

Frequently Asked Questions About the IEFA Program

1. What is the IEFA program?

The International Educators for Africa (IEFA) program enables teachers, school administrators and professors from the U.S. to spend one academic year helping to support educational and social reform efforts in sub-Saharan African countries. Since 1992, more than 1,000 American teacher-trainers have been assigned to African primary and secondary schools, teacher-training colleges, universities, and government education agencies as a result of the IEFA program. Currently we are recruiting and assigning volunteers to Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal.

2. What type of work do educators perform at their volunteer assignment?

Educators are placed in formal and informal educational settings to collaborate with their African counterparts in developing innovative methods of classroom instruction; curriculum development; developing teacher resource centers; educational administration and management; instruction in English as a second language, information technology, and other areas.

3. May I choose the country where I would like to teach?

IEFAs may not select the country where they wish to teach. Selected educators are assigned by IFESH depending on the Educator's skills, and the needs of the country.

4. Who is eligible for acceptance into the IEFA program?

Eligible applicants must:

- Be citizens of the United States or Permanent Residents.
- Possess a minimum of 1-3 years experience as a teacher, professor or administrator.
- Have an academic/professional background in one or more of the following areas: primary education, teacher training, English as a Second Language, test of English as a Foreign Language, policy development, gender equity, maternal and child health, curriculum development, and special education and health.
- Be proficient in the French language to be assigned to Benin, Djibouti, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire or Guinea.

5. Who will pay for my transportation, room and board, and other costs?

Participants in the International Educators for Africa program are considered volunteers and receive a living stipend of \$850 per month, transportation to the pre-departure orientation, international round-trip air transportation, and a settling-in allowance. In addition, IFESH covers all insurance which includes:

- 1) Health, 2) life, and; 3) emergency evacuation.

6. Are stipends taxable?

Volunteers are not considered to be employees of IFESH; therefore, IFESH does not report stipend payments to the IRS. Each volunteer should consult their personal tax professional to determine the appropriate treatment for their particular situation.

7. I am concerned about repaying my student loans. Is IFESH recognized as a tax – exempt organization?

Educators may submit loan deferment forms to IFESH for authorization prior to submitting to the appropriate lending institution. IFESH is a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c) (3). The volunteer position offered through the International Educators for Africa program falls within the parameters of many eligible fellowships as defined by lending institutions; however, the fact that the assignment is in Africa may preclude eligibility for some loan deferments.

8. If I am accepted into the IEFA program, can my non-participating spouse and/or children accompany me?

With written approval, it is permissible for educators to have their spouse and/or children age 8 or older accompany them to their assignment. IFESH, however, is not responsible for underwriting any costs related to insurance, travel, housing, or any logistical arrangements relevant to non-participants. Arrangements for travel, insurance, schooling, housing, etc., must be made independent of IFESH. Educators must sign a contract absolving IFESH of all responsibility toward a child/non-participating spouse prior to acceptance. Teachers are not permitted to travel to their assignments with children under the age of 8 nor have those children subsequently join them.

9. Is an orientation program provided?

It is mandatory for all Educators to attend the Pre-Departure Orientation held in August in Phoenix, Arizona. The Pre-Departure Orientation provides educators with an overview of the program's objectives, intercultural communication, education, health, administration, and other issues. An In-Country Orientation program is also provided once Educators arrive in their host country. All room and boarding during orientation is covered by IFESH.

10. What is the deadline to apply to the IEFA program?

Applications are accepted year round. In addition to the completed application, applicants must submit: A cover letter, a resume, three professional or academic letters of recommendation, copies of college transcripts and a one to two-page typed essay. The essay should include your reasons for applying to volunteer, qualifications and experience for participation and career objectives. Only complete applications will be reviewed by the IEFA Selection Committee. If for some reason applicants are not able to supply all of the required materials by February 28, please contact the IEFA program immediately.

Application materials should be sent to: Chair, IEFA Selection Committee
5040 East Shea Blvd., Suite 260
Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4687
Email Address: mams@ifesh.org

11. What does the selection process entail?

A panel composed of experienced practitioners and scholars from various fields evaluates applications using a non-biased ranking system. Applicants are ranked on the basis of their academic background, employment history, and commitment to teaching in a developing country. Higher-ranked candidates are assessed on the results of the applicant's teaching background and skills.

12. When will I be notified whether or not I have been accepted?

All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of their status. These letters are sent by U.S. mail during the month of **May**.

Additional information about the International Educators for Africa program and other IFESH project interventions may be obtained by contacting

IFESH

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