Teacher In-Country Fellowships to Asia (TICFA) Program

2002-2003 Application Information

The Asia Education Foundation (AEF) Teacher In-Country Fellowships to Asia (TICFA) have been developed to provide professional development opportunities for Australian primary and secondary teachers and educational administrators in the studies of Asia.

Asia Education Foundation

The AEF was established in 1992 by the then Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training. It works with schools, state/territory government and non-government education agencies, institutions, philanthropic foundations and the corporate sector to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote and support the studies of Asia across all curriculum areas in Australian schools.
- Develop Asia-related curriculum materials for Australian school children.
- Promote the studies of Asia within teacher education.
- Educate the broader community about the importance of school students undertaking the studies of Asia.

There is an AEF Advisor located in the education departments in each state and territory who provides support for the studies of Asia.

The Teacher In-Country Fellowships to Asia (TICFA) Program

The TICFA program includes in-country study tour programs to China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam each year of between two to three week's duration. Each tour provides participants with a variety of contemporary experiences of the study tour country.

Whilst in country, participants have the opportunity to establish contacts, gain awareness about contemporary issues, visit cultural and historical sites and teach in local schools. Some programs include a homestay with a local family (please see the tour descriptions for further information on each program).

Upon return to Australia, participants further research their topics of interest and integrate the curriculum learning's they have gained from the program into their school and school community.

Aims

The program aims to provide a professional development strategy for Australian educators which:

- provides opportunities to experience first hand the peoples, cultures and issues of the countries of Asia and enhance skills and discipline knowledge of the studies of Asia
- promotes the development of high quality learning and teaching materials which encourage Australian students to develop greater knowledge and understanding of

the studies of Asia consistent with the *Studies of Asia: A Statement for Australian Schools* document (available from Curriculum Corporation, Melbourne)

- supports the implementation of the school / school network / state or territory action plan or emerging action plan on identified priorities on the studies of Asia
- extends and develops a network of Asia-skilled leaders in Australia and in the countries of Asia
- disseminates widely the outcomes of the in-country experience program.

Each study tour is designed as a 'first step' in a long process towards understanding the country visited, with an emphasis on meeting local people and undertaking mutually beneficial activities. Participants will need to undertake factual research both before and after the study tour in order to enhance and further this process and in order to develop suitable curriculum/units of work in their area of interest.

No prior knowledge of the countries of Asia or the studies of Asia is assumed on the part of the participants, nor are they pre-requisites for the TICFA program. Tours are not designed for those with extensive experience of the study tour country (such as those who have lived in the country for several months or more or those who have visited the country several times). Selection is based on the applicant's ability to use their in-country experiences to inform their work, develop new curriculum/units of work, effect curriculum change and disseminate their learning's.

Partners

The program has been designed as a partnership between education sectors, participants, the AEF, government agencies, philanthropic organisations and corporate sponsors. Each partner has generously contributed to the program to ensure its success.

The program has been financially supported by:

Australia India Council
Australia-Indonesia Institute
Australia-Korea Foundation

The participating State and Territory Education Jurisdictions are:

Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand
Department of Education & Community Services, ACT
Department of Education & Training, NSW
NT School of Languages
Education Queensland
Department of Education, Training & Employment, SA
Tasmanian Educational Leaders' Institute
Department of Education, Employment and Training, VIC
Education Department of WA
Association of Independent Schools of ACT
Association of Independent Schools of NSW
Association of Independent Schools, QLD
The Association of Independent Schools of South Australia
Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania
Association of Independent Schools of Victoria
Association of Independent Schools of WA
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Bathurst

Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Brisbane
Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay
Catholic Education Office, Canberra & Goulburn
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Lismore
Catholic Schools Office, Maitland-Newcastle
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta
Catholic Education Office, South Australia
Catholic Education Office Sydney
Catholic Education Office, Tasmania
Catholic Education Office, Victoria
Catholic Education Office, WA
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wilcannia/ Forbes
Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong

Application and Selection Process

State, Catholic and Independent education jurisdictions in all Australian states and territories join the AEF in supporting participation of Australian educators in the TICFA program. New Zealand educators are supported by the Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand.

