

# The French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services at the French Embassy

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## Teaching Assistant Program in France 2010–2011

### Description

The French Ministry of Education and the Cultural Services Department of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. offer approximately 1,500 teaching assistantships each year for American citizens and permanent residents of the United States to teach English in French schools. Assistants may work in primary schools or secondary schools. Positions are located in all regions of France and in the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion.

The joint initiative between the Embassy of France and the French Ministry of Education aims 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.

### Tasks

Assistants are assigned a 12-hour teaching schedule that may be divided among up to three establishments. 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:

- 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 creates 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/Placement

Applicants may request the city or region in which they would like to be assigned, however placement in region of choice is not guaranteed. The number of teaching positions available in larger metropolitan areas, such as Paris, Lyon, Strasbourg, Nice and Montpellier is limited. Applicants should therefore also be prepared to accept teaching positions in smaller communities.

### Stipend

Teaching assistants receive a gross monthly salary of €952.45 from which mandatory deductions for health insurance and French social security are taken, resulting in a net salary of roughly €780 (approximately \$1,013). The stipend provides enough money to live the lifestyle of a typical French student. Teaching 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 grant.

### Health Insurance

Assistants coming from outside of the European Union must apply for their "numéro de sécurité sociale" (social security number) in order to qualify for French health insurance. As the application process takes several weeks, the assistant will not be covered during the initial period of the grant. Please also note that the program's health insurance, once in effect, does NOT cover travel outside of France, travel costs for returning to the United States for medical treatment, or repatriation of remains in the case of death. Assistants are therefore strongly encouraged to purchase travel health insurance or an international student/youth card that will cover medical expenses during the initial period of the grant, and for emergencies that happen outside of France.

### Living Arrangements

Assistants are responsible for making their own living arrangements. The CIEP website offers practical and pedagogical resources at [www.ciep.fr/assistantetr/index.php](http://www.ciep.fr/assistantetr/index.php). The websites [www.seloger.fr](http://www.seloger.fr) and [www.colocation.fr](http://www.colocation.fr) also help future assistants learn what rent costs in various cities and regions of France.

### Eligibility

- 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.
- Candidates must be between 20 and 29 years of age at the time of application.
- Applicants must have completed at least two years of higher education by October 1, 2010 (i.e. before beginning the program, if selected). Applicants must have also completed their majority of their elementary, secondary and university studies in the United States.
- Proficiency in French is required. Applicants who do not have a major or minor in French may apply if they have developed at least a basic proficiency (~3 semesters) in French and/or lived abroad in a Francophone country.

### Evaluation Criteria

Applicants must be proficient in French. Language skills are essential in facilitating work in the classroom and integrating into a new community. 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.

**Program Duration**

Three different contracts are available: Elementary School – 7 months; Elementary School – 9 months; and Secondary School – 7 months. All contracts begin October 1, 2010.

Awards cannot be deferred to the following academic year.

American teaching assistants with a superior record of performance may apply to renew their teaching contracts for a

second year. Assistants may participate in the Teaching Assistant Program in France a maximum of two times.

**Application Deadline**

January 15, 2010

**Practical Timeline**

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

Mid-April: Notification of selection is sent out by e-mail. Acceptance e-mails will specify the "académie" (school district) to which the applicant is assigned.

July-September: Assistant receives his or her contract ("arrêté de nomination") directly from the school district specifying his or her location within the académie. Assistant then contacts school for practical information and goes to his or her regional French consulate in the United States to obtain a visa.

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

For the 2010-2011 Application to the Teaching Assistant Program in France, please visit:

**“Assistantship Program” under “Higher Education” at [www.FrenchCulture.org](http://www.FrenchCulture.org)**

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



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**RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**

**Teaching Assistant Program in France**

Embassy of France

4101 Reservoir Road, NW

Washington, D.C. 20007

[assistant.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:assistant.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)