

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

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the Fulbright TEA Program?**

The Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program is a **six-week non-degree, non-credit professional development program** based at a U.S. university. The program provides secondary school teachers with professional development to enhance their expertise in the field of education. The program contributes to improving education in participating countries and communities by preparing participants to serve as even stronger educational leaders who are equipped to apply and share their experience and skills with their colleagues and students upon returning home.

#### **What is the profile of an ideal Fulbright TEA candidate?**

Successful Fulbright TEA participants are current, **full-time secondary school teachers** of English, English as a Foreign Language (EFL), math, science, foreign language, social studies, journalism, communications, including special education teachers in those subjects, at institutions serving primarily a local population. Candidates must have completed at least **three years of full-time teaching** minimum with a preference for those who have completed at least five years of full-time teaching. Pre-service practicum years should not be included in the three-year minimum. Candidates should be planning to continue working in secondary education for at least five years after the conclusion of the program.

**What is included in the Fulbright TEA Program?**

The Fulbright TEA Program includes a variety of relevant **professional development** and **cultural activities**, general academic seminars focused on new teaching methodologies, student-centered learning, content-based instruction, lesson planning, and instructional technology training for teachers. In addition, the program also includes a practicum of at least 40 hours with a U.S. partner teacher in local secondary schools. Thematic based cohorts are also available in the program which focuses on gender education, environmental education, and media literacy.

**What are the benefits of the Fulbright TEA Program?**

Fulbright TEA participants will be able to foster positive interactions with Americans throughout their time in the United States, especially in American classrooms. All program participants have opportunities to observe, co-teach, and share their expertise in U.S. secondary schools.

Additionally, the program aims to enhance teaching skills, deepen understanding of the U.S. education system, and promote cross-cultural exchange.

**What are the grant benefits under this program?**

- J-1 visa support
- A Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO)
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.
- A Welcome Orientation and End-of-Program Workshop
- Academic program fees
- Housing and meals
- Accident and sickness medical coverage
- Transportation to local schools (as needed)
- A daily allowance for incidentals during the university academic program
- Travel allowance
- Opportunity to engage in alumni activities

**What are the components of the Fulbright TEA Program?**

Participants who are selected to participate in the Fulbright TEA Program will:

- Take part in tailored graduate-level seminars at a U.S. host university.
- Observe classes, co-teach, and share their expertise with U.S. colleagues in U.S. secondary schools.
- Engage in an online professional learning community with other participants to share best practices and other elements of host and home country educational systems; and
- Take part in other educational and cultural activities while on program in the United States.

Upon returning home, teachers will share the knowledge and experience gained on the program with teachers and students in their home schools and communities.

**I am a private school teacher, can I apply?**

- Teachers must primarily serve a local population in public or private schools of students in Form 1 to Form 6.

**Is there a preferred age for the Fulbright TEA application?**

There is no age limit. Participants that have five (5) or more years of service upon completion of the award are preferred.

**I had applied for a Fulbright TEA Program in the past but did not make it. Can I apply again?**

Yes, you may reapply. Please review the eligibility criteria.

**Participants that have participated in other exchange programs or have previous international professional development experience eligible for the Fulbright TEA program?**

Yes, but please note that preference will be given to qualified participants who have not previously received a Fulbright award or travelled abroad for study, teaching, research, or other employment.

**Are dependents allowed in this program?**

No. Dependents are not permitted to accompany participants on this six-week program.

**Can participants extend their stay or apply for additional funding?**

No, the program does not offer extensions or additional funding beyond the program period.

**Do I need to sit for the TOEFL exam?**

Only short-listed applicants are required to take the TOEFL exam. We will provide a voucher to register for the exam.

**Can I submit an IELTS score instead of TOEFL?**

TOEFL score is preferred.

**Do I still need to sit for the TOEFL exam if my field of study and educational qualification is in English?**

Yes, you will still be required to sit for the TOEFL exam.

**Do I need to get my principal's approval for the application?**

Yes, you will need to obtain approval from your principal for the application.

**Do I need to attach and submit all the required forms together with my application?**

Yes, you will need to submit all forms, provide all the supporting documents and answer all questions when you submit your application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**When do I apply for paid leave approval from the Ministry of Education (MOE)?**

You are required to submit your leave approval once you have been selected as a finalist for the program. Final selection results will come in August 2025 for both cycles. However, you are required to check with the Ministry of Education on the procedure prior to applying for leave.

**What will be my working status during the program?**

You will be required to refer to the Ministry of Education for further information.

**Post program, will I be bonded to my school and need to serve for a certain period of time?**

You are not bonded with MACEE post program, however, you are advised to check with the Ministry of Education on this if you are a public school teacher.

**Which kind of leave (cuti) do we apply when being accepted for this program?**

Ideally, you should request for Cuti Bergaji Penuh, however you are advised to check with the Ministry of Education on this.

**If selected for the program, when can I begin my fellowship in the U.S.?**

Depending upon the fellowship category, Fulbright TEA participants will begin their grants in Spring (January 2026) or Fall (September 2026).

**Will the program cover program-related travel expenses?**

Yes. Participants will be reimbursed for round-trip travel expenses between their home city and the point of departure for the U.S.

**When will I receive the reimbursement of the program-related travel expenses?**

Upon the arrival in the U.S., reimbursement for program-related travel expenses will be made.

**How can I apply for the Fulbright TEA Program?**

You can apply for the program via the MACEE website which is

<https://www.macee.org.my/awards-to-the-us/fulbright-teaching-excellence-and-achievement-program-tea/>