

2008 TaLK Invitation

The 'TaLK(Teach & Learn in Korea)' program is inviting four hundred individuals to teach English to students and to experience and learn about Korean culture. Sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 'TaLK' will sponsor individuals interested in gaining personal and professional enrichment through teaching and learning in Korea. The program is open to citizens of countries where English is the national language. (Special consideration will be given to individuals of Korean ethnicity.)

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants will receive Korean government scholarships and teach English in after-school classes of Korean elementary schools while enjoying cultural experience programs during leisure time. Recipients will be placed at schools in rural areas in need of greater exposure to English and teach the language by forming one-to-one working partnerships with selected Korean university participants. A candidate should have a desire to work with children and flexibility with regard to working in a shared classroom setting.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of a country where the primary language is English.
(Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.K., U.S.A., Ireland, and South Africa).
 - * Ethnic Koreans with legal residencies are eligible also.
- Be an undergraduate student with two or more years of education, at an accredited four-year university, in the process of completion of his/her degree.
 - * Must be officially enrolled in university while taking your semester off.
 - * A graduate-to-be, a student who will graduate after finishing the spring semester of 2008, is not eligible.
 - * A student who has graduated from a two-year community college and has transferred (or is going to transfer) to an accredited four-year university is eligible.
- Be mentally and physically capable of performing the specified responsibilities and duties.
- Have the ability and willingness to adapt to Korean life style and culture.
- Be able to communicate in English fluently with clear and distinct pronunciation.
- Meet the criteria of eligibility for E2 (work) visa set forth by the Korean Immigration Authority.

* Overseas Koreans: F-4, Spouse of Korean national: F-2

※ **Preference** will be given to the following candidates;

- are majoring in education, English or subjects related to Korea
- have excellent school records including command of English
- have been taught in English-language schools from junior high school 7th grade and have lived abroad for minimum of 8 years.

※ **Instructions for Applicants**

- Any male with Korean citizenship who has not fulfilled his military duty or received an official waiver must choose the six-month-contract term.
- After arriving in Korea, you must undergo a medical check-up at a designated hospital, and if the test results determine that you have serious disease(s) which are infectious or may keep you from performing your duties, your scholarship will be cancelled and you must return to your home country at your own expense. (e.g. drug addiction, AIDS)
- TaLK scholars are not allowed to get involved in any career activities except working as a TaLK scholar.

3. DUTIES

The duties of the TaLK scholarship recipients are carried out under the guidance of the supervisor designated by Provincial Office of Education (hereinafter "POE").

- Working for the designated elementary schools in rural areas in Korea
- Teaching English in after-school classes* : 15 hours per week
 - * by forming one-to-one working partnerships with a Korean student teacher.
 - * after acquiring theories and practice concerning English teaching methodology and classroom management at the preparatory orientation for four weeks.

TaLK scholars are recommended to participate in the activities organized by the school, the POE, or the community

4. CONTRACT TERM AND PLACE OF WORK

A: Contract term

The contract terms are for the duration of either 6-months or one-year, starting August 2008.

- ① August, 2008 – January, 2009 (six months)
- ② August, 2008 – July, 2009 (one year)

TaLK scholars will teach 15 hours per week from Monday to Friday (e.g. 5 days a week) and are not required to work on Saturdays, Sundays, or national holidays of the Republic of Korea.

B: Place of Work

- The POE will decide placements. Participants will work at elementary schools within the POE.
- Rejection of placement may result in disqualification from the program.

5. BENEFITS

A. Monthly allowance : 1,500,000 KRW (approximately, 1,500 US D)

- * Payment of monthly allowance begins in September, 2008
- * During the preparatory orientation in August, board & lodging will be provided instead of monthly allowance.

B. Accommodation : Personal accommodation or home-stay

- Kinds of personal accommodation: a dormitory, apartment, or studio-type room
- If a scholar does not want to have accommodation provided, he/she will be paid monthly housing expenses (400,000KRW) instead.
 - ※ Any and all fees, charges, costs, taxes, expenses, etc. incurred in using the apartment shall be borne by scholarship recipients.

