24 Teacher Travel Opportunities for Free or Super Cheap

**Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program** – This three-six month program bases participants at university-level schools of education. Participants take courses, lead master classes and seminars, visit local schools, collaborate with each other online and in person, and complete an inquiry project of their own design. This program is open to both U.S. and international teachers.

**Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars** – The program provides short-term summer study and travel seminars abroad for K-12 U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities for the purpose of improving their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries. Locations vary year to year.

**Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad** (GPA) – This program provides short-term summer grants to support overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies for teachers, students, and faculty engaged in a common endeavor. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development, group research or study, or advanced intensive language programs. GPAs are normally sponsored by universities or resource centers and have varying goals and eligibility requirements. GPAs can be hard to locate, but are often announced in the IFLE newsletter.

**Teacher for Global Classrooms** (TGC) – This is a yearlong professional development opportunity for elementary, middle and high school teachers to become leaders in global education. It includes an 8-week online course, capstone project, symposium, and 2-3 week international field experience. International teachers should apply to the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program.

**Earth Expeditions** – The program consists of seven-credit online-based learning courses (April-December), which include a two-week international
field experience. Sponsored by University of Miami of Ohio, this program supports interdisciplinary global learning opportunities in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Can be done as individual courses or part of a Master’s degree program.

Global Competence Certificate – In addition to amazing coursework, this program immerses you in the history and culture of the Afro-Ecuadorian community through a study abroad experience. This is a 15-month online graduate level certificate program administered by Teachers College Columbia University, World Savvy, and Asia Society. The program focuses on various aspects of teaching and learning as related to global competence and includes a two-week summer international field experience.

Turkish Cultural Foundation Study Tour – This is a program for middle and high school teachers combining in-person teacher professional workshops and a two-week field experience in Turkey. It is administered by the Turkish Cultural Foundation and the World Affairs Councils of America. Seek our your local WACA for application information.

Korea Society Fellowships – The Korea Society aims to further develop the teaching of Korea in K-12 schools across the U.S, thereby enhancing the overall curricula. The Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for participants to develop a critical and engaging eye into modern day Korea while maintaining proper perspective on the nation’s rich history.

Primary Source – Primary Source study tours are designed to deepen educators’ knowledge of the world so that they are better able to enhance cultural understanding in their classrooms and communities. Participants travel with other educators who share a passion for world history and cultural exchange.
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institutes and Seminars—Each year, NEH offers tuition-free opportunities for school, college, and university educators to study a variety of humanities topics. Stipends of $1,200-$3,900 help cover expenses for these one- to five-week programs. Both domestic and international opportunities have been offered in the past, but international funding for future programs is questionable.

Fund for Teachers – Fund for Teachers enriches the personal and professional growth of teachers by recognizing and supporting them as they identify and pursue opportunities around the globe that will have the greatest impact on their practice, the academic lives of their students and on their school communities.

Japan-US Teacher Exchange Program for ESD – A fully-funded opportunity to travel to Japan to learn about ESD efforts and strengthen ESD curricula in both countries. ESD is “a vision of education that seeks to balance human and economic well-being with cultural traditions and respect for the earth’s natural resources,” according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Educators’ Study Tour to Japan – Sponsored by the Japan Society, the Educators’ Study Tour to Japan offers educators nationwide the opportunity to travel to Japan for three weeks to experience Japan first hand and bring their experiences back to the classroom. The program is open to middle and high school classroom teachers, librarians and school administrators (principals, assistant principals and department chairs only).

National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellows – This opportunity is designed to give current K-12 classroom teachers and informal educators from the 50 U.S. states, Canada, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico the opportunity to extend Grosvenor’s legacy of excellence in geographic education. Through the program, exemplary educators are recognized for their commitment to geographic education and are given the opportunity to be actively engaged in finding new ways to bring geographic awareness to their
classrooms or informal learning environments through a field-based experience.

**Keizai Koho Center Teacher Fellowship** – The Keizai Koho Center (Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs) in cooperation with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) sponsors a ten-day Fellowship to Japan in the summer for educators in the U.S. and Canada. The Fellowship allows teachers to learn first hand about contemporary Japanese society and enhance their classroom teaching of global perspectives.

**Goethe-Institut Transatlantic Outreach Program** – Since 2002, TOP has sought to find the best and most qualified social studies educators and give them the opportunity to experience Modern Germany in the most dramatic way possible: in person.

**National Consortium for Teaching about Asia** – After completing a NCTA seminar, alumni are eligible to participate in study tours. Here is an example study tour, and this is the newest summer field study in East Asia.

**Earthwatch Education Fellowship** – Fellowships are available for teachers who are passionate about teaching and interested in conservation, environmental sustainability, and lifelong learning.

**The Laurasian Institution** – Various programs in China and Japan for students and teachers.

**Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO)** – Founded in 2007, Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has sent over 1300 teachers abroad on adventurous travel programs. GEEO’s trips are 7 to 21 days in length and are designed and discounted to be interesting and affordable for teachers. In addition to amazing tour leaders, many of the programs are accompanied by university
faculty that are experts on the destination. GEEO also provides teachers educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. The trips are open to all nationalities of K-12 and university educators, administrators, retired educators, as well as educators’ guests.

**US-China Education Council (USCEC)** – Traveling, teaching, and study opportunities in China.

**Joseph J. Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies** – Since 1984, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations has provided American professionals in academia, government, and business unparalleled educational experiences in the Arab world. The Fellowship projects its participants into the dynamics of Arab-U.S. relations and provides first-hand exposure to the region’s considerable cultural, economic, political, and social diversity pursuant to increased knowledge and understanding.

**Global Learning Fellows** – Global Learning Fellows are comprised of Awards for Teaching Excellence recipients, who are nominated by their NEA State Affiliate. In order for an educator to be considered for the program, the State Affiliate should complete this nomination.

**Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminars for Teachers** – One-week academically rigorous seminars in American History. While most opportunities are domestic, seminars are occasionally offered in international locations.