



Austrian-American Educational Cooperation Association

STARS ASSISTANTS

Students Assistant Teacher Program

Transatlantic Student Professional Development

Introduction

One of the major goals of the AUSTRIAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION ASSOCIATION (AAECA) is to support the professional development of teachers and students through transatlantic cooperation programs – specifically between the US and Austria. The STUDENTS ASSISTANT TEACHER PROGRAM (STARS ASSISTANTS) in this field is an exchange program for American students who will be able to gain work experience during a three or four week course in Austria by assisting Austrian teachers teaching English as a foreign language or using English as a communication tool in other subjects.

The STUDENTS ASSISTANT TEACHER program will provide American participants with the knowledge and skills to make them more productive, engaged and motivated, and will enhance their own professional and classroom leadership development through real time experience and access to actionable advice on how to succeed in cross-cultural teaching. In addition, the program will provide students with an opportunity to meet a variety of people and experience different languages, traditions, values and ways of interpreting the world of today, thus contributing to their personal development.

Program Goals and Benefits for American Students.

American students will:

- Gain insights into Austrian life and culture.
- Gain insights into a European school system.
- Develop instructional competence in a new environment.
- Establish professional and personal networks which will contribute to increasing their motivation and commitment to their chosen profession.
- Become fully integrated into a local educational team

Program Goals and Benefits for the Austrian Schools:

- Pupils in the Austrian schools will get the opportunity to listen and talk to Americans.
- Pupils will gain first-hand insight and information about life in the US - its people, country, culture and educational system.
- Austrian teachers involved will have the possibility to co-operate with a STUDENTS ASSISTANT TEACHER, getting to know different approaches to teaching language
- Teachers will gain insights into a different educational system
- Teachers and schools involved will have the opportunity to establish transatlantic networks for future activities.

General Scope of the Program

- The program could be integrated as fieldwork in a regular course in the students' curriculum. In particular the TESOL program offers a number of connective opportunities. The following items denote the program sequence and related activities.
- The American partner university and the AAECA will nominate project coordinators. They will be responsible for planning and implementing the program.
- The American partner university will select and prepare American participants in co-operation with the AAECA.
- Austrian school authorities will select schools for participation and the teachers involved will be prepared by the AAECA coordinator.
- Students will be received in Vienna by the AAECA which will provide basic information and introduction to the Austrian way of life and education system. Students will then transfer to the site of their host institution using public transport.
- Students will receive an information package and a travel pass for public transport.
- The AAECA, together with the local town/city administration, will be responsible for accommodations and social activities.
- Visiting students will be paired with mentor teachers at their host institution, who will guide them throughout their stay in Austria.
- Students will perform their teaching activities as laid out in the framework by the American partner university. These activities will be based on the actual curriculum of the host school and within local requirements. Teaching activities will always be carried out in concert with the class teacher. Students will receive continuous support by the school.
- Students will be in regular contact with the university coordinator
- Activities will be documented by the students in a portfolio, which will be reviewed by the mentor teacher.
- If agreed to, the university coordinator will visit the students onsite at the Austrian schools and provide first-hand feedback about the students' professional development
- The final report will be graded by faculty at the American partner university and the AAECA, using feedback from the student's host institution in Austria.

Duration: 3 or 4 weeks

Costs (to be specified)

- Travel costs (flight)
- Housing (in student hostels)
- Social program
- Organisation and Mentoring in Austria
- Overheads (location, administration, staff, office)