

2017-2018 PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is one of numerous Fulbright programs established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former United States Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. Fulbright grants are awarded to students, researchers, scholars, and teachers from the United States and to foreign nationals to study, teach, or conduct research. Since its inception in 1946, more than 370,000 “Fulbrighters” have participated in the Fulbright program. The 2017-2018 program will mark the ninth year of the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program. Participating countries for international applicants are Botswana, Finland, India, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, the Palestinian Territories, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching (DA) Program is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE) on behalf of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State. IIE is responsible for day-to-day management of the DA program. IIE also works closely with international colleagues at Fulbright Commissions and U.S. embassies or consulates abroad to recruit, interview, recommend for selection, place, orient and monitor teachers from participating countries. Working together, ECA, IIE, Fulbright Commissions and U.S. embassies and consulates select teachers from the United States and other countries who will be provisionally recommended to participate in the DA Program based on their teaching experience, academic training, inquiry project proposal, and professional experience. Final selection of Fulbright grantees is made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) upon recommendation by review panels in the United States and at binational Fulbright Commissions or U.S. embassies and consulates abroad. The FSB is an independent, presidentially appointed board that has oversight responsibility for all Fulbright academic exchange programs and that makes final selections of all persons who participate in Fulbright programs.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Grantees who are selected to participate in the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program will:

- 1) Enroll in advanced undergraduate or graduate level classes at a U.S. host university for the 2017 fall semester;
- 2) Observe classes, team-teach and/or conduct seminars or workshops in local schools for U.S. teachers and students;
- 3) Design and complete an inquiry project of direct relevance to their educational practice;
- 4) Participate in an online professional learning community with other participants to share best practices and other elements of host and home country educational systems; and
- 5) Engage in other teaching related activities.

Upon return home, grantees will be expected to share the knowledge and experience gained on the program with teachers and students in their home schools and within their communities.



Program Details:

University Coursework: Each international grantee will audit up to two courses at the U.S. host university. University staff and an assigned university faculty advisor will recommend courses that best meet each grantee's program goals, align with his/her inquiry project, and support the enhancement of his/her professional educational practice. The host university will provide coursework on a wide range of topics, including curriculum development, second language education, comparative education, leadership, and teaching methodologies from which participants can choose.

University Faculty Advisor: In addition to receiving support and advising from host university program staff, each international grantee will work closely with a faculty advisor. The advisor will be a faculty member or other individual who will serve as a content area expert in the international grantee's area of interest, and will provide feedback and guidance throughout the development of the project. International grantees will also be paired with one or more mentor teachers in a local U.S. primary or secondary host school.

Inquiry Project: Throughout the semester at the host university, each international grantee will participate in professional development activities that support the completion of an inquiry project. University program staff and the assigned faculty advisor will assist the grantee throughout the semester in refining and completing the project.

Local School Placements: International grantees will be placed in a local primary or secondary school during their time in the U.S. where they will observe classes, team-teach, lead workshops or master classes, and/or give presentations for teachers and students on varied topics (e.g., their content area, their home country educational system). Grantees will be paired with one or more host school mentors at their assigned school to help them learn about the U.S. educational system and to serve as a guide during their school placements. Host university staff will identify schools located near the university campus that are appropriate to each grantee's interests and area of expertise.

Online Professional Learning Community: Each international grantee will participate in a virtual community with other international and U.S. participants to collaborate and share best practices about education in the participating countries.

Weekly Seminars: International grantees will participate in a weekly seminar at their host university featuring presentations and discussions led by university staff, faculty members, and invited guests. The seminar topics will focus on trends and current issues in education such as curriculum, instruction and learning, assessment, technology, student motivation, teacher preparation and professional development, diversity, school leadership and educational policy. During the seminars, international teachers will also share their expertise, experience, and information about their home countries' educational system and teaching experiences.

Professional Development Grant (PDG): Each international grantee is eligible to apply for additional funding for professional development activities that support their program while they are in the United States. This funding is in addition to other grant funding. PDG funding is intended to enhance the program experience through attendance at a professional conference or workshop, traveling to conduct research at schools outside of their U.S. host university location, or by pursuing professional activities relevant to their project. The proposed activity should enhance the inquiry project and/or teaching area knowledge.

IMPORTANT DATES

Summer 2017 Pre-Program Orientation: Prior to arrival in the United States, international Fulbright Distinguished Teachers will participate in a required two week web-based seminar especially designed to orient them to the host university campus and academic offerings. The online seminar will provide opportunities to international teachers to learn more about university facilities, courses, programs, and faculty; information regarding housing, transportation, and areas of local interest will also be included.



August 2017 Fulbright Program Orientation Workshop in Washington, D.C.

This mandatory orientation workshop provides essential information about the program and will include sessions related to cross-cultural adaptation, inquiry project development, program logistics, and administrative details. International grantees will have the opportunity to meet other international participants as well as to establish connections with the U.S. participants. Orientation workshop attendees will be housed at a Washington, D.C. hotel. All costs associated with attendance are paid by the Fulbright Program.

Following the Fulbright Program Orientation Workshop in Washington, D.C., all international teachers will travel to their U.S. host university.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Travel: Roundtrip flight costs from international grantees' home countries to and from Washington, D.C. are paid for by the Fulbright Program. IIE staff will work with international grantees to make flight arrangements.

Housing: International grantees will live near the host university campus in housing that is arranged for them. Note: For international grantees who will be accompanied by family members, host university staff will assist the grantee to identify alternate on- or off-campus housing accommodations.

Note about accompanying family members:

- Participants may bring family members with them abroad for part, or all, of their time during their Fulbright Program. Please note that while in the host country, participants will spend the majority of their time participating in Fulbright Program activities and fulfilling the requirements of their Fulbright grant and should take this into consideration when making decisions about whether or not to bring family members with them abroad.
- Limited funding to offset the costs of dependents may be available. Should a grantee decide to take his/her family with them, most costs associated with the family members' stay in the host country (living expenses, housing, health insurance, etc.) will be the sole responsibility of the grantee. Please note that dependents must live with the grantee in the host country for at least 80% of the grant period to receive any available dependent funding. Participants can expect to pay up to US\$1500 or more per month in personal funds to cover housing and related costs for family members.

Finances: The Fulbright grant will pay program costs for the international grantee, except for incidental expenses. Each teacher will receive a Maintenance Allowance (MA) during the program to cover expenses such as supplies for classes, household items, personal items, and cultural and other activities. Also included in this total is a daily stipend to purchase groceries, meals at local restaurants, or food from on-campus dining services. Costs associated with housing, extracurricular activities, and other program-related expenses are paid in advance by the Fulbright Program.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM PARTNER INFORMATION

International Partner Organization

For more information, contact the administering organization in your home country. Contact information is on IIE's program website at www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org.

