Tempe Sister Cities



International Educator Exchange Application

"If we are to teach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children." - Gandhi

Participation of our fellow international Sister Cities varies from year to year .

Applications due December 1, 2026



This unique and successful program was established through the efforts of Mr. Larry Campbell and is dedicated to his memory.

International Educator Exchange Program Expectations

International Educator Exchange Snapshot: Educators who are selected to participate in the exchange are paired up with individuals who have applied in cities and towns who exchange with the Tempe Sister Cities (TSC) Program. After thorough, purposeful planning, educators from Tempe host a visiting educator for approximately 3 weeks.. This process is then reversed as the Tempe educator travels abroad and lives with their host approximately 3 weeks (same breakdown). While in schools, Tempe educators are expected to have Q & A sessions with students and teachers, possibly teach a small lesson on Arizona, and attend various activities in your honor. TSC provides airfare for Tempe Educators selected to travel, gifts for select dignitaries, arranges all visits to the mayor of Tempe, school board meetings, TSC meetings and provides a network of individuals ready to help transport and entertain the visiting educators during their stay in Tempe.

Purpose of the International Educator Exchange: The objective of this program is to provide an opportunity for educators in Tempe to develop professional, educational growth, cultural understanding, and lasting friendships with the people of exchange cities. Possible cities are Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand and other international countries through a reciprocal home hosting and school teaching experiences.

Educator's Commitment

There is a significant commitment required if you are selected for the International Educator Exchange. The following list is critical for a successful travel experience. It is essential:

- To have the support of those you live with (family, roommates) for your participation and time commitment for this exchange.
- To plan ahead for family commitments so you will be available for all mandatory exchange activities. (See Calendar Page 3)
- To understand this is a professional educator exchange and is NOT for independent travel/activities before or after the educator exchange. As a participant in the exchange, understand that this program does in no way include a spouse, family member(s), or friend(s) for this overseas travel. While abroad, the Tempe educators will live in the homes of their host educators. Educators are expected to be professional and to be cooperative in the family living experience.
- To adhere to the educator exchange travel date calendar, including air travel schedule provided by the TSC.
- To attend orientation meetings before the departure date, attend calendar meetings before guest arrives[1], participate in TSC activities (two Shoulder to Shoulder Socials, Oktoberfest), speak briefly about the exchange experience after returning at several meetings, and generally help plan and promote the exchange program.
- To be prepared to interact with students and the teacher, present a mini lesson, teach or participate in a game, engage in a two-way question and answer session, deliver a brief presentation on Arizona, or to simply walk around the classroom and absorb what is occurring. While all activities are not necessary, teachers generally are less stressed when they are over prepared.
- To open your home and act as a gracious host(s) to our guests by providing appropriate sleeping quarters/accommodations.

[1] Calendars for arriving guest teachers must be submitted 3 weeks prior to guest's arrival. Calendars will be created in calendar meetings with your country liaison.



Costs

Air travel expenses will be paid by the Tempe Sister Cities Corporation; this is unique to our program. You will provide your own spending money. The families in our exchange countries will provide room and board. Participants will reciprocate "in kind" when their exchange hosts become our guests here as they did for you while visiting them. Upon selection, participants are required to join and become a member of the Tempe Sister Cities organization.

Previous participants have experienced out of pocket expenses as part of the reciprocating, which vary depending on activities and group plans. Please communicate with your exchange partner with clear expectations regarding cost.

International Travel Expenses	Estimate in US Currency
Tempe Sister City Family Membership	$35.00
Passport/Visa File by mid-February	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html Renewal Book $130.00 New Passport Book $130.00
Personal necessities for trip	Varies depending on where traveling
Spending money for Germany/ New Zealand/ and other exchange countries participating. • Gifts for your hosts • Purchase of trinkets, mementos, & gifts • Miscellaneous discretionary money	Personal/ Souvenir money varies depending on individual wants.

Other Hosting Expectations

- Room accommodations at your home
- Food for your guest (prepared or readily available) which honors dietary preferences or restrictions.
- Transportation - While TSC will assist with driving guests, it is expected that you will be responsible for planning transportation for the duration of your guest's stay.

You will have the following expense here: (based on your and/or group decision)

- Travel expenses while here for your guest (bus fare, light rail, etc)
- Meals out for your guest (individually or as a group)
- Activities and event entry fees (museums, zoo, athletic events, ets)
- Travel trips seeing the State of Arizona
- Miscellaneous expenses and purchases

All expenses above are incurred by your host teacher while you are in their country; therefore, you are expected to incur the same ***financial responsibilities*** for your visiting teacher. All financial arrangements are to be made prior to the exchange.

