

Teach in the US - applications open for 2020 programme

Over the past two decades, Participate Learning has given hundreds of South African teachers the opportunity to teach and live in the United States, and now the August 2020 programme is open for application.



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The programme's International Recruitment Manager, Jeff Seaby, encourages teachers of all ages to consider applying: "Teachers have the opportunity to integrate into new communities and schools, where they will develop both professionally and personally, while also acting as cultural ambassadors of their country." The participating teachers learn from, and share their own skill sets with their American colleagues, while imparting lessons about Africa, and particularly South African culture, to American students.

Participate Learning partners with schools in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Placements are in rural, suburban, or urban settings, and schools are carefully evaluated for suitability. "More than 10,000 teachers from 84 countries have participated in the programme which has run for the past 32 years," adds Seaby.

The programme offers opportunities to teach a mix of all subjects at the Primary level or in math, science at the secondary grades. All positions are full-time and salaried, with competitive health benefits and professional development opportunities. As an additional benefit, it is possible for immediate family members to travel to United States and obtain a dependent visa. Participants must agree to complete a minimum of two years on the programme to ensure continuity and stability for learners at participating schools in the United States.

Seaby explains that at Participate Learning they understand the challenges of an international move and offer support during the whole process. "We support teachers through the visa application process for them and their family, arrange transportation to the US for the teacher, and are there to pick them up at the airport. Upon arrival, they attend a comprehensive orientation where they will meet other international teachers from around the world. Our teachers also receive ongoing training and assistance support during their stay."

How to apply

Over the past 30 years, more than 300 teachers from all over South Africa have participated in the programme. In order to

be a candidate for the Participate Learning recruitment process, educators must have a four-year university degree in education, and at least two years of full-time experience as a teacher in a primary school or high school. They also need a driver's license as they will need to drive to work, and there is no age limit to apply. Typically interviews are held in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

For more information, visit www.participatelearning.com.

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