

APPLICANT NAME: _____

COUNTRY: _____



Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (Fulbright TEA) Program

A program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by IREX

2020-2021 Application for Teachers

The U.S. Department of State and IREX announce a program for outstanding international secondary-level school teachers to come to the U.S. for a six-week professional development opportunity. The Fulbright TEA Program seeks to:

- Equip teachers with a deeper understanding of best practices in teaching methods, content-based instruction, project-based learning, lesson planning, and instructional technology.
- Create among educators a more nuanced understanding of the U.S.
- Develop productive and lasting relationships and mutual understanding between U.S. and international teachers and their students.
- Contribute to improved teaching in participating countries and communities by preparing participants to serve as stronger teacher leaders who, upon returning home, will apply and share their experience and skills with their peers and students.
- Make U.S. students more aware of other countries around the world through interaction with international teachers.

ELIGIBLE TEACHING DISCIPLINES FOR THE FULBRIGHT TEA PROGRAM:

- English or English as a Foreign Language (EFL)
- Social Studies (civics, history, geography, global studies, etc.)
- Math
- Science
- Special Education in the disciplines listed above

The Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program will bring approximately 160 international secondary-level teachers of English, English as a Foreign Language, math, science, and social studies, including special education teachers in those subjects, to the United States for a six-week program to take academic seminars for professional development at a host university and to observe and share their expertise with teachers and students at the host university and at local secondary schools. The international participants will travel to the United States for one of two six-week professional development programs in either spring of 2021 or fall of 2021.

Fulbright TEA provides general academic seminars focusing on new teaching methodologies, student-centered learning, content-based instruction, lesson planning, and instructional technology training for teachers. Intensive English language instruction will be offered to teachers who need additional practice. The program will also include a practicum of at least 40 hours with a U.S. partner teacher in a secondary school near the host university to actively engage participants in the U.S. classroom environment. Cultural enrichment, mentoring, and support will be provided to participants throughout the program.



Applications are free of charge and may be duplicated.

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After returning home, teachers who successfully complete the program will be eligible to compete for small grant awards for essential teaching materials, follow-on training for other teachers, collaborative projects between participating American schools and their home schools, and other activities that build on the exchange experience.

ABOUT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ECA)

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State works to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world through a wide range of international exchange programs as authorized by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended. ECA works in close cooperation with U.S. Embassies overseas to promote personal, professional, and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the United States and abroad.

ABOUT IREX

IREX is an international nonprofit organization that builds a more just, prosperous, and inclusive world by empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information. IREX employs field-tested methods and innovative uses of technologies to develop practical and locally driven solutions with partners in more than 100 countries.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be current secondary school-level*, full-time teachers of English, English as a Foreign Language (EFL), math, science, or social studies, including special education teachers in those subjects at an institution serving primarily a local population;
- Have earned a Bachelor's degree or equivalent;
- Have completed at least five years of full-time teaching by the start of the program;
- Reside in the country of citizenship at the time of application and of program participation;
- Earn a minimum score of 450 on the paper based TOEFL or an equivalent English language examination**;
- Demonstrate a commitment to continue teaching after completion of the program; and
- Have submitted a complete application.

* Secondary-level teachers include both middle and high school teachers serving students between approximately 12 and 18 years of age. Teachers responsible for teaching additional grade levels must teach middle or high school students more than 50% of their work time in order to be eligible for the program. The most competitive applicants will have shown evidence of leadership in their schools or districts.

**A limited number of participants with TOEFL scores between 425 and 450 or equivalent may be accepted into a special cohort of the program with additional English language training provided.

The Fulbright TEA Program promotes diversity in the classroom and in learning. The Fulbright TEA Program supports inclusion and strongly encourages teachers with disabilities to apply.

Former participants of the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program, the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP), the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, the Partners in Education (PiE) program, or Fulbright Teacher Exchange Programs are not eligible to apply. If you have participated in other U.S. government-funded professional development exchange programs, please contact the Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy in your country to inquire about your eligibility.

The Fulbright TEA Program is an upper level university or graduate level academic program for practicing teachers. Educational administrators (such as representatives or officials of the Ministry of Education) and school administrators who teach less than fifty percent of their time, full-time teacher trainers, university faculty, private English Language tutors, and teachers from schools primarily serving expatriates are not eligible.

Staff or families of staff at a U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission are not eligible to apply.

Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-implemented grant programs, either as individuals or as the

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responsible party representing an institutional applicant.

ECA and IREX do not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law.

APPLICATIONS NOT MEETING THE ABOVE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.

IREX reserves the right to verify all the information included in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

PROVISIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation held in participant's home country;
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.;
- Academic program fees;
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals;
- Accident and sickness health care coverage (generally does not cover pre-existing conditions);
- Transportation to the practicum school (as needed);
- A daily allowance for incidentals during the university academic program;
- A baggage allowance to offset the cost of travel;
- An end-of-program workshop in Washington, D.C.; and
- The opportunity for alumni in good standing to apply for alumni small grants

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Fulbright TEA participants will be selected through a merit-based open competition based on eligibility and the criteria below. Top candidates will be interviewed by an interview panel and must take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or equivalent English test, or provide valid results from within the past year (test date no earlier than June 2019).

Selection Criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in the field of secondary education;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;
- Preparedness (including maturity, flexibility, and ability to function independently) for an **intensive** U.S.-based training program with very limited free time for personal travel or sightseeing;
- Willingness and capacity to work and live collaboratively with international peers to foster a positive learning community for professional development;
- Articulated ideas for applying program experience to improving secondary education in the home country;
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively;
- Oral and written English language skills sufficient to manage coursework, participate in specialized seminars, and deliver presentations in U.S. schools (a minimum paper-based or equivalent TOEFL score of 450 is required for Fulbright TEA participation);
- Applicants who have had few or no opportunities to travel to the U.S. will be given priority;
- Preference will be given to applicants who are members of or who work with students from under-served communities or traditionally underrepresented groups including but not limited to women, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, people with disabilities, and the LGBTI community.
- Preference will also be given to applicants who have not previously received a Fulbright grant.

GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Please answer **all** questions on the application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Please type or print clearly in black ink.
- If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full, legal name **as spelled on your passport** (if available) or other photo identification.

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- Include complete contact information (including zip/postal codes for all addresses and city codes for all phone and fax numbers if available).
- Write your full name, city, and country in the top right corner of each page.
- **Sign by hand** the Privacy Policy on the last page in ink.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND REFERENCE FORM (ISRF) AND LEAVE APPROVAL FORM (LAF)

All applications must include the Institutional Support and Reference Form, which must be completed by your supervisor at the school where you are employed. The Leave Approval Form must be signed by the director of the school where you are employed. Both forms must be signed in ink. An English translation must be provided if the form and reference letter are not written in English.

A completed application includes all elements listed below. You may submit your application to the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country electronically or in paper form in the following order:

1. Application,
2. Hand signed Privacy Policy,
3. Institutional Support and Reference Form completed by your supervisor,
4. Leave Approval Form completed by your school director, and
5. A copy of the photo and information pages of your passport (or photo identification).

PROGRAM TIMELINE

<i>Insert deadline (Suggested March- April 2020)</i>	Application Deadline
April – May 2020	TOEFL Testing/ Semifinalist Interviews
September 2020	Notification of Finalists
November – December 2020	Visa Interviews and Pre-Departure Orientation Spring 2021 Cohort
Late January – mid-March 2021	U.S. Program Dates Spring 2021 Cohort
June – July 2021	Visa Interviews and Pre-Departure Orientation Fall 2021 Cohort
September – late October 2021	U.S. Program Dates Fall 2021 Cohort

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