Any plans/group activities agreed upon by the group members must be ***paid equally by all members*** of the group.



Typical Dates for Travel

Each departure date will be varied due to host countries' schedules. The actual exchange trip for the Tempe educators to Germany, New Zealand, or other participating international countries will be 3 weeks in the summer of 2027 (June/July); however, the specific travel dates are still to be determined.

Application Requirements

Each applicant must:

- Be a US Citizen.
- Be employed by an accredited school within Tempe city limits of the following Districts:
    - Tempe Union High School District
    - Tempe Elementary School District
    - Kyrene School District
- Have a minimum of three years teaching experience completed at the time of application.
- Continue employment with their current Tempe district/school for the following school year.
- Be a full-time educator.
- Must have a valid Passport by the end of February.
- Previous participants of the Tempe Sister Cities International Educator Exchange are not eligible to apply.

Applications

Informational posters are located at the District Offices of all TUHSD, TD3 schools. Only Kyrene Elementary and Middle Schools within the boundaries of Tempe are eligible to participate. In addition, explanatory fliers are available at all principals/headmasters' offices. Applications can be obtained on the Tempe Sister Cities website (http://www.tempesistercities.org, select programs, select Educator Exchange). All completed applications must be received by December 1, 2026

Tamara Kahler, TUHSD District Ofc., 500 W. Guadalupe Rd., Tempe, AZ 85283
480-839-0292
Brittany Franklin, TD#3 District Ofc., 3205 S. Rural Rd., P.O. Box 27708, Tempe, AZ 85282
480-730-7102
Camryn Haughton/front desk Kyrene District Ofc., 8700 S. Kyrene Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284
480-541-1000
Other Schools: ATTN Linda Parrish, TSC HACKETT HOUSE, 95 W. Fourth St. Tempe, AZ 85281 602-317-1739

Selection Process

All applications are due on or before December 1, 2026. After applications are reviewed, applicants will participate in personal interviews with the selection committee. Educators who are selected to participate in the exchange will be contacted and will be required to sign the International Educator Exchange Agreement.

Questions

Direct all questions to Linda Parrish at Ph: 602-317-1739 Email: lparrishaz@gmail.com



International Travelers' Calendar 26-27

Available Currently	Applications Posted Online http://www.tempesistercities.org, select programs, select Educator Exchange
December 1, 2026	Applications are due to your school district office (see above) by 4PM.
January 2027 4:30PM-7:00PM	Individual Interviews
Date, TBD	Applicant Social Mixer
April TBD (Saturday)	Orientation Meeting
February-May 2026 Varies by Country	Meetings with Country Liaison 3-4 meetings based on need of group, for Selected Educators
TBD (Tentative Window for visitors)	*Regensburg* Educators visit Tempe
June/July 2027 (Tentative travel window 2-3 weeks)	Tempe Educators Visit *Selected Exchange Countries*
Te Be Announced	Educators from Exchange Countries visit Tempe

Tempe Sister Cities Partners

Lower Hutt, New Zealand; *Skopje*, Macedonia; *Trollhättan*, Sweden; *Regensburg*, Germany; *ZhenJiang*, China; *Cusco*, Peru; *Beaulieu Sur Mer*, France; *Cuenca*, Ecuador; Timbuktu, Mali; *Agra City*, India; and *Carlow*, Ireland



Tempe Sister Cities International Educator Exchange Program Application

Note: Please Type or Print Neatly All information on this Application or to receive an editable copy use this link https://bit.ly/4z2vZTS

1. Name:_____ Gender: _____
   First Middle Last

2. Address:_____
   Street City Zip

3. Cell Phone: _____ Name of School: _____

   Home Phone:_____ Work Email: _____

   Home Email: _____

4. Marital Status:_____ Age of Children: ___/ ___/ ___/ ___/ ___/ ___/___

   Name of Spouse/Partner (if applicable):_____

5. Highest Degree:_____ No. of Years Taught:_____ Years at Your School: _____

6. Certifications & Endorsements: _____

7. Grade and/or Subjects taught: _____

8. Professional/ Civic/Community/Church Membership/Service: _____

_____



9. Have you ever traveled abroad? _____ Alone or w/Group: _____

   Where/When:_____

10. First Choice Country:_____ Second Choice Country: _____
    The final determination of the country to be visited by all selected Educators will be decided by the ***Core Interview Team.***

11. Please attach a resume showing educational background and teacher/work experience.

12. Personal/Candidacy Statement: Respond to the following in short answer:
    1. What special interest and abilities do you have that would justify your selection?