Advertising

The TICFA program is advertised by education jurisdictions in about May to June of each year. Educators interested in participating in the TICFA program are encouraged to contact the relevant person in their state/ territory at this time for an application form and application information. If you would like a full list of the education jurisdictions participating in the TICFA program take a look at the contact list located on the TICFA website at:

Selection

Participants are chosen by a selection committee appointed by their education jurisdiction. Applicants must obtain support from their school to ensure that the learning's from the study tour are disseminated as widely as possible within and between school communities.

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to integrate a unit of work into their curriculum, effect curriculum change in their school/ network; work as a member of a team to disseminate their learning's from the program; develop a resource and or present at professional development activities.

Eligibility

- Primary and secondary school teachers and educational administrators from the participating education sectors are eligible to apply.
- Applications from individual educators and/or teams of educators will be accepted. Teams of two people may apply where the participating sector has funded two or more places for any one study tour.
- The application must clearly indicate the applicants preferred study tour in order of preference. Applicants can only apply for the study tour/s identified in the advertisement relevant to your participating sector.
- Each participant will be required to contribute the sum toward the cost of the tour. The contribution can be from personal or school/employer funds.

- ✍✍ Applications are to be submitted with the endorsement of the applicant's Principal/Manager and one colleague.
- ✍✍ Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received awards of a similar nature to undertake study or in-country experience in an Asian country.
- ✍✍ Applicants must have access to an email service and provide the AEF with an email contact (either home or work). Email communication is an integral part of the TICFA program briefing process.
- ✍✍ Some state/territory sectors may give preference to applicants based on state/territory curriculum priorities.

Selection Criteria

Once eligibility requirements have been met, the following selection criteria will be used to select participants for the study tours. Please note that for some tours, there are pre-requisites that must be responded to in Selection Criteria 1:

Criteria 1	Ability to effectively integrate a program based on your in-country experience in Asia into your curriculum work. Successful fellowship recipients are required to develop, during the school year following the in-country experience, a unit/program/sequence of learning which focuses on the country visited.
Criteria 2	Capacity to effect curriculum change and provide leadership in your school/organisation, network and/or sector.
Criteria 3	Capacity to work as a team in implementing your studies of Asia program within the school/organisation, network and/or sector.
Criteria 4	Ability to disseminate the learning's from the study tour widely.

Responsibilities of Participants

All recipients will be required to undertake the following activities that will be outlined in a legal agreement with the AEF:

Prior to Departure

Complete all tasks as detailed by the Tour Organiser. This will include obtaining visas, medical and travel insurance and vaccinations, preparing teaching materials and purchasing gifts to be used whilst in-country.

All participants must take out adequate travel and medical insurance cover for the country to which they are traveling. Each participant will need to provide the AEF with evidence of this insurance policy prior to departure.

The AEF will require participants to complete a database proforma, remit their contribution and complete a legal agreement regarding their participation.

All participants will be required to complete a Statement of Health proforma that will need to be endorsed by a General Practitioner. These are to certify that you are medically able to participate on the study tour and are of good health. The form will be forwarded to all participants and will need to be returned with the Legal Agreement and contribution payment.

In-Country

Each participant is required to take part in all activities associated with the study tour program.

Participants must conduct the necessary activities that will assist in the development of curriculum on their return to Australia.

Participants will prepare an initial evaluation of their participation in the study tour program.

On Return to Australia

Each participant will prepare evaluation materials as required by the Tour Organiser and/or the AEF.

Participants must develop curriculum activities/units/resources of work based on their in-country experiences and disseminate their learning's widely.

The AEF will also require participants to complete an interim and final report and provide copies of publishable photographs for promotion and publicity purposes.

