



2019 Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program

A program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State (ECA)

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why is the U.S. government interested in funding programs for citizens of Mozambique to study and receive training in the United States?

Answer: Individual exchange programs are one of the most effective methods of fostering mutual understanding and good relations between the United States and other countries. TEA will provide international teachers with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States.

Question: What is the profile of the ideal TEA candidate?

Answer: Successful TEA candidates are full-time secondary school teachers with a minimum of five-years teaching experience (not including pre-service practicum years) who demonstrate strong leadership potential and the ability to function well in an intensive and collaborative learning environment with teachers from around the world. Participants should be able to live and work closely with people from a variety of backgrounds and interact in a culturally sensitive way with students in U.S. secondary schools. Ministry of Education officials, full-time principals or educational administrators, full-time teacher trainers, university faculty, private English Language tutors, and teachers from schools primarily serving expatriates are not eligible. Teachers working in under-resourced communities will be given higher priority, as will applicants who have had few or no opportunities to travel to the U.S. Applicants who have recently participated in similar programs in the U.S. or other Western countries will be given lower priority.

Question: What funding does the TEA program provide?

Answer:

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation in Maputo;
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S;
- A welcome orientation in Washington, D.C;
- Academic program fees;
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals;
- Accident and sickness medical insurance coverage;
- Transportation to the teaching practicum school (if necessary);
- A daily allowance for meals and incidentals during the academic program;
- A book/professional development allowance;
- A baggage/shipping allowance(domestic and international);
- A closing workshop in Washington, D.C.; and
- The opportunity to apply for alumni small grants.

Question: Do participants receive an academic degree at the end of the program?

Answer: No. TEA is a non-degree, non-credit program. Participants will complete academic coursework at a U.S. educational institution, but will not receive academic credit that can be transferred toward a degree program. Coursework will include seminars on new teaching methodologies, curriculum development, lesson planning, and instructional technology.

Question: Do I need to take an English proficiency test in order to apply?

Answer: No. Only candidates nominated for the program must take an English proficiency test, and internet-based TOEFL (iBT) testing will be provided for them free of charge. However if you have taken an English proficiency test in the past two years (either the paper-based TOEFL, the TOEFL iBT, or the IELTS), please include a copy of your score report with your application materials.

Question: What are TOEFL and IELTS?

Answer: TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. Both are exams given to non-native speakers of English to evaluate their English speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension. Visit www.ets.org/toefl and www.ielts.org for more information on each.

Question: What is the minimum TOEFL (or equivalent) score required for participation in TEA?

Answer: Nominees must obtain a minimum score of 450 on the paper based TOEFL (45 iBT) or equivalent English language examination. A small group of no more than 20 participants with TOEFL scores between 425 and 450 PBT (38-45 iBT), or equivalent, will be accepted into a special cohort with additional English language training included in the TEA professional development program.

Question: What is the selection process for TEA and what are the main selection criteria?

Answer: TEA selection is made through a merit-based open competition:

- March 29: **Application deadline.** All eligible applications will be reviewed for technical eligibility. Semi-finalists will be notified in mid-April.
- Mid/Late April: Semi-finalists will be interviewed by a selection committee composed of U.S. Embassy representatives and alumni of U.S. government exchange programs.
- May 19, 2017: Finalists selected from this group will take the internet-based TOEFL in Maputo.
- June –September 2018: Nominees' Applications and TOEFL scores will be reviewed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the United States Department of State and the International Research and Exchanges Board in Washington, D.C.
- By September 2018 all candidates will receive final notification of their status. Due to the anticipated volume of applications received, we will not forward explanations to applicants not selected for the program. Finalists should expect to depart for their U.S. host institutions in January or September 2019.

TEA selection criteria:

- Preparedness for an intensive U.S. based training program;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in secondary education;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;

- English language skills adequate to live, study, and function independently in the U.S;
- Willingness and capacity to work collaboratively with international peers to foster a positive learning community for professional development; and
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively.

Applicants who have had few or no opportunities to travel to the U.S. will be given priority.

Question: How many nominations can the embassy send?

Answer: The U.S. Embassy strongly encourages all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria to apply. The TEA selection process is very competitive and a limited number of applicants will be selected for the program.

Question: Will travel funding be provided for applicants outside of Maputo Province?

Answer: Yes. The U.S. Embassy will provide airfare and hotel for top candidates from outside of Maputo Province to travel to Maputo for TOEFL testing. Nominees selected for the TEA program will also receive funding for travel for their visa interview and pre-departure orientation.

Question: What are the TEA Program regulations?

Answer:

- Fellows must return to their home countries immediately upon program completion. No exceptions will be made.
- Fellows will not be eligible for an immigrant visa to the United States for a period of two years after completion of the program.
- Fellows may not accept paid work while in the U.S.
- Family members may not accompany participants on program.
- No fellowship extensions will be given.

Question: How is TEA different from U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs like the Fulbright and Humphrey Programs?

Answer: TEA is a non-degree program open to current secondary school classroom teachers. Its goals are to enhance teachers' expertise, increase understanding of the U.S., create lasting relationships between U.S. teachers and the counterparts from around the world, and prepare participants to become teacher leaders. For more information on U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs, please visit the U.S. Embassy website at: <https://mz.usembassy.gov/education-culture/>

In case of any technical error or difficulties in the online application, please send a message to teaglobal@irex.org or ilep@irex.org to receive guidance from IREX.