

Teaching in Taiwan

Special Opportunity: *The Ministry of Education in Taiwan is recruiting teachers for travel to Taiwan in August 2013. These placements are for 11 months, returning to the United States in June 2014. The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 5, 2013.***

Q: What is the Teaching in Taiwan program?

A: This program provides Ohio elementary and middle school teachers the opportunity to teach English to students in Taiwan for one academic year.

Q: When would I go to Taiwan? How long is the contract?

A: Teaching contracts are from 10 to 11 months, depending on your placement. The Taiwanese school-year is similar to Ohio's and would require teachers to travel to Taiwan in early August 2013.

Q: What would my responsibilities be in Taiwan?

A: Each Ohio teacher will be paired with a Taiwanese classroom teacher. In addition to providing English language instruction, teachers will work with Taiwanese educators to develop curriculum, prepare lesson plans and teaching materials, conduct classes, and evaluate student progress.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: Ohio teachers with one of the following credentials may apply to participate:

- Elementary certification in K-3, K-8 or 1-8;
- Certification in foreign language or reading;
- Early childhood license;
- Middle childhood license with a reading and language arts concentration;
- Multi-age license in bilingual education, foreign language or TESOL;
- An endorsement of a teacher license in bilingual education, literacy specialist, middle childhood generalist, reading or TESOL;
- Pass a health examination, and have no criminal record.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Complete the application packet available from the website. Select three people to serve as references and give each a copy of the reference form from the application packet to complete and return to you. All application materials, including references and a resume, are due **April 5, 2013.**

Q: How many Ohio teachers will be accepted for the program?

A: Traditionally, Ohio selects three to four teachers.

Q: How will I be compensated for my work in Taiwan?

A: The Taiwanese government will provide Ohio teachers with housing stipends and wages. Monthly wages will be dependent on teaching experience and level of education, according to the following schedule (conversion to U.S. dollars is based on the current exchange rate and is subject to change):

- *Holders of doctoral degrees: NT 73,025~91,420 = US \$2,434– \$3,047*
- *Holders of master degrees: NT 69,965~86,820 = US \$2,332 – \$2,894*
- *Holders of bachelor degrees: NT62,720~78,045 = US \$2,090 – \$2,601*

Q: Will I have to buy a plane ticket?

A: The Taiwanese government will provide each teacher (and his/her spouse or child) with a round-trip plane ticket to Taiwan.

Q: What kind of documentation will I need to travel to and work in Taiwan?

A: You will need a current passport, visa and work permit. It is recommended that all applicants proceed to apply for a passport. It can take several (8-10) weeks to receive a passport once documentation has been submitted.

Q: What if I am selected and have signed my contract with the Ministry of Taiwan, but decide not to go after all?

A: If, for any reason, a teacher cancels after they have signed a contract and the Ministry of Education purchased on confirmed a plane ticket, the teacher must pay the cancellation fee for the plane ticket (if the ticket has been confirmed) provided by Taiwan's Ministry of Education.

Q: How does a year in Taiwan affect a teacher's job status in Ohio?

A: As an employee of a school district in Taiwan you would not be paying into STRS. You would need to work out a leave of absence with the district where you have a contract if you plan to return to that job after teaching abroad.

Q: Would a teacher need to resign or request a year's leave?

A: You need to talk to your school district since hiring decisions are made at the local level.

Q: Is a school district obligated to keep your job for your return?

A: It depends on the arrangements that you make with them.

Q: What about contributions to STRS?

A: See above. If you secure a leave of absence from your district and return to the same district, you can purchase the year you were away by making monthly

payments equal to what you would have paid had you remained in the district. You would have up to two years to do this. For further questions, call STRS at (888) 227-7877.

Q: Does Taiwan provide health insurance?

A: Yes. It's about USD \$60 per month

Q: Are the American visiting teachers required to pay a Taiwan income tax?

A: Yes. Starting from 2012, all K-9 teachers in Taiwan have to pay income tax, including foreign teachers.

By reference to the Income Tax Act of the ROC, the only criteria for deciding the tax character of a foreign taxpayer is the 183-day rule (from January to December of each year), which means a person who physically presented 183 days and more in this country in a taxable year will be classified as a character of a tax resident and shall be withhold as such (5%) from the day of acquisition. On the other hand, a person who hasn't spent more than 183 days in a year is considered a non-resident and his withholding rate will be fixed at 18%. The host school in Taiwan will deduct from the salary every month. Any over withheld can be claimed back by filing Individual income tax return with the national tax administration through a refund procedure.

However, the actual rates/amount will be calculated by and depended on the guidelines of Taiwan's IRS. There is an example.

Q: Is there any Health Insurance System in Taiwan? How much should I pay?

A: According to the national health insurance system, each one has to pay average 1.47% of income for the health insurance monthly.

Q: Whom should I contact for more information about the Teaching in Taiwan program?

A: Contact Dwight Groce, Office of Curriculum and Assessment, Ohio Department of Education, at: dwight.groce@education.ohio.gov or (614) 387-3200.