

U.S. Department of State Teacher Exchange Program

Bringing the world to American classrooms

Key program elements

- International educators teach in schools ranging from pre-K through high school in the U.S. for up to 3 years.
- Teacher exchanges prepare educators to shape young people into agents of positive and lasting change.
 - A typical teacher exchange participant **influences at least 1,000 students and 50 colleagues** during his or her career, creating a **powerful multiplier effect**.
- International educators have a minimum of 2 years teaching experience and meet the educational standards of the state in the U.S. where they will teach.
 - They learn American teaching methodologies while bringing an international perspective to American classrooms.
- American students and teachers are given the opportunity to meet and learn from people from diverse backgrounds and a variety of nationalities, gaining a deeper understanding of new cultures and societies.

Benefits of International Teaching Exchange

International educators offer invaluable perspectives to primary and secondary students. Fostering positive images of different cultures, international teachers create significant advantages for American schools. The teaching community is an important arena for learning and interaction; critical communication skills are developed, as well as the mastery of specific subject areas.

Fostering people-to-people diplomacy

International educators help American students develop critical communication skills and multicultural tolerance. Schools benefit from a diverse faculty that provides different types of role models, allowing students to communicate effectively with a variety of people.

Through personal interaction with these international visitors, American students are able to grasp both similarities and differences between cultures. This international exchange creates hands-on opportunities for people of different backgrounds to revise stereotypes and prejudices. Direct interactions encourage cultural understanding, acceptance of difference and appreciation of alternate viewpoints.

Preparing American students for a global economy

Multicultural experience benefits American students of all socio-economic levels by preparing them for a world marked by cultural pluralism and international economic competition. Even if the student will not seek employment with an international company or a specifically international arena, comfortable interaction with a variety of cultures will be an invaluable skill in all types of work. Developing decision-making skills that take into consideration cultural variance will prove fruitful as the student maneuvers through an increasingly diverse business world.