

2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program for U.S. Teachers (Fulbright DA)

Singapore Country Profile

Partner organization: [U.S. Embassy Singapore](#) in cooperation with Singapore's [Ministry of Education](#)

Eligible program dates: January through early June. All programs begin in January, but program lengths may vary.

Language requirement: None. Singapore has four official languages—English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil. The language of instruction is English, making English the top spoken language, with Mandarin a close second.

Host institution: Fulbright DA fellows are placed at the Singapore Ministry of Education's National Institute of Education and rotate at local schools.

Dependent Information: An allowance of \$2,000 per eligible dependent will be provided as part of the Fulbright DA grant. Dependents may join the Fulbright awardee in Singapore but are not supported for education-related expenses. Children who are not Singaporean citizens or Permanent Residents are not eligible to attend local schools. There is a large network of international schools, but tuition is high. Visitors with school-aged dependents will find strong networks of homeschool families or may pursue distance education courses.



Country Overview

The British founded modern Singapore as a trading colony in 1819. It joined the Malaysian Federation in 1963, but was ousted two years later and became independent in 1965. Singapore's spirit of innovation and resilience allowed it to become one of the world's most prosperous countries with strong international trading links and a robust education system known as one of the best in the world. Its population is 5,995,991, with approximately and additional 1.3 million foreign workers residing on the small cosmopolitan island annually. Singapore's ethnic breakdown is Chinese 74.3%, Malay 13.4%, Indian 9%, other 3.2%. There is a large, diverse expatriate community.

Educational System Overview

In recent years, the education landscape has shifted in order to prepare students for a quickly changing world economy. This requires a transformation in the education system that is innovative and responsive to new technologies and demands, and guides students in becoming holistic individuals and lifelong learners prepared to navigate future challenges.



Developing a Culture of Innovation and Creative Ability

Developing a culture of innovation and creative ability requires a paradigm shift where the over-emphasis on academic grades is balanced with a holistic education. The goal is to inculcate academic excellence while helping children discover diverse, unique strengths and providing support, time, and space to develop them whole child. The spirit of calculated risk taking and resilience is encouraged— where trying one's best and viewing failure as an opportunity to learn are seen as a natural progression towards success. Students are encouraged to develop a mind-set of pushing boundaries and pursuing innovative breakthroughs over time.

Creating Flexible, Differentiated Pathways for Our Students

Recognizing each student's unique strengths requires fluid and flexible teaching and learning. Understanding the interests and aptitude of students is essential. The goal is to help hone students' strengths by gaining essential knowledge and skills to flourish. Students who accelerate in their learning are encouraged, while those who require more scaffolding and time receive the necessary support. Ultimately, students are not held back, but are instead better supported in realizing their potential. Teachers must rely on a repertoire of teaching practices that will engage learners in every classroom.

Developing Individuals' Potential Throughout Life

Education and learning are lifelong pursuits. Education must impart skills, not just information and knowledge. Students need to develop a deep mastery of skills, and to acquire new ones to stay relevant. Lifelong learning is key. There is a strong mandate to promote and drive lifelong learning in Singapore even amongst adults. Singapore aims to cultivate a desire in our students to embrace opportunities to learn, unlearn and relearn new knowledge and expertise not only in school, but throughout life.

Strengthening Character and Values Education

Values and character education remain at the core of Singapore's education system. They anchor and guide students in navigating the uncertainties and challenges of the future. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a critical part of students' learning and prepares them to live and work as adults in the 21st Century. Students are given opportunities to put their social and emotional competencies into action through involvement in activities such as Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and Values in Action (VIA) programs. We believe that our students can better internalize core values through experiential learning and deep reflection.



Education and Career Guidance

Many youth choose paths in higher education based on grade performance. Students need guidance to discover themselves, their strengths, and interests. Singapore's goal is to strengthen the Education and Career Guidance in the education system. It is critical to sustain and foster an environment where students discover their interests and are guided in their choice of subject discipline and eventually, career options. These structures will help students to make informed decisions about education pathways, vocations, and career choices.

Possible topics of interest to U.S. educators:

- Entrepreneurship and Business
- Innovative Curriculum Development
- Intercultural Cooperation
- STEM Education
- Language Learning

