



## **Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)**

*A program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA),  
U.S. Department of State, and administered by IREX*

### ***ONLINE APPLICATION FOR THE U.S. TEACHER EXCHANGE***

Under the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA), the U.S. Department of State and IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) announce an open competition for secondary-level teachers of English as a Second Language, English Language or Literature, social studies, math, or science to participate in a two-week professional exchange program in one of the following countries: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nicaragua, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine.

Please use the online application link at <http://www.irex.org/programs/tea> or contact [tea@irex.org](mailto:tea@irex.org) to request a paper-based application that can be scanned and submitted via e-mail.

**DEADLINE EXTENDED: 5:00 p.m., DECEMBER 1, 2009**



# Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) Program Application for U.S. Teachers

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) is a bilateral exchange program that provides professional development opportunities for secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, and the United States. In the spring and summer of 2011, 78 U.S. teachers will visit the TEA eligible countries for two weeks to work with international secondary school teachers. Prior to the U.S. teachers' visit, in spring or fall 2010, two cohorts of 75 international teachers each will take part in six-week professional development programs at U.S. colleges or universities. Their program will help them develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. Also, TEA will provide follow-on grants to selected international teachers to purchase essential materials for their schools, offer follow-on training for other teachers, and conduct other activities that will build on the exchange visits.

The selected U.S. teachers will:

- Participate in the TEA U.S. Conference together with the international teachers on March 19-21, 2010 or November 4-7, 2010;
- Work with their international partner teacher via phone or e-mail to design the two-week reciprocal visit after the international teachers return home from the U.S. professional development program; and
- Travel for a two-week visit to one of the TEA eligible countries to be hosted by their international partner teachers and their schools in spring or summer 2011.

During the two-week visit to TEA eligible countries, the U.S. teachers will:

- Participate in discussions on best teaching practices and related educational issues in their subject with the host school teachers and with a wider community of teachers;
- Visit local schools, parents' committees and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and serve as a guest speaker on U.S. education and culture as requested;
- Teach or team-teach together with the TEA international partner at their host school;
- Conduct a day-long workshop on an educational topic of the U.S. teacher's choice for the host school teachers and/or a wider community of teachers; and
- Visit cultural sites.

## **ABOUT THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world. ECA strives to achieve this goal through a wide range of international exchanges 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 (INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXCHANGES BOARD)**

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$50 million and a staff of over 400 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 50 countries.

## **PROGRAM DATES**

- Application deadline: December 1, 2009
- Finalist notification: January 2010
- TEA U.S. Conference: March 19-21, 2010 or November 4-7, 2010
- U.S. teachers two-week trip: Spring or Summer 2011, TEA Host Country
- U.S. Teacher Debrief: August 2011, Washington, DC

### ***ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS***

- Secondary-level (middle or high school), full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in disciplines including English as a Second Language, English Language or Literature, social studies, math, or science.
- U.S. citizenship, and
- Ability to travel to one of the following countries in spring or summer 2011: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nicaragua, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine.

Applications not meeting these eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

### **Former participants of TEA and Partners in Education (PiE) programs who took part in the TEA/PiE overseas exchange are ineligible 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-administered grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant. IREX does not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law.

IREX reserves the right to verify all of 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.

### ***FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE GRANT***

- Visa support;
- Round-trip domestic airfare (reimbursement), lodging and meals to attend the TEA U.S. Conference;
- Round-trip airfare from the U.S. to the assigned country in Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nicaragua, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, or Ukraine;
- Emergency Medical Evacuation Plan
- Lodging and daily stipend in host country; and
- Round-trip domestic airfare (reimbursement), lodging and meals to attend the TEA U.S. Teacher Debrief.

### ***SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA***

TEA U.S. teachers will be selected through a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, IREX staff will review all eligible applications. An independent, U.S.-based selection committee will conduct a final review of applications. Candidates may also be interviewed over the phone.

Criteria (not in order of importance):

- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Preparedness to conduct a training workshop for TEA international school teachers and/or a wider community of teachers;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and host country schools;
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively;
- Preparedness to participate in an international exchange program including seriousness of purpose and flexibility; and
- Priority will be given to candidates who have not previously participated in a U.S. government sponsored overseas exchange program.

### ***GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES***

- Please answer **all** questions on the application.
- If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full legal name as spelled in your passport (if available) or other photo identification.
- Include complete contact information (including zip codes for all addresses and city codes for all phone and fax numbers).
- You may attach a total of up to five additional pages if necessary to answer the questions completely.
- Completed applications must be submitted to IREX no later than **December 1, 2009**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

All applicants must include one completed recommendation form from a supervisor.

## **SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**

Applications must be **completed online** or be submitted by email in a **PDF or Word document** format to [tea@irex.org](mailto:tea@irex.org). Email attachments received in any format other than as a PDF or as a Word document will not be accepted. If you send the application via e-mail, in order to ensure the proper processing of your application, please enter the text: **Last Name-UST Application** into the email subject line. **Example: Johnston/UST Application. If you apply via e-mail, you should include the following attachments:**

- Completed application form;
- Resume, including educational background, teaching experience and assignments, and professional development information;
- Essay (see question # 16 on the application form); and
- Completed supervisor recommendation form; this can be e-mailed separately by your supervisor to [tea@irex.org](mailto:tea@irex.org). (Please write 'Your Name/Recommendation' in subject line, example: Johnston/Recommendation).