to take the course in Costa Rica?
4. What are your biggest strengths and challenges as a teacher of ESOL?
5. What do you plan to do with your new learnings when you go back to your home country and school?
6. The course is offered in a small town in rural Costa Rica. We are far from cities and many activities. Are you ready and willing to commit to one month of intensively thinking about and working on teaching English in this rural setting?

Along with the application, all prospective participants are required to submit an essay:

Consider the following quotes:

1. "Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. They enable practitioners to take collective responsibility for managing the knowledge they need, recognizing that, given the proper structure, they are in the best position to do this." Etienne Wenger

2. Creating a new theory is not like destroying an old barn and erecting a skyscraper in its place. It is rather like climbing a mountain, gaining new and wider views, discovering unexpected connections between our starting points and its rich environment. But the point from which we started out still exists and can be seen, although it appears smaller

and forms a tiny part of our broad view gained by the mastery of the obstacles on our adventurous way up. – Albert Einstein

Write a brief essay:
How might these two quotes connect to or inform something that is happening in your experience as a language teacher and in your language classroom? Discuss this in an essay using personal examples from your own experience.

Please sign _____
Date_____

Note: If you were selected for this program, you will need a valid passport to travel to Costa Rica.