Tour Leader/s

The AEF contracts Tour Organisers and Tour Leader/s who are professional teachers, academics and other similarly experienced individuals or organisations to design, organise and implement each study tour. The Tour Organiser manages logistics, pre-tour briefings and other preparations for the study tour and appoints Tour Leaders to accompany the group while in country. Tour Organisers themselves often act as Tour Leaders.

Program Cost

Participants will be required to make a contribution towards the cost of their study tour. The contribution varies between the State, Catholic and Independent education jurisdictions in each Australian state and territory. Information about the contribution amount is available is available when the program is advertised in about May to June of each year. See Advertising and Selection above.

The participant contributions from the 2001-2002 program varied from $500 to $2,500 per person. These funds are to be raised by the participant and paid to the AEF 3 months before departure. Cancellation fees apply.

What's Included

- ?? Pre-tour briefing materials including the set up and coordination of an email discussion group
- ?? Return international airfares to capital cities in Australia
- ?? Departure taxes from Australia
- ?? Stopover transfers and accommodation if connecting flights are not available
- ?? In-country transport and transfers
- ?? In-Country accommodation
- ?? Most in-country meals
- ?? Entrance fees, group tours, admission to some cultural sites and lectures as listed in the tour program
- ?? Hospitality and tour support materials.

What's Not Included

- ?? Travel and medical insurance (compulsory)

- Vaccinations and other medical expenses
- Passport costs including the cost of renewals and applications
- Transfers to and from capital city airport in Australia
- Airport taxes (outside Australia)
- Additional travel, entrance fees and admission to cultural sites that is not listed in the tour program
- Business cards and photography
- Excess baggage
- Purchase of curriculum resources, gifts for in-country hosts and personal spending.

Tax Deductibility

Expenses incurred in this program may be tax deductible providing accurate records are maintained and you are able to prove that the program is relevant to your earning of income. However, not all claims are successful. Please seek advice from a tax agent or accountant.

Travel Arrangements

The Tour Organiser and the AEF National Office will coordinate all in-country and international travel arrangements.

Under no circumstances will participants be able to vary their dates of departure from Australia and arrival back into Australia from the nominated group travel dates and times. This means that participants cannot alter their airfare booking from that which is booked for them by the AEF. All participants MUST travel with the group at all times.

Traveling Comfort and Health

Every effort is made to ensure that conditions on the study tours are comfortable for participants. Applicants should be aware, however, that occasionally it is not possible to attain such standards. This is particularly so in the more remote areas on the study tour. Even when conditions are comfortable, all the study tours are both physically and mentally demanding. Days are long and food, accommodation and the environment are likely to be quite different from what participants will be used to. In addition, participants may occasionally be required to walk long distances, carry luggage up several flights of stairs or to travel on buses, boats or trains for fairly long periods of time as well as other physically demanding activities.

It is essential that participants enjoy good general physical health not only in order to gain the most from the experiences encountered but also to ensure the comfort, safety and enjoyment of each participant and of the group as a whole. Successful applicants are required to provide the AEF with a completed Statement of Health endorsed by a medical practitioner endorsing that they are capable of adequately undertaking the physical requirements of the tour.

The AEF reserves the right to refuse participation if your doctor or other evidence indicates that you will be unable to comply with these requirements.

All medical information provided to the AEF remains CONFIDENTIAL and will only be disclosed to relevant tour organisers and staff of the AEF.

Personal Safety

Conditions in some Asian countries can be volatile. The TICFA program consults with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (http://www.dfat.gov.au/) about conditions in the study tour country prior to departure and check official travel advisories throughout your stay. The

AEF reserves the right to cancel or postpone a program if the advice proves that it would be unsafe to travel in the study tour country at that time.

Study Tour Programs

Further information on the 2002-2003 study tour programs including a detailed tour description, names of tour leaders, program outline and tour dates are available on the website at:

Although every attempt has been made to ensure that this information is accurate, please note that these details are subject to change.

Further information is available from:

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