TO APPLY
The online application for the 2012–2013 Teaching Assistant Program in France is available online at www.tapif.org. The application deadline is January 15, 2012.

Applicants will be notified of selection in early April. Acceptance e-mails specify the regional school district to which the applicant is assigned. All placements are final. If accepted, awards cannot be deferred to the following academic year.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
• Proficiency in French. Language skills are essential to facilitating work in the classroom and integrating into a new community. Transcripts of French coursework, a personal statement in French, and letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s French skills, attitude and work ethic are required.
• Experience teaching or working with children, adolescents and/or adults. Such experience is not necessarily required, however all applicants should demonstrate at least an interest in education.
• Skills to promote cultural understanding between France and the United States. Previous experience living, working and/or traveling abroad demonstrates this appreciation of other cultures and ability to adapt to the challenges of life abroad.

CONTACT US
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Cultural Services of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.
Teach English in France!
Have you always dreamed of living in France? Do you want to experience another culture after graduation? Would you like to work on your French accent?

DUTIES
Assistants are assigned a 12-hour per week teaching schedule that may be divided among up to three schools. Classes are conducted in English. The teaching assistant may conduct all or part of a class, typically leading conversations in English. Duties may include serving as a resource person in conversation groups, providing small group tutorials, and giving talks related to American studies in English classes. Assignments vary depending on the school’s needs, the assistant’s abilities, and the educational level to which he or she is assigned (elementary or secondary).

HEALTH INSURANCE
Teaching assistants are eligible for France’s “Sécurité sociale” which covers 70% of medical costs, 35-65% of prescription costs, and 80% of hospitalization fees in France. The plan does not cover travel outside of France, costs for returning to the U.S. for medical treatment, or repatriation of remains. Additional travel health insurance is strongly recommended to cover the assistant outside of France, and to help with co-pays in the case of major medical emergencies in France.

PROGRAM DURATION
All contracts begin October 1, 2012 and end on April 30, 2013.

• Elementary School (7 months): Children aged 8-11 years old. Assistant organizes activities on own with small groups, or works alongside teacher with entire class present. Good level of French required.

• Secondary School (7 months): Students aged 11-18 years old. Assistant serves as a resource person in conversation groups, provides small group tutorials, facilitates English-language clubs, or works alongside the teacher with the entire class present. No prior teaching experience necessary. Proficient level of French required.

PRACTICAL TIMELINE

October – December: Candidates submit online applications
January 15, 2012: Application Deadline
Early April: Notification of selection is sent out by e-mail
May – September: Assistants complete paperwork for work contracts and apply for teaching assistant visas
Late September: Assistants leave for France
October 1, 2012: Beginning of Teaching Assistant Program

Work visas for assistants take between 1 and 3 weeks to be issued. Assistants must apply for visas in person at their regional French Consulates in the U.S. Assistants should plan on being in the U.S. during the entire month of August and up through late September to allow sufficient time to complete the visa application procedure.

LOCATION
Applicants may request to be placed in one of France’s 30 “Académies” or school districts that host American assistants each year. Assignment to the region of choice is not guaranteed and placement in the regions of Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon, Nice, Montpellier and Grenoble is highly competitive. Flexibility is encouraged! Assistants are responsible for making their own housing arrangements.

ELIGIBILITY
• Citizenship: Must be an American citizen or foreign national in possession of a U.S. Green Card. French nationals and French-American dual citizens are not eligible to apply.

• Age: Must be between 20 and 30 years old at the beginning of the teaching contract (October 1, 2012).

• Education: Must have completed at least 2 years of higher education by the beginning of the program (October 1, 2012).

• Background: Must have completed the majority of elementary, secondary and university studies in the United States.

• Language Skills: Must be native speaker of English. French proficiency required (minimum B1 level on Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). French majors and minors are encouraged to apply. Candidates without a major or minor in French may apply if they have developed at least a basic proficiency in French (~3 college semesters) and/or if they have lived abroad in a Francophone country.

Salary
Teaching assistants receive a net monthly salary of approximately €780 per month. The salary provides enough money to live the lifestyle of a typical French student. Assistants do not receive additional support for travel to France or for dependents. Personal funds are needed for the initial period of the contract.

Questions? E-mail: assistant.washington-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr Website: www.frenchculture.org/assistantshipprogram

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