

## The Ministry of Education Joins Hands with Fulbright Taiwan, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange to Recruit 70 U.S. English Teaching Assistants

(Courtesy of Yi-Hung Lai at the Division of Junior High and Elementary School Education)



To implement the National Bilingual Policy 2030, the Ministry of Education plans to expand the introduction of international English teaching assistants from the school year of 2021. In particular, it has collaborated with the Fulbright Taiwan, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, and the English Teaching Fellow (ETF) Scholarship Program, to introduce 70 U.S. English teaching assistants to assist national elementary and junior high schools in creating an English learning environment.

The Ministry of Education pointed out that the Fulbright Taiwan, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange has been collaborating with local governments since 2003 to recommend young people who won the Fulbright U.S. fellowships to serve as teaching assistants under the English

Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program through a rigorous selection mechanism. They mainly engage in collaborative English teaching, and participate in bilingual education, English camps, and the teaching in virtual English villages.

The ETF program, further derived from the ETA Program, recruits outstanding teaching staff who remain or have served as ETA teaching assistants, those with a master's degree in education at a U.S. university or TESOL certificates. Therefore, U.S. English teaching assistants in the ETF program will continue the teaching experience of those under the ETA program in Taiwan to pass on their knowledge and further enhance their educational influence.

The Ministry of Education stated that the ETF Program will increase human resources in English teaching, enhance the momentum of the international teachers who teach English in Taiwan. In addition, the outstanding U.S. English teaching assistants recruited will not only facilitate an English-speaking environment in elementary and junior high schools but also engage in extracurricular activities with students, such as club activities, ball games, reading with students, English speech training, play rehearsals, outdoor activities, baking, and camping activities. This will create opportunities for students to speak English in a variety of scenarios while familiarizing them to engage in English communication.

The Ministry of Education expects that an English-speaking environment created by means through the assistance of the U.S. English teaching assistants at school will motivate students to improve their English communication skills outside English classes. Meanwhile, the Fulbright Taiwan, Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, will also organize teacher training workshops and diverse international sessions, such as "English Education Teacher Training Workshop" and "Domestic and International Teachers' Cross-Cultural Workshop" to create opportunities for Taiwanese and international teachers to engage in multicultural exchanges and sharing while jointly improving their teaching skills.