

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Amity Intern Teacher Applicants

How do I become an applicant?

- Read the Amity Intern Bulletin and Frequently Asked Questions.
- Complete an Amity application.
- Interview with an Amity Screening Officer.

What are my chances of receiving an assignment?

In recent years, most of those who have applied and maintained an active application have received an assignment. However, there is no guarantee that applicants suit the specific need of our host schools and will be selected.

How can I improve my chances?

- Maintain a flexible period of availability.
- Be open to assist at all school levels.
- Be willing to go to any region in the United States.

How do I maintain an active application?

- Notify Amity Institute of any changes in your availability.
- Notify Amity Institute of any changes in your contact information such as; address, telephone, cell phone number, and e-mail address.
- Respond promptly to any request from Amity Institute.

What are the program costs?

- \$50 application fee paid to Amity Institute.
- SEVIS Fee - \$180, SEVIS is the visa database all J-1 applicants must sign up with before their visa interview.
- Visa application costs (varies by country, approximately \$180).
- Travel expenses to and from the United States (varies by country), and health insurance costs (approximately \$70 per month).
- Personal expense money, a minimum of \$150 per month. This covers everyday costs for toiletries, clothing, travel, entertainment, telephone, etc.

Consider all costs before applying. Do not expect to earn additional money during your assignment.

Amity Inters will receive a monthly stipend of a minimum of \$150 as well as free room and board (a value of approximately \$600/month).

What is an assignment?

An assignment requires a participant to:

- Assist in a classroom for approximately 25 hours per week.
- Live with an American Host Family.
- Take Personal Study Classes. These may be taken at a university/college, Advanced Placement High School or through adult education programs. Courses are not taken for credit. Amity Interns audit the courses. If courses are taken for credit, Interns are responsible for the cost of the classes.

How do I know if I have an assignment?

Amity will contact you by email or telephone and inform you that you have received an invitation. That is the only way to receive an assignment. Often schools will contact applicants for an interview, but they do not give an official invitation. The invitation for an assignment will come from Amity Institute.

Before you accept an assignment, you must be:

- Available to come.
- Able to fulfill the financial requirements.
- Prepared to adapt to new circumstances, home, and work environment.

If you are unable to accept an assignment, your application may be dropped, deferred or considered for future assignments, depending upon the circumstances.

Can I look for my own assignment?

Once your application to Amity Institute has been accepted you may not contact schools on your own behalf. Doing so would interfere with the official admissions process.

What happens after I am invited?

An Amity Program Counselor will be assigned to you. Your Program Counselor will send you a series of detailed documents with information about the assignment, visa, insurance and preparations necessary prior to arrival. You will need to read these documents thoroughly. Questions regarding the visa, health insurance, and assignment should be directed to your Program Counselor.

The Program Counselor also provides guidance, support, encouragement, and assistance with any problems from the beginning of the assignment until the end.

Are all assignments the same?

NO. Amity assignments vary in **length of stay, location, school, stipend, specific duties, and responsibilities.**

Common Assignment Lengths:

- Full School Year (ten months)
- One Semester (five months)

Note: Per visa regulations, assignments cannot exceed 12 months.

Where are the Assignments located?

Amity works with hundreds of participating schools throughout the US. Many schools are in the Midwest, in suburban locations. There are few assignments in major US cities.

What type of school will I be assigned to?

Interns can be assigned to all academic levels. Below is a breakdown of the approximate age and corresponding educational level:

- Elementary 5-12 years of age
- Middle/Jr. High 13-15 years of age
- Senior High 15-18 years of age

Participating schools include public, private, religious, foreign language immersion and bilingual schools.

What will be my assignment responsibilities?

Assignments vary greatly from school to school. Examples include:

- Assist teachers in classes of different levels.
- Give cultural presentations.
- Coordinate student activities: trips, festivals, sports, choir, and performances.
- Tutor students, help in language labs or lead discussion groups.
- Teach independently if mutually agreed during the invitation process.

Do I need health insurance?

YES! It is a visa requirement that Interns have health insurance for their entire stay in the US, beginning with the travel date to the US and ending with the date of departure from the US.

Once invited, Amity will provide information and enrollment form for an insurance policy that costs approximately \$70 per month.

What if I accept an invitation, but cannot come?

If an emergency occurs and you have to cancel participation prior to arrival, you must inform Amity Institute and the school immediately. You will forfeit the application fee and your visa sponsorship will be cancelled. Visa documents must be returned to Amity Institute.

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