

U.S. English Language Teaching Assistantship Program in Austria, 2017-2018

Program Background and Objectives:

Fulbright Austria (the Austrian-American Educational Commission) manages the U.S. English Language Teaching Assistantship Program, which is funded by the Austrian Ministry of Education (*Bundesministerium für Bildung*). This program is a fine opportunity for U.S. teaching assistants, who not only gain classroom experience, but also serve as linguistic and cultural ambassadors of the United States in secondary schools throughout Austria.

Applicant Qualifications:

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a bachelor's degree as a minimum requirement (or be completing one when they apply), and ideally be interested in careers in education or public service. Prospective teachers of foreign languages or TESOL and/or graduates with a documented interest in German and Austrian studies are particularly encouraged to apply. A working knowledge of German is required and necessary to facilitate on-site orientation and work.

Placement:

The Austrian Ministry of Education works together with provincial school boards to place approximately 140 U.S. teaching assistants at schools in all nine Austrian provinces. Applicants may request a city or region to which they wish to be assigned. However, the number of positions available in larger metropolitan areas, such as Vienna, Salzburg, Graz, and Innsbruck, is limited. Therefore, applicants should be prepared to accept teaching positions in smaller communities. Flexibility enhances the prospects of placement.

Duration of Assignment:

U.S. teaching assistants are employed from October 1 – May 31 of the school year. Incoming teaching assistants are required to attend an orientation seminar before beginning their assignments. U.S. teaching assistants with a superior record of performance may apply to have their assistantships extended for a second year.

Status and Remuneration of U.S. Teaching Assistants in Austria:

U.S. teaching assistants teach 13 hours per week, usually at two different schools, under the supervision of licensed teachers and a "supervisor" assigned to keep track of their overall performance and trouble shoot, if need be. They receive a salary of ca. €1,440 per month for eight months, from which deductions are made for health and accident insurance (full coverage under the Austrian plans) and income tax. This results in a net income of approximately €1,162 per month. Teaching assistants do not receive any additional support for travel to Austria or for dependents.

Application:

Graduating seniors may apply, provided they have their degrees before assuming the positions. Complete applications are due January 15, 2017 for the following school year.

For further information on the program, application materials, and advice on application procedures, consult the USTA website: <http://www.usta-austria.at>

Please note that participants in this program are not Fulbright grantees. Students interested in applying for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program should consult the website of the Institute of International Education: us.fulbrightonline.org