



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

### **Turkish Pre-Service Teachers**

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**Program of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State**

**Implemented by IREX APPLICATION for Turkish**

#### **Pre-Service Teachers**

The U.S. Department of State and IREX (the International Research & Exchanges Board) announce an open competition for a program that will bring outstanding pre-service secondary-level school teachers to the U.S. for a professional development opportunity.

The TEA Program seeks to:

- Enhance pre-service teachers' understanding of best practices in teaching methodologies, lesson planning and the use of technology in the classroom;
- Create among educators a more nuanced understanding of the U.S.;
- Develop productive and lasting relationships and mutual understanding between U.S. and international teachers and their students; and
- Contribute to improving teaching in Turkey by preparing participants to serve as teacher leaders in their classroom and schools who can apply and share their experience and skills with their peers and students upon returning home.

**ELIGIBLE TEACHING DISCIPLINES:** English Language Teaching and English Language and Literature

**Please Return Complete Applications to:**

**TEA-Turkey@state.gov**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2010**

**For more information go to:**

<http://turkey.usembassy.gov/>

# Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)

## Turkish Pre-Service Teachers

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### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) provides international teachers and pre-service teachers with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge of the United States.

TEA is a bilateral exchange program that in 2010 will provide 156 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 a six-week professional development program hosted by a U.S. university. The TEA program for this year will also include 22 pre-service teachers from Turkey in the summer of 2010.

The international in-service teachers will travel to the United States in spring or fall 2010. Their program will include customized seminars and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The 6-week program also includes a 2-week internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with American teachers and students. Trips to U.S. cultural sites and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

The TEA program allows for U.S. teachers to travel to participating countries to be hosted by a TEA international alumnus. The two week visit includes co-teaching, delivering a peer professional development workshop, and experiencing the culture of the host country.

TEA also provides follow-on grants opportunities to the international teachers to conduct service learning projects, to offer follow-on training for other teachers, or to conduct other activities that build on their exchange experience.

The TEA program for pre-service teachers from Turkey will be similar to the program outlined above. The focus of the program will be on building expertise in best practice teaching methodologies and techniques, assessment techniques, lesson planning skills, and teaching strategies for the home environment. Technology training in the use of computers for Internet, word processing and as teaching tools will also be offered. Where possible, time in a U.S. secondary school will be facilitated.

Pre-service teachers from Turkey will have the opportunity to apply for small grant funding for a project or workshop to help them share their U.S. experience with other pre-service or in-service teachers.

## **FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION**

### ***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.

### ***ABOUT IREX (INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & EXCHANGES BOARD)***

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. 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.

## **PROGRAM DATES**

- Application Deadline:**           **March 19, 2010**
- Semi-Finalist Interviews:**   **April 2010**
- Notification of Finalists:**   **April 2010**
- U.S. Program Dates:**           **August 1 – September 12, 2010**

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must:

- Be pre-service teachers in English as a Foreign Language
- Be citizens of and residents in Turkey
- Have proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum score of 500 on paper-based TOEFL or 61 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT)
- Be entering their final year of undergraduate study in academic year 2010-2011 or be starting a masters (MA) degree program that year. The program you are enrolled in as a full time student must qualify you to teach English in the public K-12 school system upon graduation.
- Teach for a minimum of five (5) years after completion of the TEA program
- Have met all eligibility requirements & submitted a complete application

Applications not meeting the above eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the selection committee. IREX reserves the right to verify all of the information included in the application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will immediately be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible.

Exclusions: Former participants of ILEP, TEA, Partners in Education (PiE), or the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program are ineligible to apply. If you have participated in other programs, please talk to the Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy in your country about your eligibility. Staff or families of staff at a US Post or Fulbright Commission are not eligible to apply. Current IREX employees and consultants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, and siblings) are not eligible to compete in any IREX-implemented grant programs, either as individuals or as the responsible party representing an institutional applicant. IREX does not discriminate against grant applicants because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other protected characteristic as established by U.S. law.

## **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

The TEA fellowship includes the following provisions. Additional costs or expenses are not covered under the terms of the fellowship.

- J-1 visa support;
- A pre-departure orientation held in Turkey;
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.;
- 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;
- A Closing Seminar in Washington, DC;
- The opportunity to apply for small grants.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA (NOT IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE)**

- Demonstrated commitment to teaching in the field of secondary education and English as a Foreign Language;
- 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;
- 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 and conduct research, (a minimum score of 500 on paper-based TOEFL or 61 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) is required for TEA program participation).

## **GENERAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

- Please answer all questions on the application.
- Please type or print legibly in black ink.
- If a question does not apply to you, please enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full, legal name as indicated on your official documents such as a passport or national ID card.
- Include complete, exact, contact information.

Deadline: March 19, 2010

### **A complete application must include the following:**

- A completed and signed application.
- A completed and signed Institutional Support & Reference Form
- Official university transcripts to date (through the most current semester).
- Copy of your passport.