

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM IN FRANCE

THE PROGRAM

The French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services at the French Embassy offer approximately 1,500 teaching assistant positions in French primary and secondary schools as well as in various French teaching colleges – otherwise known as the “Instituts universitaires de formation des maîtres (IUFM) – in all regions of France and the DOM-TOMS to persons who fulfill the following requirements :

*You are an American citizen (or have a Green Card). Should you be in possession of a Green Card, you must have spent your high school years in the United States. French citizens holding an American Green Card are NOT allowed to apply to this program.

*You are between 20 and 30 years of age as of October 1 of the year you wish to go to France.

*You are currently pursuing (at least your third year of university) or have already attained a college degree.

*You are proficient in French. Students without a major or minor in French but with a basic proficiency (about 3 semesters) in French can apply. Although, if you have never taken classes, but have lived abroad in a francophone country, this is considered adequate.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

This is a unique opportunity to:

- spend between 6-9 months in France with a monthly stipend,
- have a privileged insight into contemporary France,
- master the French language through linguistic immersion,
- gain valuable teaching experience.

TASKS

You will be expected to teach 12 hours of English conversation classes per week.

STIPEND

You will be paid about 945€ each month. This means that after social security and health care are taken out, you have about 780€ a month to live on. You may not defer social security and health care costs. The stipend provides enough money to live the life-style of a typical French student. We suggest that you visit www.seloger.fr or www.colocation.fr to get an idea of rent in

various cities in France.

A PRACTICAL TIMELINE

*Fall-Winter:

The candidate prepares his or her application and mails it to the French Embassy in Washington D.C. before one of the **three deadlines: November 15, December 15 or January 15.**

*The month of May:

The candidate will receive a letter from the French Embassy in Washington D.C. about his or her acceptance. The letter will inform the student of which school district (“académie”) and age group they have been assigned to.

*July, August, September:

Once the assistant has received the contract (“arrêté”), which will specify his or her location within the académie, he or she should contact the school for practical information. The assistant also should go to the local French consulate in the United States to obtain the visa.

*Mid-September:

AFTER THE ASSISTANT HAS OBTAINED THE VISA, the assistant may leave for France.

*October 1st:

The assistant begins his or her assignment.

IMPORTANT

This program allows schools all over France to benefit from your English speaking skills. This means that some assistants may be placed in an urban setting, others in a suburban setting, and still others in a rural setting.

If you are accepted, please note the following information. Due to visa procedures, please plan to be in the United States, in the region that you list as your primary address, the summer prior to beginning the Assistantship so as to process your visa. You will need to visit your local French Consulate’s visa office in person or give yourself enough time to mail your visa application to the French consular visa office (usually about 2-3 weeks). **Some consulates require that applicants for a visa MUST apply for their visa in person. Please check their respective websites to verify the correct procedure.** Since the paperwork does not necessarily arrive until early September, please plan to be in the United States mid-September.

ARRIVAL IN FRANCE

Assistants are responsible for their transportation to France. The assistants must arrive before October 1st; however, before leaving the United States, they must wait for the proper documentation from France. This documentation will not arrive until the summer. The regional education authorities will hold an introductory course at the beginning of the assistant's stay. These free courses facilitate the assistant's integration and introduce them to their jobs in the schools. They are organized by each school district. The school district will contact you about this meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Assistants coming from outside the European Union do not qualify for Social Security before receiving their resident permit. In the interim (up to several weeks), American assistants must procure their own personal health insurance. We suggest that the assistant purchase his or her own health insurance the first three months. Furthermore, the insurance does NOT cover one's travels outside of France nor does it cover any medical travel costs for returning to the United States. It also does not cover the repatriation of remains. We, thus, highly suggest that you purchase travel insurance or purchase an international student/youth card that often covers aforementioned emergencies.

ACCOMODATION

American assistants are responsible for making their accommodation and residence arrangements. For more information, please visit the CIEP website (<http://www.ciep.fr/assistantetr/index.php>), which offers practical and pedagogical resources.

CONTACT

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