



Teach USA

2021 HOST SCHOOL APPLICATION

Do NOT handwrite!

Thank you for choosing Cultural Vistas as your J-1 Teacher sponsor! Please complete ALL sections thoroughly. Incomplete phrases and brief responses will result in delays.

The prospective teacher must sign this application prior to signing any school contracts to demonstrate he or she has all the pertinent information necessary to make an informed decision about his or her participation in the program.

Send completed application to: teach@culturalvistas.org *along with your standard job description* for this position.

Note: We can approve up to three years initially and after that, you and the teacher can request a fourth or fifth year through a special process.

Participant Information

Teacher Full Name:

Country of Citizenship:

Email:

Proposed Start Date:

Proposed End Date:

First Day of School:

*Start date should be the first date teacher is expected to begin duties inclusive of any teacher orientations. *End date should be the last day of school or last day teacher has duties for the school year.

Host School Profile

Name of district (if applicable):

Name of assigned school:

Type: Private Public Public, Charter Public, Native American Reservation

Grade levels: Pre-school Elementary Middle High

No. of Employees:

No. of Students:

School Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Website:

Phone:

Name of the organization which has accredited the school:

Has the school ever been on a state watch list, probationary status, etc.? YES NO

Supervisor Information

Name of Teacher's Supervisor:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Address same as above? YES NO

School Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

School Representative (responsible for communicating with Cultural Vistas, if different from supervisor)

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Address same as above? YES NO

School Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Attorney (will receive application related communication from us)

Name:

Firm Name:

Email:

Phone:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Teacher Selection

Date of teacher interview:

Name of interviewer:

Reasons for selecting this teacher:

How did you recruit this teacher? Did you engage any outside organization such as a staffing agency or recruiter? If so, please explain and include the name of the organization.

Proposed Position

Position Title:

Grade levels taught:

Subjects assigned:

Has your county or state identified a teacher shortage in the above areas? YES NO

This position is:

Full-time, min. 32 hours per week YES NO

Teacher of record* YES NO

**is responsible for delivery of instruction, lesson planning, grading and evaluation of all students in the class*

Position Requirements

Please list the specific type of U.S. licenses or credentials the teacher is required to obtain:

Must the license be obtained prior to starting employment? YES NO

If not, what is the deadline?

What are the costs and how much will the school cover?

Please list the specific tests the teacher is required to take:

Must the teacher pass the test(s) prior to starting employment? YES NO

If not, when is the deadline to take the test?

What are the costs and how much will the school cover?

Are there any other qualifications required to teach in your school?

What happens if the teacher does not pass required tests?

Will the teacher be subject to drug testing? YES NO

Is successful completion of a medical exam required in order to begin teaching? YES NO

Is successful completion of a police check required in order to begin teaching? YES NO

Compensation and Benefits

Annual Salary:

Hours per week:

Teacher will be paid: Weekly Biweekly Monthly Other

Estimated No. of overtime hours per week:

Overtime rate of pay:

Is the position, including duties, responsibilities, hours of employment, and compensation, commensurate with those of similarly-situated U.S. teachers in the school district or host school?

YES NO

Teacher Costs (this section is required to assist teacher with understanding full costs of program)

Estimated* Deductions: (per pay period)

Estimated tax deduction:

Mandatory retirement deduction:

Insurance deduction (teacher):

Other

Estimated* Expenses

Monthly Transportation Expenses:

Monthly Cost of Housing:

Monthly Cost of Food:

*Not exact, range is fine

Available Transportation Options:

Car is necessary

Employer provided

Other

Public Transportation
(can fully enjoy the community, not just commute)

Benefits

Please describe any other benefits the school will provide at NO COST to the teacher.

Please describe any housing OR housing assistance provided by the school. Type, proximity to school, single or shared, furnished/unfurnished, utilities included and all associated costs or how you will assist the teacher locating safe, convenient and affordable housing.

Please explain any funding, resources or assistance you can provide related to the teacher’s dependents joining him or her in the U.S.

Teaching Position Details

Describe the type of class to which the teacher is likely to be assigned (grade level, gifted and talented, etc.), estimated class size, and major curriculum objectives for this teacher’s subject and grade. Explain some of the concepts and skills this teacher will be expected to help students acquire.

Give an overview of the types of professional development or additional learning opportunities, activities and projects that will be available to the teacher.

