

Teachers for Vietnam Application



Building Bridges through Education

Teachers for Vietnam

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What is the mission of *Teachers for Vietnam*?

Teachers for Vietnam is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, founded in 2006, with the purpose of recruiting and sending teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) to universities and colleges in Vietnam. We seek to meet a growing need for English-language proficiency among Vietnamese students as their country continues its rapid economic development and integration into the global economy.

Teachers for Vietnam establishes contacts with institutions of higher learning in Vietnam, determines their particular needs for ESL instruction, and matches applicants with teaching positions appropriate to their backgrounds, interests, and (where possible) personal preferences.

For the current academic year, we intend to place teachers at universities in the Mekong Delta.

Applicants accepted into our program are expected to teach for a minimum of one academic year (September-June), with the possibility of renewing their contract for a second year.

Teachers selected for our ESL program are paid a modest salary by the hosting institution and receive free housing.

Application Requirements

Teachers for Vietnam welcomes a wide range of applicants, of all ages. Any person who meets the following eligibility requirements is encouraged to apply:

- Bachelor's degree;
- Experience in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) or a TESL certificate course sponsored by *Teachers for Vietnam* prior to departing for Vietnam;
- Native fluency in written and spoken English.

Applicants will have to travel to the New York-area or Seattle/Portland for a personal interview in the spring. If this is not possible, a Skype interview will be considered. In addition, candidates who are offered teaching positions are required to attend a weekend orientation program held in the spring.

Under the terms of their employment, teachers enjoy a modest, but adequate standard of living. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, teachers in this program have opportunities to get to know their students outside of class, visit them in their homes, and travel to other parts of Vietnam.

[Please note that knowledge of Vietnamese is not required for these teaching positions.]

Costs of the Program

- 1) \$50 non-refundable application fee
- 2) Transportation and overnight accommodations for trips to New York City area for interview and/or summer orientation

- 3) Vaccination and all pre-departure health-related expenditures (approximately \$150)
- 4) Vietnam visa application fees (approximately \$120)
- 5) Half the cost of TESL certificate course, if required of applicant (approximately \$500).

Teachers for Vietnam strives to make its teaching positions available to a diverse group of applicants. When possible, *Teachers for Vietnam* will offer loans to any person accepted into this program who cannot pay for the costs outlined above.

General Information about Recruitment and Placement

In addition to the salary and free housing provided by the host institution, *Teachers for Vietnam* offers teachers:

- An orientation program with information on travel, health, and visas, as well as cultural and current affairs;
- Group medical insurance for all teachers in need of such coverage, which includes emergency medical evacuation;
- Travel grants for transportation to and from Vietnam, as well as within the country and region during semester vacation. Airfare is to be arranged by the teacher.

Applicants may specify their preference for a particular location in Vietnam. *Teachers for Vietnam* cannot guarantee it will be able to honor such requests.

While it may be possible for two selected applicants to be offered positions at the same college or university, this cannot be guaranteed.

Calendar

- **Early May** Deadline for submission of application materials.
- **Mid-May** If selected, notification of interview date, time, and place.
- **End of May** Notification of first-round selection results. At this time, selected teachers must make a commitment to accept the position and to follow through on related commitments if accepted by the host institution. If first-choice applicants cannot make this commitment, alternates are contacted.
- **June** Finalization of placements in Vietnam.
- **Late August/ Early September** Departure of teachers for Vietnam. Teachers should arrive at their host institutions at least two weeks in advance of the start of classes.

Application Checklist

- \$50 application fee. Please make checks payable to Teachers for Vietnam and mail to P.O. Box 362 Salisbury, CT 06068
- Completed application form (this can be downloaded on our website)
- Two completed essays (instructions below)
- Two copies of your resume, including your current and permanent addresses and telephone numbers. Include any previous teaching/travel abroad/cross-cultural experiences.

- Copies of all college transcripts
- Two letters of reference, including contact e-mail addresses and phone numbers. One employer reference is preferred. Please ask your referees to comment on the personal qualities that will make you a good teacher in a foreign country.
- Scanned copy of currently valid passport information page (listing date of issue, passport number)
- One passport-size (2"x2") photo with name printed on the back

Please note that upon acceptance, an original copy of college diploma, police background report, and medical exam results may be required by some universities.

Essay # 1: Why Vietnam? (750 words or less)

In specific terms, tell us why you want to teach and live in Vietnam. What do you expect to gain from this experience? What are likely to be the major challenges and rewards of teaching English at a Vietnamese college or university?

Essay # 2: Adjusting to a Different Culture (500 words or less)

Living in Vietnam is, in many ways, very different from what you may have experienced in the United States. You will be away from family and friends, and without many of the comforts and conveniences one takes for granted in the U.S. To a large degree, you will need to be independent and proactive in fulfilling your teaching responsibilities, as well as in utilizing your free time wisely and productively.

Describe an experience that required you to make this kind of adjustment to new conditions and how you dealt with the displacement, unfamiliarity, and demands associated with this previous situation.

Please combine all application materials in a single PDF, if possible, and email to info@teachersforvietnam.org with “Teachers for Vietnam Application” in the subject line. Applications will not be considered complete until receipt of application fee and references.