E-Teacher: Teaching English to Young Learners
Offered by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on "Teaching English to Young Learners" for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of the latest research on TEYL and demonstrate effective classroom techniques to teachers by specifically addressing the needs of learners aged 7 to 12. The course will investigate approaches for teaching language within a meaningful context as well as different techniques for making language input comprehensible and encouraging student participation. Participants will study both traditional and modern instructional strategies and techniques for teaching EFL and look specifically at their application to young learners. Through individual learner-centered activities, virtual collaborations with a mentor, and group activities with learning teams, participants in this course will explore various aspects, from theory to practice, of teaching EFL to young learners. This course will begin in late September and run for 10 weeks. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate. Optional Continuing Education Units (CEUs) may also be requested.

Requirements

Candidates should be teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are or will be professionally involved in TEYL. They should be highly motivated individuals who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. Candidates should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, a VCR and an audiocassette player, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.