

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM IN FRANCE

2010-2011

OVERVIEW

Teach English in France! Expand your cultural horizons and share your language and culture with French students! The Teaching Assistant Program in France offers you the opportunity to work in France for 7 to 9 months, teaching English to French students of all ages. Each year, nearly 1,500 American citizens and permanent residents teach in public schools across all regions of metropolitan France and in the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion.

This program is a joint initiative of the French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services Department of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Its goal is to strengthen English-language instruction in the French educational system through the establishment of a native speaker presence. The program also provides future teachers of French in the United States with excellent teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture.

DUTIES

Assistants are assigned a **12-hour per week teaching schedule** that may be divided among up to three schools. Classes are conducted in English. The teaching assistant may conduct all or part of a class, typically leading conversations in English. Duties may include serving as a resource person in conversation groups, providing small group tutorials, and giving talks related to American studies in English classes. Assignments vary depending on the school's needs, the assistant's abilities, and the educational level to which he or she is assigned.

PROGRAM DURATION

Three different contracts are available. All contracts begin **October 1, 2010**. 7-month contracts end April 30, 2011. 9-month contracts end June 30, 2011.

- **Elementary School (7 months)** – Children aged 8-11 years old. Assistant organizes oral activities on his or her own with small groups, or works alongside the teacher with the entire class present. Good level of French required.
- **Elementary School (9 months)** – Children aged 8-11 years old. Assistant is the sole English educator. Assistant teaches classes on his or her own and develops all lesson plans following national curriculum. Ideal for candidates aspiring to acquire elementary teaching or language teaching experience. Very good level of French required.
- **Secondary School (7 months)** – Students aged 11-18 years old. Assistant serves as a resource person in conversation groups, provides small group tutorials, facilitates English-language clubs, or works alongside the teacher with the entire class present. No prior teaching experience necessary. Proficient level of French required.

LOCATION AND PLACEMENT

Applicants may request the Académie (school district) in which they would like to be placed, however assignment to the region of choice is not guaranteed. The number of teaching positions available in Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon, Nice, Montpellier and Grenoble is very limited and placement in these regions is highly competitive. Applicants should be prepared to accept teaching positions in smaller communities.

STIPEND

Teaching assistants receive a gross monthly salary of €957.21. Mandatory deductions for health insurance and French social security are taken, resulting in a **net monthly salary of roughly €780** (approximately \$1,013). The stipend provides enough money to live the lifestyle of a typical French student. Assistants do not receive any additional support for travel to France or to support dependents. Personal funds are needed for the initial period of the contract.

HEALTH INSURANCE

American teaching assistants are covered by the French "Sécurité sociale" which covers 70% of medical costs, 35-65% of prescriptions, and 80% of hospitalization fees IN FRANCE. **The plan does NOT cover travel outside of France**, costs for returning to the U.S. for medical treatment, or repatriation of remains in the case of death.

Assistants are strongly encouraged to purchase travel health insurance or an international student/youth card that will cover medical expenses for emergencies that happen outside of France. This additional coverage also helps cover the assistant during the initial period of the contract as the assistant cannot benefit from immediate reimbursement for medical costs until he or she receives a social security number (the enrolment process can take several weeks to complete). The assistant is technically covered starting on October 1, but must pay out-of-pocket until he or she receives a social security number at which time he or she can be retroactively reimbursed. An individual policy is not required, but **extra coverage is highly recommended**.

HOUSING

Assistants are **responsible for making their own living arrangements**. Some schools are able to help their assistants secure housing or make arrangements for the first few weeks in France, but this is not guaranteed, so assistants should expect to find their own housing. The CIEP website offers a number of resources for assistants at www.ciep.fr/en/assistantetr/. The websites www.pap.fr, www.seloger.fr, and www.immostreet.fr also help future assistants learn what rent costs in various cities and regions of France. The Embassy and school districts in France can also provide suggestions during the summer on how and where to start looking for housing.

RENEWAL

American teaching assistants with a superior record of performance may apply directly to their school districts to renew their teaching contracts for a second year. Assistants may participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France a **maximum of two times**.

ELIGIBILITY

- **CITIZENSHIP:** Candidates must be American citizens, or foreign nationals in possession of a U.S. Green Card. French permanent residents of the United States are not eligible to apply.
- **AGE:** Candidates must be between 20 and 30 years old at the beginning of the program (i.e. on October 1, 2010).
- **EDUCATION:** Candidates must have completed at least two years of higher education by the beginning of the program (i.e. on October 1, 2010).
- **BACKGROUND:** Candidates must have completed the majority of their elementary, secondary and university studies in the United States.
- **LANGUAGE SKILLS:** Proficiency in French is required. French majors and minors are encouraged to apply. Candidates who do not have a major or minor in French may apply if they have developed at least a basic proficiency (~3 college semesters) in French and/or lived abroad in a Francophone country.

TO APPLY

The application for the 2010-2011 program is available online at <https://www.tapif.org>. The application deadline is **January 15, 2010**.

Applicants will be notified of selection in early April. Acceptance e-mails will specify the "Académie" (school district) to which the applicant is assigned. All placements are final. If accepted, awards cannot be deferred to the following academic year.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applicants must be **proficient in French**. Language skills are essential in facilitating work in the classroom and integrating into a new community. A personal statement in French and letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's French skills, attitude and work ethic are required.

The selection process favors applicants who have **experience teaching or working with children**, adolescents, and/or adults. Such experience is not necessarily required, however all applicants should demonstrate at least an **interest in education**.

Candidates must also possess the **skills to promote cultural understanding** between France and the United States. Previous experience living, working and/or traveling abroad is helpful in demonstrating this ability and appreciation of other cultures;

PRACTICAL TIMELINE

Fall-Winter: Candidate prepares and submits his or her application online.

Early April: Notification of selection is sent out by e-mail.

July-September: Assistant receives his or her contract in the mail specifying his or her location within the Académie. Assistant contacts school for practical information and obtains a work visa from French Consulate.

Mid-September: Assistant leaves for France only after securing his or her Teaching Assistant visa.

*Please note that work visas for assistants take between 1 and 3 weeks to be issued. Assistants must apply for their visas at their regional French Consulates in the United States. **Assistants should plan on being in the U.S. during the entire month of August and up through late September** to allow enough time to complete the necessary visa and work contract paperwork.*

For the application to 2010-2011 program, please visit:

<https://www.tapif.org>

Applicants should carefully read the application instructions before beginning the application.

Questions? E-mail: assistant.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr



Teaching Assistant Program in France
Embassy of France
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007