



EXCHANGE AND ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY a USG initiative will support English teacher and teacher training courses at SIT's Centro Espiral Mana site in rural Costa Rica.

THE SIT TESOL CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHER TRAINING AND THE SIT BEST PRACTICES TRAINER-OF-TRAINERS PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA. The course consists of one-month TESOL certificate courses for 12 teachers; and four, two-weeks sessions for 10 teacher trainers. The courses will be offered over the course of 10 months, beginning in November 2009.

Entry Requirements for applicants:

- 1) Demonstrate a clear interest in teaching ESOL and **have taught for at least five years.**
- 2) Demonstrate a clear interest in **training teachers** and have either given at **least 3 workshops** or courses to them over the past 2 years.
- 3) Have an **ability to focus on student/teacher learning** and reflect upon the impact of one's own teaching and training.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Demonstrate English language proficiency (CI level on the CEF or TOEFL 550 non-native speakers)
- 6) Complete the application form and a short essay.
- 7) Complete an informal phone interview will be conducted by and SIT Trainer.

THE E-TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The courses introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact with U.S. experts.

Candidates for E-Teacher scholarships should be teacher trainers or teachers who are working, or plan to work, with one of the seven subjects covered by the courses. Applicants 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 and completing the course.

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);
- general understanding of technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet;
- good command of the necessary vocabulary for each of the seven topics.

Computer fundamentals:

- regular access to e-mail and the Internet;
- 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.

Topics offered:

- + **Critical Thinking in the EFL** (English as a Foreign Language Curriculum) (offered by University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute)
- + **Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL)**(offered by University of Maryland, Baltimore County,
- + **Building Teaching Skills through the Interactive Web** (offered by University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute)
- + **English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Best Practices**(offered by University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute)
- + **English as a Foreign Language Assessment**(offered by University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center)
- + **Methods Course I: Survey of Best Practices in TESOL**(Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages)(offered by University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center)
- + **Methods Course II: Developing EFL Literacy through Project-Based Learning**(offered by University of Maryland, Baltimore County, English Language Center)

Additional information and one-page course descriptions in Word or Adobe PDF format for each of the seven courses from the Office of English Language Program's website, located at the site: <http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/eteacher.html>

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (TEA)

TEA will provide secondary school teachers from Nicaragua with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The participants will travel to the United States to participate in a 6-week professional development program at a U.S. university. The professional development program will include coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, educational leadership, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The 6-week program also will include a 2 to 3-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.

REQUIREMENTS: Secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in either English as a Foreign Language; or Social Science (social studies, civics, geography or history), Nicaraguan citizens and English-language proficient in written and spoken English. More information can be found at the Cultural Section Scholarship Program website:

http://spanish.nicaragua.usembassy.gov/programa_becas.html

UNDERGRADUATE INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

The Undergraduate Intensive English Program is a program for university students to enroll in an undergrad intensive course to study English for 8 weeks at a U.S. university. Besides the English courses, the participants will get to know more about the institutions, the society and the culture of the U.S.

The candidates for this program are: Nicaraguan citizen and resident enrolled at a university and have finished the first, second or third year of the degree; be less than 25 years old by July 1, 2009; to have good academic records; to be an economically underprivileged student; to have little or no travel experience outside of Nicaragua; and have English language knowledge (equivalent to a TOEFL of 420-480).

The application will be posted at our website:

http://spanish.nicaragua.usembassy.gov/programa_becas.html