Describe how often and by whom the teacher will be evaluated (regular progress reports and/or periodic reviews) including what happens if performance standards are not met.

What are the goals and objectives for the TEACHER to achieve during the program?

What are the goals and objectives for the SCHOOL in hosting this teacher and participating in the Exchange Visitor Program?

Teacher Orientation

Briefly describe the socioeconomic environment and community of the area in which your school is located.
(Example: The school is in a suburban county between two major East Coast cities. The semi-rural areas of the county are undergoing rapid residential development. Our students' families come from lower and middle income levels from more than 40 different countries and English is a second language for approximately 30% of our students.)

Describe the orientation program at your school. What can the teacher expect in the first days such as workshops, meetings, tours, mentor programs or other administrative proceedings?

Explain how the school will assist the teacher in orienting to the community and settling in. Ex. locating housing, grocery stores, getting a Social Security number, establishing a bank account; providing brochures of local attractions, maps of public transportation systems, etc.

Cultural Activities

- 1) Describe activities the school will organize to expose the teacher to U.S. culture.
- 2) Give specific examples of unique activities in the community/local area the teacher can do.

Visa Requirements: The teacher is required to plan and conduct two types of activities within the community and school 1) sharing his or her culture 2) connecting U.S. students with students in the home country. How will your school support the teacher in completing this?

Billing Details

Choose below which party is responsible for the fees listed. See next page for more details on Insurance.

	Teacher	School
Fees		
Administration Fee (Includes MER Insurance)		
One Year: \$1,750		
Two Years: \$2,575		
Three Years \$3,400		
Cultural Vistas Standard Insurance: \$576/yr		
Cultural Vistas Enhanced Insurance: \$1,056/yr		
SEVIS (DHS Mandatory Fee): \$220		
Expedited Application Fee: \$500		
Dependent Visa Document (includes all J-2): \$500		

Who at the school should receive the invoice?

Name:

Email address:

J-1 Teacher Insurance

Teachers are required to purchase Cultural Vistas' insurance or an option we provide prior to approval of the program for at least the first year. J-1 and J-2 Dependents are required to have insurance coverage that meets the federal regulations below. If your school is able to offer coverage that meets federal requirements, the teacher may be able to switch later. Teachers are free to choose both coverages to suit their needs. Coverage must be continuous with no breaks including summer break.

Pursuant to 22 CFR Part 62 Exchange Visitor Program Regulations, Minimum coverage must provide:

1. Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness;
2. Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000;
3. Expenses associated with the medical evacuation of exchange visitors to his or her home country in the amount of \$50,000; and
4. Deductibles not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness.

Insurance policies secured to fulfill the requirements of this section:

1. May require a waiting period for pre-existing conditions that is reasonable as determined by current industry standards;
2. May include provisions for co-insurance under the terms of which the exchange visitor may be required to pay up to 25% of the covered benefits per accident or illness; and
3. Must not unreasonably exclude coverage for perils inherent to the activities of the exchange program in which the exchange visitor participates.

Any policy, plan, or contract secured to fill the above requirements must, at a minimum, be:

Underwritten by an insurance corporation having an A.M. Best rating of "A-" or above; a McGraw Hill Financial/Standard & Poor's Claims-paying Ability rating of "A-" or above; a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of "B + " or above; a Fitch Ratings, Inc. rating of "A-" or above; a Moody's Investor Services rating of "A3" or above; or such other rating as the Department of State may from time to time specify;

Federal, state or local government agencies; state colleges and universities; and public community colleges may, if permitted by law, self-insure any or all of the above-required insurance coverage.

School System Obligations and Responsibilities

Read all of the statements below and sign the application to indicate acceptance and agreement. In order for Cultural Vistas to approve a participant to teach in your school district under Cultural Vistas sponsorship, you must accept the responsibilities and obligations listed here. Your signature means that you understand and agree to the conditions as stated. This is considered a binding agreement between Cultural Vistas and your organization.

I certify that this teacher satisfies any teaching eligibility standards set by the state to include any criminal background or other checks as well as any required teaching licenses.

I certify that this teaching position, including duties, responsibilities, hours of employment, and compensation, are commensurate with those of similarly-situated U.S. teachers in the school district or host school where the exchange teacher is assigned to teach.

