



IREX



Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA)

A program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, and implemented by IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board)





Participating Organizations and their Roles

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

- Sponsors and oversees the program





Participating Organizations and their Roles - Continued



U.S. Embassy and/or Fulbright Commission

- Manages recruitment and conducts pre-departure orientation
- **Contact: Public Affairs Section, 4th Floor, Ak Altyn Hotel**
 - Email: AshgabatEducation@state.gov
 - Phone: 36-33-31 ext. 231
 - Fax: 36-46-93



Participating Organizations and their Roles - Continued



IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board)

- Implements all stages of the program from recruitment materials to alumni opportunities.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization that was founded in 1968. IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$60 million and a staff of over 400 professionals worldwide. IREX develops practical and locally-driven solutions with local partners in more than 100 countries.



TEA Program Description



The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) provides international teachers 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 2012 or September – November 2012) at a U.S. university including:

- A customized academic program in general pedagogical and discipline-specific education sessions;
- A customized course in technology;
- An internship 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- Internship	Morning- Internship	Morning- Internship	Morning- General Education Workshop	Individual work on lesson plans
Afternoon- Technology Workshop	Afternoon – Discipline specific workshops	Afternoon- Technology Workshop	Afternoon - Internship	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 developments	Evening - PTA Meeting at Internship School	Evening - Attend university hockey game	Personal time



TEA Eligible Countries



Argentina

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Bangladesh

Bulgaria

Cambodia

Colombia

Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Egypt

El Salvador

Estonia

Georgia

Ghana

Guatemala

Haiti

Honduras

India

Jordan

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Latvia

Lithuania

Morocco

Nicaragua

Nepal

Oman

Panama

Poland

Romania

Russia

Rwanda

Tajikistan

Thailand

Turkmenistan

Ukraine

Uzbekistan

Venezuela

Zambia



Program Overview

Academic Program



Customized TEA Academic Program

General Pedagogical Session on topics such as:

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





Program Overview

Academic Program



Discipline Specific Sessions:

- Workshops that focus on the specific pedagogical needs and best practices of EFL, Social Studies, Math, and Science teachers

Customized Technology Course:

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



Program Overview

Secondary School Internship



The internship component provides Fellows the opportunity to:

- Observe a variety of teaching methods
- Work individually with a U.S. partner teacher on creating lesson plans and pilot testing lessons
- Participate in team teaching
- 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.

Examples of projects implemented by past program alumni include:

- Training workshops on topics concerning secondary education in international alumni's home country to share and expand impact of the program to peers at home.



- Development of special programs in international alumni's home schools (e.g. English language resource center, etc).
- Development of a sister-school relationship between the U.S. host and international school.



TEA Program Provisions



The US fellowship is fully funded and provides:

- J-1 visa support
- A pre-departure orientation held in your home country
- 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 internship school (if necessary)
- A daily allowance for meals and incidentals during the university academic program
- A book/professional development allowance
- A baggage allowance for fees incurred for travel to participate in the program
- Opening 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 as a Foreign Language, social studies, mathematics and science;
- Be citizens of [Turkmenistan](#)
- Have English-language proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum iBT TOEFL score of 45-46 (450 paper-based) or equivalent English language exam;
- Commitment to continue teaching after completion of the program; and
- Submit a completed application.



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 iBT (internet-based) TOEFL examination or other compatible 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;
- 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.



Good Luck!



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

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or

IREX at

teaglobal@irex.org