

# Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)



Program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the  
US Department of State - Implemented by IREX



**Application Deadline: April 15, 2010**



**IREX**  
WWW.IREX.ORG



U.S. Embassy  
Bogota, Colombia  
Carrera 45 # 24B-27  
[InfoUSA-Colombia@state.gov](mailto:InfoUSA-Colombia@state.gov)

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## ***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.
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## *IREX Information*

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**.



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[WWW.IREX.ORG](http://WWW.IREX.ORG)

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## *The IREX Mission*

Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of over \$60 million and a staff of 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

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## *TEA Program Description*

- The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) will provide 154 secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States.
- The international participants will travel to the United States in two cohorts of 75-78 teachers each in spring or fall 2011 to participate in a 6-week professional development program at U.S. university.



# ***TEA U.S. Program Description***

(continuation)

- **The six week U.S. professional development program will include:**
  - Customized seminars and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, teacher leadership, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools,
  - A two week internship at a secondary school to co-teach with American teachers and work with students,
  - A program Closing Seminar where all participants will gather to share their U.S. experience and will share selected lesson plans.



# *TEA U.S. Program Description*

(continuation)

- In spring and summer 2011, approximately 80 U.S. teachers will reciprocate the visits of the international teachers.
- Each U.S. teacher will be hosted by a TEA alumni school in the participating country where they will team-teach and discuss best teaching practices, curriculum, and educational issues in the host country.
- The U.S. teachers' trip will be fully funded and will include visits to local schools, parent committees, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and local government offices.

## *TEA Small Grants*

- TEA alumni will have the opportunity to apply for follow-on (small) grants. Examples may include:
  - purchase essential materials for their schools,
  - offer follow-on training for other teachers, and/or
  - conduct other activities that will build on the exchange experience.

# ***TEA Program Provisions: Funding***

**The US fellowship is fully funded and provides:**

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation held in participants' home countries;
- 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 coverage;
- Transportation to the internship school (if necessary);
- A book/professional development allowance; and
- A Closing Seminar.

# *Technical Eligibility Requirements for TEA*

**Eligible applicants must be:**

- **secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in either:**
  - ◆ English as a Foreign Language;
  - ◆ Social Science (social studies, civics, geography or history), or
  - ◆ Math and Science



- **Be citizens of and residents in eligible TEA countries;**
- **Have proficiency in written and spoken English (TOEFL of 450);**
- **Continue teaching for at least five years after completion of the program; and**
- **Have submitted a complete application.**

# ***TEA Technical Eligibility Requirements***

(continued)

## **Applicants are ineligible for TEA program if they:**

- Are former participants of ILEP, TEA, Partners in Education (PiE) or the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program
- Have applied for an immigrant visa or political asylum in any country
- Are married to a citizen of countries other than the TEA countries
- Live and work outside the TEA countries

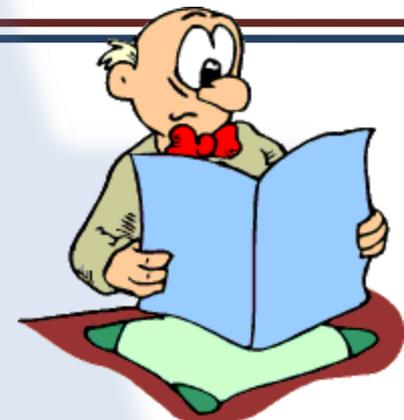
## *Alphabetical List of TEA eligible Countries*

Argentina	Egypt	Jordan	Russia
Armenia	El Salvador	Kazakhstan	Rwanda
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
Bangladesh	Georgia	Latvia	Thailand
Bulgaria	Ghana	Morocco	Turkmenistan
Cambodia	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Ukraine
Colombia	Honduras	Panama	Uzbekistan
Dominican Republic	Haiti	Peru	
	India	Poland	
		Romania	

# *TEA Program Regulations*

- Fellows must return to their home countries for two years, immediately upon program completion
- Fellows may not continue their studies in the U.S.
- Fellows may not work while in the U.S. (with the exception of unpaid internship)
- Family members may not accompany participants on program
- No grant extensions or exceptions to these regulations will be granted

## *TEA Selection Process*



- A merit-based open competition.
- All applications first reviewed for technical eligibility
- Top candidates will be interviewed by an interview panel and will also take the institutional TOEFL examination (or other compatible examination).
- Highest rankings = Program Nominees

## *TEA Selection Criteria*

- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in the field of secondary education;
- Demonstrated leadership potential;
- Professional and educational experience and achievements;
- Potential for developing long-term linkages between U.S. and home country educational institutions and schools;

# ***TEA Selection Criteria***

*(continued)*

- Preparedness (including maturity, flexibility, and ability to function independently) for an intensive U.S.-based training program.
- Ability to express ideas clearly and effectively; and
- English language skills adequate to develop lesson plans, conduct research, audit classes in U.S. host universities, and team-teach in U.S. schools (**a minimum score of 450 on TOEFL exam is required for TEA program participation**).

## *TEA Semi-finalists*



- Semi-finalists notified in April/May 2010
- Must take Institutional TOEFL exam and be interviewed in English in their home countries by June 2010 .
- Interview panelists consist of US educators, program alumni and US embassy representatives

# *TEA Finalists*



- Finalists and alternates notified in September 2010
- Other applicants notified of results in late fall 2010
- Finalists must attend a pre-departure orientation in their home country
- Dates for Program in the United States
  - **Cohort I: February - March 2011**
  - **Cohort II: September - November 2011**

# *TEA Applications*

Please contact the  
Information Resource Center  
at [InfoUSA-Colombia@state.gov](mailto:InfoUSA-Colombia@state.gov)

# *TEA Application Guidelines*

- Only complete application packages accepted
- A completed application includes all elements listed below. You may submit your application to the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country electronically or in paper form in the following order:
  1. Application,
  2. Completed Institutional Support and Reference Form, and
  3. A copy of your passport (or photo identification).
- If you submit a paper application, it should be stapled. No other form of binding is permitted.
- Applications must be completed in English and typed or hand-written in black ink
- Include your full name and citizenship in provided space on the upper right-hand corner of every page
- Fill in all sections!

## ***Don't Forget to Attach:***

- Completed Institutional and Reference Form with Letter
- Submit English translations of letter and institution/reference support form if they are not in English
- A copy of your international passport (or other government issued photo identification).

# *Tips for Writing Personal Statements:*

## *The Do's*

- Address all three questions of the statement thoroughly
- Do a self-assessment before writing—know what you want to write about
- Use concrete examples
- Distinguish yourself
- Begin with attention-grabbing intro (quote, anecdote, etc.)
- End with restatement of theme or thesis
- Revise at least 3 times
- Write succinctly and to the point

# *Tips for Writing Personal Statements: The Don'ts*

- Don't stray from the statement topics
- Don't write an autobiography or resume in prose
- Don't try too hard to impress the reader
- Don't use clichés or generic statements
- Don't make excuses
- Don't make things up
- Don't begin with “My name is...” or “I was born in...”
- Don't be afraid to start over

## ***Submitting Applications:***

To : U.S. Embassy / Bogota, Colombia  
Carrera 45 No 24B -27  
Bogota, Colombia

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