



International Academy of St. Petersburg

“Building Bridges for Third Culture Kids”

FAQ's of Potential IA Staff

What amount of teaching experience do you require?

SOME CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE IS A PLUS, BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS REQUIRE IT. LAST YEAR, ONE OF OUR STRONGEST TEACHERS WAS IN HER FIRST YEAR.

Do you want Degrees or certification in teaching?

YES WE WANT THEM, BUT IF THE APPLICANT HAS ENOUGH PERTINENT EXPERIENCE AND GOOD REFERENCES WE SOMETIMES FILL URGENTLY NEEDED POSITIONS WITH NON-DEGREED STAFF.

What is the minimum length of commitment needed to teach at IA?

ONE YEAR, THOUGH WE PREFER TWO. IN RARE SITUATIONS, WE'VE ACCEPTED TEACHERS FOR A SEMESTER, BUT THIS IS LABOR-INTENSIVE FOR US FOR SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

Do you provide any financial compensation?

WE PAY VISA/DOCUMENTATION COSTS, AND WHEN AN APPLICANT HAS OBVIOUSLY MADE BEST-EFFORT AT SUPPORT-RAISING, DEPENDING ON OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION WE CAN SOMETIMES COME ALONGSIDE AND HELP.

Do you require any special training in advance?

WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND ACSI's "THIRD CULTURE KID PRE-FIELD ORIENTATION." IT TAKES PLACE IN JUNE EACH YEAR AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE, NEW YORK. IT IS A STIMULATING, THOROUGH INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MINISTRY. IN SOME CASES WE OFFER TO PAY THE CONFERENCE FEES FOR A NEW TEACHER, IN EXCHANGE FOR A 2-YEAR COMMITMENT.

How do I go about fundraising?

ONCE YOU ARE ACCEPTED TO TEACH AT IA, WE WILL CONNECT YOU TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT CAN PROCESS YOUR DONATIONS AND HELP YOU LOGISTICALLY GET TO RUSSIA. THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CHILDREN ENROLLED AT IA WITH PARENTS IN MINISTRY. WE CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION AND MATERIALS TO HELP YOU PRESENT THE SCHOOL, AND WE WILL ENCOURAGE YOU, PRAY FOR YOU, AND DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP YOU IN THIS PROCESS.

Where will I live?

WE HELP OUR STAFF FIND APARTMENTS IN THE CITY, EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT ROOMMATES ACCORDING TO PREFERENCE AND AVAILABILITY. STAFF MEMBERS GENERALLY DO NOT OWN VEHICLES, BUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN ST. PETERSBURG IS QUITE GOOD.

What is winter like?

NOT USUALLY AS COLD AS PEOPLE THINK; THE GULF OF FINLAND KEEPS US A LOT WARMER THAN SIBERIA. IT CAN GET VERY COLD, BUT USUALLY NOT FOR MORE THAN A COUPLE/FEW WEEKS AT A TIME.

THE MOST DIFFICULT TIME SEEMS TO BE LATE FALL AND SPRING, WHEN IT IS VERY WET, DIRTY AND DARK. WHEN THERE IS SNOW, IT'S BRIGHTER AND CAN BE BEAUTIFUL. LATE SPRING AND SUMMER IS FUN BECAUSE IT IS LIGHT 20+ HOURS PER DAY.

BRING BOOTS AND LOTS OF LAYERS!