C. Round-trip Airfare :

- A one-way economy class airfare of the most direct one-way flight available from the international airport nearest your hometown(school) in your home country to Incheon Airport and a return air ticket at the completion of your contract term
- If your scholarship is cancelled during the contract term, a return air ticket will not be provided.
- Transportation from Incheon Airport to the orientation venue will be provided.
 - ※ In principle, the TaLK Office will purchase and send an air ticket to each scholar, but if a scholar buys his/her own ticket, the airfare will be reimbursed after arrival in Korea.

D. National Health Insurance fee (100%)

E. One-off settlement allowance of 300,000KRW immediately after placement in school

F. Chances for participating in cultural experience programs

- A variety of programs for experiencing Korean culture will be offered during weekends and free time.

G. Korean language acquisition

- Opportunities to learn Korean language are provided. (e.g. lessons organized by the POE, on-line lessons on the Internet, conversations with university student partner, etc.)

H. Distinction & Personal Enrichment

- As a Korean Government Scholar, you will distinguish yourself as an individual with a unique and profound interest in teaching while enhancing your personal and professional competence.
- At the end of successful completion of your contract term, you will be awarded "A Presidential Certificate."

I. Other Benefits

- Tax Exemption for scholarship money
- Preparatory Orientation between arrival in Korea and placement in school (four weeks) teaching & learning methodology, understanding Korean life style and culture, theories and practices for classroom management, etc.
- Transportation expenses in case of working in more than two schools (on the POE budget)
- Paid Leave :
 - ① Six-month contract: total of 7 working days
 - ② One-year contract: total of 14 working days
- Sick Leave :
 - ① Six-month contract: total of 3 calendar days
 - ② One-year contract: total of 7 calendar days
- Buddy system:
 - A Korean university student who was designated as your partner will help you adjust to Korean life
 - by providing opportune advice when you requested.
 - by joining you in your cultural field trips as well as in your after-school classes.

6. APPLICATION

A. Required Documents

All applicants will be required to submit the following documents:

- A completed application form (including one passport size photo, a personal medical assessment, and a personal essay)
 - ※ Download a prescribed form from the TaLK web-site (<http://talk.mest.go.kr>)
- A sealed transcript (transcripts showing at least 2 years of university education)
 - * If you turn in an unsealed transcript, it must be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your home country with an 'Apostille number and the stamp'.
- A certificate of university enrollment (in case your transcript does not show two years of university education because you cannot provide the final grades by the application deadline)
- A recommendation letter (one from your university professor preferred)
- A criminal record check (county level)
- A copy of passport photo page
- A copy of legal residence certificate (for non-citizenship holders)
- A diploma or transcript of secondary school (if applicable)

B. Application Deadline: June 15, 2008

C. Application Submission & Interview:

- Korean Embassy / Consulate-General in **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.K., and U.S.A.**
- TaLK Office in Korea. (NIIED)
 - ※ Only applicants residing in Korea at the time of application or citizens of Ireland or S.A. can directly apply to the TaLK Office.
 - ※ Please log on to the web-site of TaLK Office or the Embassy/ Consulate-General in your home country for the addresses and contact numbers of the office you will submit your applications to.

D. Application Procedures:

1. Online application

- ① Download the TaLK application form and fill it in. (<http://talk.mest.go.kr>)
- ② Click on the appropriate Korean Embassy/Consulate-General (according to your location) menu and then upload your application form.

2. Interview will be conducted at the Korean Embassy / Consulate-General

3. After successfully passing the interview you must submit your printed-out application with your signature on it and **all the other required documents by mail or in person to the Korean Embassy / Consulate-General in your home country.**

4. Document screening by the Korean Embassies or TaLK Office

5. Final screening by TaLK Office

6. Receive an invitation letter and a contract (.pdf file) from the TaLK Office

7. Sign the official written contract

- ※ *Successful applicants will be notified on the web-site of Talk Office/Korean Embassy around June 16, and July 7.*

E. Instructions following successful application:

Applicants must

- obtain visa at the Korean Embassy / Consulate General.
 - * Detailed information on how to obtain visa will be notified later.
- receive an air ticket from the TaLK Office.
- leave for Korea on a set date (around August 1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- participate in the preparatory orientation.(between around 4th and 29th in August)