

Name of the program:

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL Program)

1. Program description

This award allows senior scholars to teach at the university level, engage in research or both, in the grantee's area of specialization. Grantees can also consult on curriculum, program and faculty development, and conduct seminars and workshops.

Grant activities include, but are not limited to:

- Teach undergraduate and graduate courses, with an emphasis on English language teacher training (refer to specializations below). Teacher training institutions will be prioritized.
- Support the development of new and expanding programs and curricula, material development, community engagement projects in support of academic objectives, testing and evaluation and program design and implementation.
- Conduct training programs and workshops for English language instructors.
- Assist with student-teacher advising, provide tutorials, supervise student practica and participate in seminars.
- Support the development of new bachelor's and master's programs by contributing to curriculum design, course planning, and pedagogical strategies.
- Final activities and courses to be determined in consultation with host institution and Fulbright Commission.

If applying for combined teaching and research, the research project should focus on some aspect of language or be related to the applicant's area of specialization. The final ratio of research to teaching is dependent on the project proposal and developed in conjunction with the host institution. The percentage of time dedicated to research should not exceed 40%. Applicants for a combined project are required to indicate the proposed ratio of teaching to research in the project statement.

In addition to being a prestigious academic exchange program, the Fulbright Program is designed to expand and strengthen relationships between the people of the United States and citizens of other nations and to promote international understanding and cooperation. To support this mission, Fulbright Scholars will be asked to give public talks, mentor students, and otherwise engage with the host community, in addition to their primary research or teaching activities.

2. Eligibility

- Candidates living, working or studying in Mexico are not eligible to apply.
- Candidates must have U.S. citizenship. Dual citizens are welcome to apply.
- Candidates with a permanent resident card in Mexico are not eligible to apply

3. Requirements

- Preference for TEFL scholars with a doctorate in a field related to language teaching. Candidates with a terminal master's degree in language learning are eligible to apply but must have significant TEFL or TESL teaching training experience, along with curriculum development or program evaluation experience. Strong candidates will have a minimum of seven years of TEFL experience, although candidates with less but relative experience will also be considered.
- This award is open to scholars for mid-career and senior academics.
- Intermediate level of Spanish is required. However, the level of Spanish language proficiency must be commensurate with the requirements of the project.
- Applicants must be affiliated with a university or research institution in the U.S. at the time of application.
- This is a "placed" program. Candidates should not seek a letter of affiliation, but be open to going where the need is greatest. Based upon the scholar's expertise and the needs of institutions, placements will be made with key institutions of higher education throughout Mexico in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Education (SEP).

- Projects must be three to nine months. Academic year grants are preferred. Nine months grants start in August or September. One semester grants must correspond to the host institution's academic calendar. All grants must be completed by June 30.

To apply for this award, please submit your application here: <https://apply.iie.org/apply/>

4. Financial support

- Monthly rate dependent on rank (see Rank stipends below).
- One time relocation award of \$1,200 USD in first installment.
- One round-trip international airfare U.S. – Mexico only, up to \$1,000 USD.
- Dependent stipend included (see Dependent stipends below).
- Airfare to attend Welcome Orientation and/or Midyear reunion at local rates.
- \$1,000 USD held against final installment pending completion of grant obligations.
- Emergency health benefits provided by the U.S. Department of State.

Rank Stipends:

- I. \$2,900 for Terminal Master's grantees (MFA, MBA etc)
- II. \$3,200 for Assistant Professors
- III. \$3,400 for Associate Professors
- IV. \$3,700 for Distinguished, Named, Chaired and Emeriti Professors

Dependent Allowance:

1. \$250 for one dependent
2. \$400 for two dependents (250 + 150)
3. \$500 for three or more dependents (250 + 150 + 100)

5. Important dates

Application opened: February 13th, 2026

Application deadline: September 15, 2026.

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by videoconference.

6. Contact information

For further information please contact westhem@iie.org

7. Notes

Grants can begin no earlier than August 1, 2027 and must end by June 30, 2028.

Security Policy

The commission follows the recommendations of both the Mexican government and the U.S. Embassy Travel Warnings when placing U.S. Fulbright grantees in Mexico. Applications or affiliations located in areas where there is a level 4 U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory in effect will NOT be considered. See the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories webpage for further information.

The US-Mexico Commission for Educational & Cultural Exchange is the leading binational agency dedicated to promoting understanding between the United States and Mexico through educational exchange of academics and professionals who have demonstrated excellence in their field.

8. FAQ

1. Do I need to speak Spanish fluently to be awarded this grant?

- Candidates will be interviewed in Spanish. Intermediate level of Spanish is required. However, the level of Spanish language proficiency must be commensurate with the requirements of the project.

2. Are U.S. citizens who live or work in Mexico eligible to apply for the Fulbright-García Robles grant?

- No. U.S. citizens can live or work anywhere else in the world, but do not qualify for a grant to Mexico if they live or work in Mexico.

3. Are there rules on citizenship?

- No. All U.S. citizens, including naturalized and dual citizens, are eligible to apply.

4. Will my grant be reduced if I receive partial or full salary during a sabbatical?

- No. Sabbatical earnings are considered maintenance for a grantee's U.S. expenses.

5. What if I have a simultaneous grant?

- If you receive another grant, your Fulbright-García Robles grant could be reduced if they duplicate benefits.

6. Do I need a letter of affiliation?

- This is a "placed" program. Candidates should not seek a letter of affiliation, but be open to going where the need is greatest. Based upon the scholar's expertise and the needs of institutions, placements will be made with key institutions of higher education throughout Mexico in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Education (SEP).

7. What are the grant benefits?

- There are a variety of U.S. Scholar programs which offer different benefits. Please see individual programs for specific grant benefits.

8. Can I defer the grant to the following year if necessary?

- No. Fulbright policies do not allow grant deferrals.

9. Can I make changes to my proposal before the grant starts?

- Substantial changes to grant projects cannot be made either before or during the grant. However, date changes may be approved with advance written notice, approval from the host institution, COMEXUS and ECA.

10. Can I reach out to other U.S. Scholars who went to Mexico if I have further questions?

- Yes, please find a list of US Scholar alumni here.