

GENERAL INFORMATION

The English Language Specialist Program (ELSpec) provides state higher and secondary educational institutions around the world with U.S. professors with expertise in Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language, or Applied Linguistics. These specialists engage in short-term or multi-phased projects primarily in:

- Teacher training
- Materials writing
- Curriculum development
- Program evaluation

ELSpec projects may require one visit or several. Each visit is supposed to last at least ten days but can last as long as six weeks. If you only want a specialist for a couple days or a one-off plenary, we will need to see what other programming is possible (either in your city or in other regions of the country) in order to increase the visit to 10 days of work. While in-country on a project, a specialist generally conducts a full day of activities that can include any of the following: consulting with relevant educational institutions and professional organizations, training of trainers or teachers, conducting needs assessments and program/curriculum evaluations, working with host institution/country specialists in drafting new or revised aspects of the host institution/country's English language policies and programs, giving workshops and/or a plenary address at professional development events, or participating in other meetings and activities that further the goals of the program. The program can also provide specialists via online E-course, DVC or Webinar, as a standalone program or as one element of a multi-part program.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The project costs are funded by U.S. Department of State. However, cost-sharing from the host institution is welcomed; it is a positive factor in decision-making process. Cost-sharing can include providing transportation from/to airport, internet connection, accommodation, etc.

HOW TO REQUEST AN EL SPECIALIST PROJECT

1. Complete the REQUEST FORM. Please make sure to submit your request at least 3 months prior to the program dates.
2. Wait for the notification letter/call from RELO office.
3. If a request has been approved and funding has been confirmed by the Washington office, the RELO office representative will contact you to discuss program, schedule, and logistics of the visit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC, makes the final decision in approving the funding for specialist projects; therefore we cannot guarantee that your request is filled. The results of the review and approval process focus on pedagogical justification, project eligibility, sustainability, and Department priorities.