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Belarus

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4 English Teaching Assistant Awards

Accepted Degree Levels

Bachelor's
Master's

Grant Period

9 Months

PDO

Mandatory

Grant Period

9 Months

The academic year at most institutions is from September 1 to June 30th.

Pre-Departure Orientation

Mandatory

All grantees are required to attend a pre-departure orientation in the United States in June or July as a condition of their grant.

Arrival Orientation

Candidate Profile

Well-rounded, articulate, fluent English speakers at all degree levels with an interest in international education and the initiative to teach conversational English will be considered. Candidates with degrees in English, education, or TEFL/applied linguistics are preferred. Successful candidates will not just be teaching English, but explaining the U.S. to local citizens who have little contextual understanding of America. Previous teaching experience is not required, but is helpful.

Ideal applicants are committed to community engagement outside the classroom, willing to lead and take part in extra-curricular activities and clubs. Successful ETAs are self-starters who are proactive, resilient and seek flexible solutions to challenges.

Accepted Degree Levels

Bachelor's

Master's

Foreign Language Proficiency

Required - Intermediate

Additional Information: Although all class teaching is in English, Russian language proficiency is necessary for daily communication. Knowledge of Belarusian is encouraged, but not required.

Placement Type

University/Post-Secondary Institution

Other Educational Institution

Grantees are placed primarily at universities, but may be placed in high schools or other venues where English language instruction is needed. Affiliation is often arranged at institutions outside the capital city of Minsk. Assignments will depend on the respective schools' needs and will consist of about 16-20 academic hours per week of teaching English under the supervision of an experienced English instructor, independently or with a co-teacher. Grantees will teach and will serve as a resource for conversation, vocabulary, and reading and writing courses. Grantees may also be involved with some educational advising and outreach. Extracurricular activities such as working with the school's English clubs, community and volunteer projects are encouraged.

Supplementary Project

Grantees are expected to engage in other activities related to their personal, career, and/or educational interests. This may be an independent study/research project or other activity that will not conflict with assigned responsibilities at the host institution. Applicants should include a brief description of their supplementary project in their Statement of Grant Purpose.

Dependents

Dependent support is available. However, an unmarried or a same-sex partner is not legally considered a dependent in Belarus, and therefore will not be able to obtain a long-term visa for the whole period of the fellowship, unless he/she has a job offer or plans to study at a Belarusian educational institution.

Additional Information

Belarus, a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, is bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Latvia and Lithuania to the northwest. It has an area of 207,600 square kilometers and a population of about 9.4 million. It is a beautiful country that has much to offer, including a rich historical heritage and a lively cultural and sports scene. The biggest treasure of the country is its nature. Much of the countryside is pristine with little or no human interference, as 40% of the country is covered with forests. Its strongest economic sectors are agriculture and manufacturing. The most dynamic and free market-oriented part of the local economy is the information technology sector, which offers highly skilled and well-paying jobs to young Belarusians.

With its people's warm hospitality and curiosity, Belarus is an appealing - if isolated - destination in the middle of Eurasia. While much of the region plunged into capitalism following the collapse of the USSR, Belarus followed its own path apart from the integration of the rest of the continent. More recently, Belarus has been taking modest steps to reach out to the West, including with respect to its system of higher education.

The system of higher education is governed by the Belarusian Ministry of Education and covers 42 public (State) and 9 private (non-State) higher education institutions that operate under unified standards of teaching, management, assessment and research. Most of the higher education institutions are in the capital city of Minsk. The academic year runs from September 1 through June 30 and is traditionally divided into 2 semesters, with the second semester beginning in early February. Fall semester lectures are usually scheduled between September and mid-December, and the spring semester between early February and May.

In May 2015, Belarus was awarded membership in the European Higher Education Area, conditioned on fulfillment of a road map emphasizing not only Bologna degree structures, but also academic freedom, university autonomy and democratic and civic values. Belarus took certain efforts to bring its degree programs into compliance with European standards, yet the Soviet Union's legacy is still apparent in the country's higher education sphere. These and other issues must be resolved before Belarus is made a full member of the Bologna process.

A Fulbright placement in Belarus is a great opportunity to explore this vibrant country, contribute to the development of its education system, and engage with partners across the country. Local people are genuinely interested in interacting with Americans.

Dependents

Dependent support is available.

Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy Website

<https://by.usembassy.gov/> (<https://by.usembassy.gov/>)

Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy Contact

Elena Karpovich (<mailto:KarpovichEX@state.gov>)

Additional Online Resources

U.S. Embassy Minsk Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/usembassy.minsk/>)

Official Website of the Republic of Belarus (<https://www.belarus.by/en/>)

BelarusFeed News Project (<https://belarusfeed.com/>)

World Travel Guide - Belarus (<https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/europe/belarus/>)



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