

EMPLOYMENT FOR FOREIGN TEACHERS IN THE UNITED STATES

The purpose of this text is to provide information on how to search and apply to teaching positions for foreign teachers in the US.

Neither the United States Government nor its Embassies abroad maintains a placement service for foreign nationals who wish to teach in the United States. There is no national Ministry of Education in the US and no central office or clearing house that provides information on the availability of teaching positions.

Each of the state governments, with considerable autonomy, establishes educational standards and procedures within its borders, and sets the conditions and requirements for the employment of teachers in its schools system. Information concerning vacancies may be obtained from local school officials, from State Departments of Education, from State Employment Offices, from some State Education Associations, and from commercial placement agencies.

To obtain certification you can contact [World Education Services](#) (WES), which is a not-for-profit organization specialized in foreign credential evaluations.

After procuring certification, means of obtaining actual employment differ from state to state. Many state departments of education maintain a placement bureau, but often it is the responsibility of each school district within the state to hire personnel for each school. In other states, each school is responsible for the hiring of their teachers. Thus, foreign nationals interested in gaining employment would have to apply directly to the school district or directly to individual schools. A list of both public and private schools can be obtained at <http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/>. This site allows search by state and city. You can also contact the state department of education to obtain a list of schools and school districts.

There are also a number of teacher placement agencies that will assist qualified individuals in finding a position for a fee, usually a percentage of the first year's salary. Some agencies state that they can only serve foreign nationals who already have a US work permit. A free listing of teachers' agencies may be obtained from the [National Association of Teachers' Agencies](#).

In most states, elementary and secondary school teachers who seek positions in private schools do not have to meet the same certification requirements as those applying for positions in public schools. Applications should be sent directly to the Headmaster of the school.

Teachers seeking direct employment from either a public or a private school would require job certification from the particular state's department of labor as well as temporary work permit from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Both state job certification and the federal temporary work permit can **only** be obtained with the assistance of the prospective employer. In both cases, the employer will have to prove that there are no US nationals available who could fill the position you are seeking.

TEACHERS MUST SECURE EMPLOYMENT AND SATISFY US VISA REQUIREMENTS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES

Information about visas is available at www.american-embassy.pt.

Additional resources:

- ❖ [Instituto Camões](#), Rua Rodrigues Sampaio, 113 – 1150-279 Lisboa
Tel.: 21-310-9100, Fax: 21-314-3987
- ❖ [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) - A hard copy of this book is available at the [Fulbright Information Center](#).
- ❖ The site <http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/htmls/states.html> gives you access to each State Department of Education's web site.
- ❖ The site <http://higherjobs.com/faculty/> announces faculty positions available at higher education institutions.

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