I certify the position is full-time with a minimum of 32 hours per week of teaching duties as teacher of record including lesson planning, curriculum development, grading, and field trip planning for students and that this teacher's appointment is temporary, even if the teaching position is permanent, and does not lead to tenure.

I affirm that this application and teacher syllabus truly reflect the content of the offer being extended to the international exchange visitor participant. I have shared all of the information in this document with the prospective teacher.

I understand that Cultural Vistas, and not the school or school district that I represent, is the legal sponsor of this program and of this exchange visitor. I agree to respond to any requests by Cultural Vistas concerning my organization's participant(s) in a timely manner and to complete any paperwork, including program evaluations, as required by Cultural Vistas.

I certify that sufficient classroom space, equipment, and guidance will be provided to help ensure the teacher's success.

I understand the host school I represent is responsible for abiding by all applicable federal, state, and local labor and wage laws including the Fair Labor Standards Act and that teacher exchange visitors will comply with collective bargaining agreements.

I agree to immediately notify Cultural Vistas by phone or e-mail of any circumstances that differ from the statements made in this application. Any changes that affect the participant and accompanying dependents will be submitted to Cultural Vistas in advance for approval. Such changes include, but are not limited to, school assignment, length of program, and wages paid.

To the best of my knowledge, the participant intends to enter the United States for a teaching program and does not intend to abandon his/her non-immigrant status. I will not encourage nor assist the exchange visitor participant to stay in the United States beyond his/her program end date, which is the end date shown on the Certificate of Eligibility document governing the participant's admission and stay in the United States. I certify that I will not assist in any way to help participant change visa categories.

I understand that Cultural Vistas may visit my school, by appointment, to discuss the progress of the teaching assignment with the participant and his/her supervisor.

I understand that Cultural Vistas has the right to withdraw sponsorship from any exchange visitor participant who does not comply with program or visa rules or whose employing school/district does not comply with program or visa rules, compelling that participant to leave the country. If a situation of irreconcilable differences arises between the exchange visitor and the school, Cultural Vistas may try to replace the teacher but is not obligated to do so.

I understand the participant takes part in the program at his or her own risk and of his or her own volition. Cultural Vistas and its partner organizations cannot be held liable under U.S. law, the law of the participant's home country, or the law of the country or countries in which the program takes place for any damage or injury, such as injury to persons or damage to property, suffered or caused by the participant in the course of the program.

I understand that Cultural Vistas and its partners undertake a variety of activities to adequately prepare participants for their program abroad, including, but not limited to: information on health and safety issues in the host country, insurance issues, housing and accommodation, visa and residency requirements, political and cultural conditions, roles and responsibilities of partners and host companies, and select laws specific to the United States. Beyond this preparatory information, a range of issues related to a participant's experience can occur and are beyond the control of Cultural Vistas and partners. **Cultural Vistas and its partner organizations cannot:**

- Guarantee the safety of participants or eliminate all risks from the participant's environment while in the United States;
- Prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous or unwise activities;
- Assure that home-country standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for a participant;
- Assume responsibility for the actions of persons not employed or otherwise engaged by Cultural Vistas, for events that are not part of the program, or that are beyond the control of Cultural Vistas and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.
- Bear liability for any financial obligation that the participant may incur due to lack of adequate insurance coverage outside of any program-provided insurance;
- Assure that home-country cultural values, norms, and laws will apply in the United States.

I hereby attest that I have read and understood the Conditions of Participation and Liability Information listed above, and I accept them as binding for the duration of the program. I acknowledge and accept the limitations to the liability of the administering organization as listed above. I hereby release Cultural Vistas, Inc., its officers, directors, agents, partners, representatives, successors, and assignees from any claims and causes of action, heretofore or hereafter arising, known or unknown, by reason of violence or natural disasters affecting me or my property while participating in this program.

I agree that arbitration is the required and exclusive forum for the resolution of any and all disputes between me and Cultural Vistas, Inc., in accordance with the arbitration agreement posted online at <http://culturalvistas.org/legal#arbitration-agreement>.

I attest that I have read and understand the information given above and certify that all statements made by me in this application are true and correct.

Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

Teacher Acknowledgement

I confirm I received this application prior to signing any school contracts.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

**Send completed application to: teach@culturalvistas.org
along with your standard job description**