

VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHER



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Visiting International Teacher Certificate?

A valid teacher credential issued by the State Board for Educator Certification. The VIT certificate is not a standard renewable certificate, but a temporary certificate intended for J-1 visiting international teachers.

2. Can Visiting Teachers take certification exams?

No. VIT certificate holders are **not** eligible to take Texas certification exams.

3. When should visiting teachers create a TEA Login (TEAL) account?

Visiting teachers must set up a TEA Login account **after** they have received their social security number. This is the first step to the application process.

4. Can visiting international teachers request a P-number?

Visiting teachers do not need a P-number. This will delay issuance of their certificate. Effective August 1, 2015, P-numbers can no longer be utilized for completion of the fingerprinting process. Fingerprinting is required for issuance of a teacher certificate.

5. Who should I contact for help with accessing my TEAL account?

You may call (512) 936-8400, option 2 to speak with a certification specialist or submit a help desk ticket to [TEAL Access](#).

6. How do I correct my name on my account?

To correct your name or date of birth on your educator account, you must submit a help desk ticket request to [Educator Certification](#) with a copy of your current passport or state ID attached. You may also upload a current passport or state ID directly to your ECOS account under the “My Documents” tab. Please allow 7-10 business days to process a demographic change.

7. Where can I find my TEA ID number?

Your TEA ID number is generated after you create a TEAL account. You may view your TEA ID number directly under the “View My Educator Certification Account” link after your log into you TEA Login account.

8. How does the fingerprinting process start?

After the VIT online application is submitted by the employing ISD and if the educator has a social security number, the educator will have access to pay for fingerprinting through their ECOS account. After the fingerprinting fee is paid the educator will receive a pre-enrollment email from Identogo (nobody@identogo). The email will provide unique codes and instructions on how to schedule a fingerprinting appointment specifically for TEA through Identogo’s website.

For fingerprint processing questions you may contact a fingerprinting specialist at (512)936-8400, option 3 or submit a help desk ticket request to [Fingerprinting and Registry Support](#).

9. Should a district upload the educator as non-certified to complete fingerprinting faster?

No. Please **do not** upload visiting teachers as non-certified to schedule fingerprinting. This will delay issuance of their VIT certificate. Visiting teachers are certified educators and should not be uploaded as non-certified.

10. Is the VIT program open to all countries?

The teacher exchange program sponsor has discretion around the countries from which they will recruit teachers. Teacher exchange program sponsors must be approved through the Department of State (DoS) and apply with TEA to meet the requirements established in State Board for Educator Certification rule, [§230.41. Visiting International Teacher Certificates](#).

11. How much does the VIT application cost?

The VIT application fee is \$78.00. Fingerprinting is \$40.25.

12. Who is eligible for the VIT extension?

The visiting international teacher applicant must be actively enrolled and in good standing with a J-1 visa exchange program sponsor approved by the Department of State (DoS) and TEA.

13. How long is the VIT extension?

Each extension application will be for one additional year, for a maximum of two extensions.

14. What are the required documents for issuance of the Initial VIT certificate?

In addition to the \$78.00 application fee and fingerprinting the educator must upload a copy of their DS-2019 or a letter of good standing provided to them by their exchange program.

15. What are the required documents for issuance of the VIT extension?

The VIT exchange program sponsor will determine eligibility for the VIT extension. The educator may upload a new copy of their DS-2019 or a letter of good standing provided to them by their teacher exchange program sponsor. The DS-2019 cover period must be valid for the school year they intend to teach.

16. Is the VIT extension a one-time fee?

A completed application and \$78 fee are required for each extension year.

17. Is the TOEFL-iBT required for issuance of the VIT certificate?

The TOEFL-iBT is **not** required for issuance of the VIT certificate. The visa exchange program sponsor is responsible for verifying English language proficiency.

18. If an educator has completed the out-of-country review of credentials process and has been issued a one-year certificate, are they eligible for the VIT extension? How many?

Yes, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) rules state an individual who holds a one-year certificate through the out-of-country route may be extended an additional year through the VIT extension; if the employing school district can verify the candidate is in good standing and actively enrolled in a J-1 visa teacher exchange program. DoS regulations only allow up to a total of five years on the teacher exchange program, thus only allowing one additional year on a VIT extension. ISD staff should discuss eligibility requirements with the teacher exchange program sponsor.

19. Can an educator apply for an out-of-country review of credentials and be issued a VIT certificate at the same time?

Yes, visiting international teachers may apply for an out-of-country review of credentials to obtain a standard Texas certificate independently. If the educator is seeking to become fully certified in Texas, they should apply for a review of out-of-country credentials and work toward meeting all requirements for a standard certificate.

20. Is a visiting teacher eligible for a one-year certificate after exhausting five years on a VIT certificate?

Yes, issuance of a VIT certificate does not prohibit the issuance of a one-year certificate following a successful review of credentials. The educator must apply for a review of credentials and submit all required documents. Eligibility of the one-year certificate will be determined at the time of review.

21. My Visiting International Teacher certificate does not have a subject or grade level. What can I teach?

The VIT certificate does not specify a subject or grade level and will only display the holder is a Visiting International Teacher. The program sponsor and the employer are responsible for determining the appropriate assignment for visiting teachers. The employing school district and teacher exchange program should work together, review the teacher's qualifications, and ensure that the teacher has demonstrated appropriate knowledge and skills.