

The Ministry of Education joins hands with the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, Fulbright Taiwan, to recruit U.S. English teaching assistants

(Courtesy of Juan, Yu- Chieh at the Division of Junior High and Elementary Education)



To assist Taiwan's elementary and junior high schools in creating an immersive English learning environment, the K-12 Education Administration, Ministry of Education, has worked with the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, Fulbright Taiwan, since the school year of 2021 to implement the U.S. English Teaching Fellow Scholarship Program (the "ETF Program") and has recruited 57 U.S. English teaching assistants to engage in collaborative English teaching at elementary and junior high schools. In addition to assisting teachers in creating an English speaking environment in the classroom, ETF teaching assistants encourage students to speak English through club activities, team sports, reading activities, and camps, to integrate English communication into their daily life at school.

Take Hualien County Dongli Elementary School as an example, the ETF teaching assistants held St. Patrick's Day to expose students to this Irish festival through games and prompt them to speak English naturally through interaction in the games. Furthermore, to create an unforgettable English learning experience to schoolchildren in remote areas, ETF teaching

assistants held all-English camps at Nantou County Puli Elementary School and Nan Gwang Elementary School. They designed the camps based on the three elements of earth, fire, and water and carried out a series of activities, including the search for all kinds of stones, making of American camping snacks, marshmallow roasting, making of chocolate sandwich cookies, and exploration of aquatic creatures, to guide students to explore nature in an immersive learning environment.

Ciao Cheng Elementary School and Liyues Elementary School in Miaoli County organized camp activities with Hakka culture as the main theme. ETF teaching assistants designed the learning activities based on the four elements, namely Hakka language, wood carving, agricultural products, and geography, with the aim of enabling the students to better understand their hometown and culture through the Hakka language-included English learning activities.

According to the K-12 Education Administration, it will continue to implement the ETF program in the school year of 2022 and plan to recruit 77 ETF assistants in order to increase the human resources for English teaching with a view to enabling students to use English more flexibly outside the classroom through in-depth cultural exchanges.