



MN Teaching Assistant Program

The **Minnesota Teaching Assistant Program** is for individuals with a desire to learn and share their culture. The key principles of the program are simple:

- Provide hands-on, entry-level teaching experience for international teaching assistants.
- Enable teaching assistants to experience U.S. cultural events & families.
- Recruit educated teaching assistants for U.S. host schools.

You, as a **Teaching Assistant (TA)** will have a pivotal role not only in the classroom but also within the school, community, and your host family. You will have a unique opportunity to live and learn in Minnesota, a vibrant mid-western state. While you are here, you will be given the chance to learn about: U.S. classroom management theory, Minnesota state culture and history, U.S. culture and history, and the English language. Experience this while refining your teaching skills to be brought back to your home country after the end of your program.

You will train in the classroom for approximately 32 hours per week under the guidance of an experienced teacher. You will gain valuable classroom experience with interactive training. You will also have an opportunity to experience Minnesota culture through structured and low-cost adventures that are arranged by your family or your host school.



Share your culture while gaining teaching experience



The Professional TA Experience

Observe: You will observe classes to gain understanding of how U.S. classrooms function. You provide assistance to the teacher, interact with the students and serve as an international role model.

Assist: After you gain familiarity through observation, you may be given increased responsibilities including occasional lesson planning and/or lesson execution, student interaction and limited classroom management. You will always be under the direct supervision of a teacher. You will not work independently or as a substitute teacher.

Cultural Exchange: You will be expected to give age-appropriate presentations about your culture and country in school. You will actively engage in learning U.S. and Minnesota culture through arranged events and your choice of activities.

Housing: You will be provided with free room and board with a U.S. host family in exchange for actively participating in family life and household chores. The host family will provide you with a private room and food in addition to the opportunity to experience U.S. culture. The host school recruits your host families and monitors your home stay experience.



TA Qualifications

- Must be 21 years or older
- Must currently be enrolled full-time in an academic institution (college or university) pursuing studies granting a teaching degree or have graduated no more than 12 months before the start date of the program.
- Must have a career goal in education.
- Must have sufficient proficiency in the English Language.
- Must be enthusiastic about sharing your culture and native language with U.S. students.
- Must have a positive attitude and be adaptable to new situations.



Your Host School

1. Housing

Your host school will match you with a host family. Host families may consist of U.S. families with children, individuals, single parents with children, grandparents, or anyone in the community who can provide a safe and suitable home away from home. Most importantly, host families should be interested in international exchange and open to other cultures.

- You will get a private bedroom but you may share a bathroom with other family members.
- You can live with multiple families but each family should host for a minimum of eight weeks to allow for some consistency.
- Host family information will be provided to you at least four weeks prior to the start of your program. This will assure you and your family that a safe home will be provided.



2. Mentoring and Support

The host school oversees the program both inside and outside of the classroom & assigns a staff member as:

Supervising teacher: This teacher acts as a mentor to you throughout the program, works closely with you to develop lesson plans and classroom activities; evaluates your performance and provides you with feedback.

School Coordinator: This person oversees the program as a whole; ensures program requirements are met; recruits host families and monitors situation at home; and assists you in establishing social contact inside and outside of school.

3. Wages

- Your host school will pay you a stipend of at least U.S. \$150 a month.
- You may tutor up to 10 hours per week.
- Other employment is not permitted.

4. Transportation

- To and from the nearest airport, train station, or bus depot upon U.S. arrival and departure.
- Daily transportation to and from host school.

TA Program Expenses

- SEVIS fee: U.S. \$180
- Visa application fee: \$150
- Round trip-airline ticket to U.S. and all travel within the U.S.: Varies
- Health Insurance: U.S. \$70 per month (approximately).
- Personal spending money: U.S. \$150 per month

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