    2. What educational growth do you plan to attain from this exchange?

    3. What experiences (educational, social, or recreational) can you offer for you and your potential guest?

    4. How would this interaction affect your family?

13. Photo: Please attach a current photo to be shared with the exchange educator.



International Educator Exchange Personal Questionnaire

Retype each of the following questions (1-11) followed by your answer, or receive an editable copy: https://bit.ly/3tkeM9

1. Please tell us where you live including the major cross streets and your travel time to and from work?

2. What preparations will you need to make before your guest arrives?

3. Please list all adults and children (including ages) living in the hosting residence. Please include pets.

4. How will you transport your visiting teacher to events?

5. Who else might be available to help with transportation if needed?

6. Please answer the questions below and provide a brief description when applicable.
    a. Do you have any dietary restrictions? If so, please explain.
    b. Are you allergic to pets? If so, please explain.
    c. Do you have other allergies? If so, please explain.
    d. Do you smoke? Are you allergic to smoke?
    e. How would you accommodate your guest if they have dietary restrictions?
    f. How would you accommodate your guest if they were allergic to pets or if they smoked?

7. List your regular activities. (Examples: sport teams, gym attendance, 2nd job, religious organization attendance, social groups, continuing education, tutoring, etc)
    a. How would these activities and/or commitments need to be adjusted in order to accommodate your guest? Explain.
    b. In which of these activities would your guest be able to participate?
    c. What arrangement would you make for your guest while you are gone?

8. Sometimes there is not a gender match in the hosting experience. Do you have any concerns being paired with an individual who is: of the opposite sex, LGBTQ+, married, divorced, with or without children? Please explain.

9. What additional language(s) do you or other residents in your home speak?

10. Do you have any medical conditions or concerns your guest may need to know about? Please explain.

11. Do you have any additional comments you wish to share?



International Educator Exchange Agreement

I agree, if selected, to represent my Tempe community as an educator ambassador and visit Regensburg, Germany; Lower Hutt, New Zealand or Trollhättan, Sweden. Non-compliance with this agreement may cause forfeiture of participation in the Tempe Sister Cities International Educator Exchange. **Participating countries vary from year to year.**

Specifically, *I agree to the following*:

1. I will ***attend all mandatory orientation sessions***. Missing sessions will necessitate your removal from the educator exchange.

2. I agree to **join** and actively participate in the Tempe Sister Cities Corporation (TSC) through the 27-28 year, including working Oktoberfest during the weekend of October 15-17, 2027.

3. I agree to adhere to the Educator Exchange travel date schedule and ***to depart and return to the U.S. as a group member.***

4. I agree that neither my spouse, my partner, nor any other family member(s) or friend(s) will join me while I am on the exchange. Violating this part of the agreement will be grounds for ***total reimbursement by the participant*** of any and all costs incurred by the Tempe Sister Cities organization (plane fare, etc.)

5. I will be a considerate and responsible guest in the exchange guest's home that I visit and will be a gracious and concerned host when my exchange guest visits Tempe. I understand that I must reciprocate "in kind" for my guest. My visiting teacher will be my priority while here. Flexibility makes this enjoyable for all those involved.

6. I will ***adjust my schedule and attend ALL functions*** that will be held/sponsored by the Tempe Sister Cities International Educator Exchange.

7. I will be available to give talks about the Tempe Sister Cities program, plan and promote the program for the following 27-28. school year. I will write a short article, attach a photo and submit it to the TSC Core Team Editor upon my return.

8. I will file for my American passport as soon as possible

9. I understand that participants ***travel at their own risk***. I will make individual arrangements for medical coverage, liability and travel insurance. An additional travel/health insurance policy is recommended and available to you at minimal cost. (contact coordinator for the country)

10. I will return to my district/school for the 27-28 school year.

Please read carefully each item above to understand your commitment and obligation before signing.

Name:_____ Signature:_____

(Please Print) (Applicant please sign)



Date:_____ School:_____ Signature_____

(Principal or Headmaster)

Check Appropriate Box for School: ⬜Public