



## **Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC)**

*A program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA),*

*U.S. Department of State, and administered by IREX*

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

Under the Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC) 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 professional development program aimed at globalizing classroom learning through an online professional development course, two Washington, DC-based symposiums and a two-week professional development exchange to one of the following countries: Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Ukraine.

**DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2011 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time**



## Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC)

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Teachers for Global Classrooms Program (TGC) provides a professional development opportunity for U.S. secondary teachers aiming to globalize teaching and learning in their U.S. classrooms and schools. For participation in the 2011-2012 program, approximately 65 teachers will be selected through a competitive national process to participate in TGC program activities.

The selected U.S. teachers will:

1. Complete an online course designed specifically for U.S. teachers aiming to bring a global perspective to their classrooms.
2. Upon successful completion of the online course, finalists will be invited to attend the first of two Global Education Symposiums in Washington, DC, where teachers will meet other participants in the program, share resources, and learn from experts on internationalizing U.S. education.
3. Travel abroad on assigned dates between February and July 2012 with a U.S. teacher cohort for a ten-day international professional exchange. During the ten-day professional exchange U.S. teachers will:
  - Participate in an introduction to the country and an overview of the history, culture, and education system in the capital of the host country. U.S. teachers will visit a variety of cultural sites and engage in panel discussions with local education officials and teachers;
  - Spend approximately six days at a school in the host country; hosted by international alumni of TGC sister programs [International Leaders in Education Program \(ILEP\)](#) and the [Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program \(TEA\)](#). The U.S. teachers will have the chance to observe classes, co-teach where requested, speak with administrators and students and give presentations on their school communities in the U.S. to their international hosts.
  - Return to the capital to rejoin other members of the U.S. teacher cluster in order to share and synthesize experiences from the local schools and reflect on best practices for infusing curricula with global perspectives. Participants will work to contextualize best practices for their home communities.
4. Attend the second Global Education Symposium in Washington, DC, where teachers will share their experiences, and develop leadership tools as well as collaborative action plans for home community engagement.

Upon successful completion of the online course, participants will be notified in a timely fashion of their international travel dates. Travel dates are assigned to participants as a cluster. These dates are determined based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, dates that schools in the host country are in session. Dates cannot be changed once they are assigned. Travel will be conducted for a ten-day period between the months of February and July; this often means U.S. teachers will be required to travel during their school year. This possibility should be discussed with your administration prior to submitting an application. IREX will make every effort to accommodate travel preference, but does not guarantee placement in a preferred country or during a preferred month.

### **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.

### **REQUIRED PROGRAM EVENTS**

- Upon successful completion of an online course designed specifically for U.S. teachers aiming to bring a global perspective to their classrooms, finalists will be expected to attend:
- Two Global Education Symposiums in Washington, DC, held pre- and post-travel in early 2012 and fall 2012; and
  - A two-week professional exchange in a participating country.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS\***

1. Current 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 and a demonstrated commitment to continue teaching for at least five more years;
2. U.S. citizenship and current U.S. residency; and
3. Ability to travel to one of the following countries in spring or summer 2012: Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, or Ukraine. Exact dates to be determined at the time of notification of participation.

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

**Former participants of TEA, ILEP, and Partners in Education (PiE) programs who took part in the TEA/PiE/ILEP overseas exchange are ineligible to apply.**<sup>1</sup>

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.

## **PROVISIONS OF THE GRANT**

1. Enrollment in the TGC online professional development course aimed at globalizing classrooms with course materials;
2. Upon successful completion of the online course:
  - Visa support;
  - Round-trip domestic airfare, lodging and meals to attend the two TGC Washington, DC Symposiums;
  - Round-trip airfare from the U.S. to the country of assignment
  - Emergency Medical Evacuation Plan;
  - Daily stipend to provide for room and board in country; and
  - Tool kit of educational materials.

## **SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

TGC teachers will be selected through a merit-based national competition. An independent, U.S.-based panel will read and score applications. Candidates may also be interviewed over the phone. IREX and ECA will confirm all finalists.

Criteria (not in order of importance):

- Relevance of professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Commitment to globalizing classroom curriculum and bringing an international perspective to teaching;
- Demonstrated teacher leadership and commitment to remain in teaching for at least five more years;
- Evidence of experience in building and maintaining professional, collaborative relationships;
- Demonstrated ability to express ideas clearly and effectively; and
- Preparedness to participate in an international exchange program including seriousness of purpose and flexibility.

*Please note: previous international experience is not required for this program. Preference is given to those who have not received U.S. Government professional development funding in the past.*

## **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).
- Completed applications must be submitted to IREX no later than **11:59pm EDT on June 15, 2011**. At that time, the online application system will no longer permit submission. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

***RECOMMENDATIONS***

All applicants must include one completed electronic recommendation form from your principal or superintendent. This form is provided and distributed through the online application system.