



## Visiting International Teacher Program – Spain Program Overview 2021-22

The **Visiting Teachers from Spain Program** is intended to promote strong cross-cultural ties between the citizens of Delaware and the people of Spain and to provide an opportunity for Delaware students to learn Spanish from native speakers. Under this program, **districts/schools in the state may request to host visiting international teachers from Spain** to teach in elementary or middle school immersion programs or secondary world language programs for a period of up to three years. A two-year extension may be requested during the teacher's third year should the district and teacher deem this to be mutually beneficial. Districts will provide these teachers with a salary commensurate with their degree and years of experience.

Candidates for these positions are pre-selected by the Spanish Ministry of Education and screened by Department of Education staff for either **Spanish immersion or secondary Spanish world language positions**. DOE staff forwards a limited number of candidates to participating school districts for the district to conduct final selection interviews via Skype for the position requested. All candidates will have taught for a minimum of three years in a Spanish school. Elementary candidates may have either a B.A. or a Master's Degree and elementary certification. All candidates are certified to teach Spanish.

### Program Objectives

The **Visiting Teacher from Spain Program** is authorized under the J1 visa program from the US Department of State and provides **cultural and education exchange opportunities** between Spanish teachers and American educational institutions. The overall goals of the program are:

- to provide teachers from Spain with a cultural exchange to learn more about the United States
- to provide teachers from Spain with an opportunity to be immersed in US pedagogy and methodology which will enrich their teaching when they return to Spain
- to increase global awareness and understanding within the school and broader community
- to increase understanding of the language, culture, and history of Spain
- to provide the opportunity for Delaware students to interact with students from Spain

### Application Procedures

Districts/Schools interested in hosting a Visiting Teacher from Spain should write a **“Letter of Request to Host”** in which they indicate the following:

- the school year for initial cultural exchange and employment
- the school which will host the teacher and the grade and program in which they will teach
- an statement indicating understanding of and commitment to carry out all district and school responsibilities (attached)

A separate “Letter of Request to Host” should be written for **each position** should the district be interested in hosting more than one teacher.

### Application Timeline

Letters of Intent must be received via email no later than **Thursday, April 1, 2021**. Letters should be sent via email to Lynn Fulton, Education Specialist for Dual Language Immersion at [lynn.fulton@doe.k.12.de.us](mailto:lynn.fulton@doe.k.12.de.us).

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR 2021-22

Due to the ongoing pandemic and limited number of visas provided to the Delaware Department of Education by the US Department of State, LEAs are strongly encouraged to actively pursue the hiring / recruitment of domestic candidates in advance of the application deadline. DOE is currently only able to sponsor up to 15 J1 visas. **Priority will be given in the order in which written requests are received.**



## Visiting International Teacher Program – Spain Roles and Responsibilities 2020-21

| DOE Responsibilities   | District Responsibilities  | School Responsibilities   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><i>Selection and Contracting</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct screening interviews through the Embassy of Spain and select candidates for school interviews via Skype</li> <li>• Sponsor J-1 visa for the teacher and complete all accompanying federal paperwork</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Welcome, Arrival, Orientation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide one week of federally required orientation prior to start of school (first week in August)</li> <li>• Assist candidates in applying for social security cards and completing background check paperwork in accordance with appointment restrictions in place on August 6, 2021</li> <li>• Provide copies of transcripts and application packets to the Office of Certification and to the district HR office</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Academic-Year Support</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct monthly check-ins with each visiting teacher during the year</li> <li>• Conduct quarterly check-ins with district and school administrators regarding teacher status</li> </ul> | <p><b><i>Selection and Contracting</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make offer to candidates once selected by schools</li> <li>• Provide candidates with information regarding salary, benefits, start date, and other district new teacher procedures</li> <li>• Offer teachers a standard contract (not “temporary”) upon candidate receipt of social security number</li> <li>• Calculate full salary based on completion of DEEDS paperwork</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Welcome, Arrival, Orientation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide district-level orientation/new teacher orientation</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Academic-Year Support</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll all visiting teachers in Cycle 1 state-wide mentoring program regardless of prior experience in home country (successful completion of all cycles is required should the teacher desire to stay in Delaware beyond the three years of the J-1 visa program)</li> <li>• Participate in quarterly check-ins with the DOE J-1 Program Coordinator regarding teacher status</li> <li>• Assist the school in meeting its responsibilities to the teacher</li> </ul> | <p><b><i>Selection and Contracting</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview finalists via Skype and choose final candidate by DOE-determined date</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Welcome, Arrival, Orientation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and provide a cultural mentor to each visiting teacher</li> <li>• Arrange for welcoming teachers and picking up them from airport on or before Sunday, July 25, 2021</li> <li>• Provide a <b>homestay</b> with a host family for the visiting teacher for their first 2-4 weeks in Delaware</li> <li>• Provide transportation for the visiting teacher for the first 2-4 weeks in the country, including transportation to and from Dover for the Immersion Institute, Aug 2-5, 2021 and to and from school/district training</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Academic-Year Support</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide teachers with cultural enrichment activities monthly</li> <li>• Participate in quarterly check-ins with the DOE J-1 Program Coordinator regarding teacher status</li> <li>• Communicate with DOE and the Embassy of Spain should the visiting teacher experience any challenges adapting to the school/culture</li> <li>• Participate in the Annual Visit to schools by representatives from the Embassy of Spain</li> </ul> |