

Expanding the Recruitment of Foreign English Teachers in 2023 to Build an English Learning Environment

(Image/Original Text: Hsieh Ya-Chun, Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To create an immersive English-speaking environment, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education (MOE) continues to promote the Taiwan Foreign English Teacher Program (TFETP). In 2023, the K-12 Education Administration plans to recruit 411 foreign English teachers and 411 full-time foreign English teaching assistants, for a total of 822 foreign English staff. TFETP is open for application now and accepts applications on a rolling basis, meaning that the program will only close until all available positions are filled. Applicants whose official or common language of the nation (as the nationality shown on the passport) is English and who are interested in teaching English in elementary and junior high schools are encouraged to apply for the program online. Recommendations of the candidates are welcome as well. Our goal is to establish an immersive English-speaking campus through these efforts.

Since 2004, MOE has introduced 81 foreign English teachers to teach in public elementary and junior high schools every year. To promote the Bilingual 2030 Policy, MOE has expanded the TFETP to bring in more foreign English teachers since 2021 and has increased the number of recruits each year. As of January 18, 2023, 501 foreign English staff have been recruited for the 2022–2023 academic year, and the number continues to grow.

To attract foreign English staff to join the program, schools will help those who receive official offers to apply for employment permits. MOE also provides additional subsidies to foreign English teachers and their spouses or blood relatives, such as annual airfare subsidies and year-end bonuses, in addition to salary, labor and health insurance, and housing allowances. As for full-time foreign English teaching assistants, allowances for getting English teaching licenses like TESOL, TEFL, or CELTA and transportation allowances are offered. On top of that, MOE arranges several career paths to encourage outstanding foreign English teachers to stay in their jobs or to become English teaching consultants or foreign teacher counselors, assisting local teachers in their professional development or guiding new foreign English staff.

MOE stated that it will deepen cooperation with English teaching resource centers around Taiwan and neighboring universities to ensure smooth teaching, help foreign English staff adapt to Taiwanese cultural life, and assist schools in working with foreign English staff to create a win-win situation.