



Comunidad Educativa Evangélica
Siguatepeque, Honduras
Central America
www.ceehonduras.org

PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS' FAQs

FINANCES

How much are teachers paid each month?

Teachers are paid each month 7255 lempiras (which is approximately \$345 USD/month depending on the exchange rate).

Is that really enough to support me while I am there?

Yes, it definitely is enough to support yourself. Since the school provides housing (see Accommodation Section below), your monthly cheque is enough to cover basic necessities such as food, travel and entertainment. Many teachers decide to raise additional financial support from their church, friends and family at home for costs that may not be covered by their monthly cheque, such as an extra flight to fly home over Christmas or student debt repayment. CEE is an affiliate ministry of Latin America Mission, Canada (LAM Canada) and United World Mission, U.S.A. (UWM) which can help facilitate the raising of support by teachers during their time at CEE. We encourage you to consider raising additional financial support and are happy to answer any questions about this process.

Does the school pay for flights to and from Honduras?

The school provides each teacher with an \$800 USD travel allowance to cover the cost of flights. This is given to the teachers in 4 equal installments, spread out over the school year.

Does the school pay for your visa for the year?

Yes, the school covers all visa-related costs, but you will be responsible for some aspects of the process, such as filling out the necessary paperwork. When you first arrive in Honduras, you will receive a Tourist Visa (90 days), which the school can extend for 30 more days in Tegucigalpa. During Teacher Orientation, the school will explain the residency process, and will lead you through the paperwork process.

ACCOMODATION

The school provides housing for all teachers, including basic utilities (water and electricity). The school offers teachers 3 potential options for housing:

1. **Live with a Honduran family, food included.** If you decide to live with a family with food included, the school will take 2000 lempiras each month from your cheque to give to the family to cover the costs of buying and preparing your meals. Your monthly cheque then will be L 5, 255.
2. **Live with a Honduran family, no food included.** In this case, you would buy and prepare your own food, making an arrangement to share the kitchen with the family.

- 3. Live in an apartment shared with other teachers.** If you would rather live with other teachers, we will do our best to arrange for a shared apartment. Again, in this case, you would buy and prepare your own food. The school will provide basic furnishings for the apartment as well.

In each case, accommodations will be arranged on a yearly basis in discussion with each teacher.

Do I get my own room?

Yes, an individual room is provided for each teacher whether you live with a family or in a shared apartment. In either case you will share a bathroom, kitchen, living room.

Is there air conditioning in most houses/apartments? School? Is there heat? Do you need either?

There isn't air-conditioning or heating in the school or in most houses/apartments. This is really not common in any buildings in Siguatepeque. Most people just use a fan during the hotter months, and wear an extra sweater during the cooler months.

Is there hot water in houses/apartments?

Most houses in Siguatepeque do not have hot water, except for in the shower.

Is there Internet at the school? Would I be able to have Internet where I'm living?

Wireless Internet access is available at the school so teachers can access the Internet through their own laptop during school hours. If you live with a family they will likely have Internet which you can arrange with them to share. If you live in an apartment you can decide to have Internet access, but you are responsible to pay all associated costs.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL INFORMATION

What is the weather like in Siguatepeque?

The average annual temperature range in Siguatepeque is 18-30°C (65-85°F). During the "rainy" season (not constantly raining, however) – June through November – you may want a lightweight, water repellent jacket or parka. From December through February, when the temperature dips occasionally down to 8°C (40°F), you may feel chilly because houses have no central heat. Layered clothing works best on cooler days, so bring a fleece, sweater, sweatshirt, etc. to wear under a windbreaker.

The "dry" season is from February to May, with the hottest months being April and May, with temperatures reaching a peak of 32°C (95°F) but it is still relatively comfortable because of the low humidity. This means that you may not see any rain what-so-ever for these three months, leading to water shortages and poor air quality. Once the dry season begins, the temperatures during the day will average 28 degrees Celsius. Evenings can be cooler, and a sweater will be needed.

How do people get around in your city? How is the public transport? How much does it cost?

The easiest (and cheapest) way to get around the city is by walking. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from the school to the centre of town. Within a few minutes walk of the school, there are lots of small stores, restaurants, a swimming pool and our local hospital.

Otherwise, it is very easy to travel around the city by taxi. This normally costs \$1-2 USD, depending on how far you are travelling.

There are also public buses that travel around the city and to other cities. There are different types of buses, from very economic (and slow) "chicken" buses, to very comfortable luxury buses. The cost of bus

travel ranges widely depending on what type of bus you choose. The middle of the line buses will charge about \$8 USD to travel 2 hours to either San Pedro Sula or Tegucigalpa (the 2 major cities in Honduras).

What if my friends or family want to visit me?

Many of our teachers have visitors at some point during the year. We encourage teachers to have family and friends visit, but this must be coordinated with the school and not interfere with your teaching responsibilities. If you want to travel with your visitors, this must be done during regular school holidays (Christmas, Easter, weekends, etc). There are also opportunities for visitors to volunteer at the school. Please talk to the English Program Coordinator before making any commitments to visitors.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Does the school have a religious affiliation?

Yes, the school is a Christian school that requires all teachers to agree to our Statement of Faith. We are looking for teachers that are active in their Christian faith and want to serve Him in Honduras. We are an interdenominational school with teachers from various evangelical church backgrounds.

What resources are available in the classrooms?

The students have access to various textbooks and workbooks for most of their subjects. We are also developing a specific English curriculum for our teachers. We have a number of English resources available to teachers as well. There are not a lot of physical resources in the classrooms, but we are trying to purchase more games, puzzles, etc. for students to use. Most teachers try to bring down some resources to donate to the school, as well.

What is the academic program at CEE like?

CEE is an early partial immersion program, which means that students learn through two languages (Spanish and English) from the time they begin kindergarten. At our school, students take approximately half of their classes in Spanish and half in English. In the Spanish classes, the school follows the national Honduran curriculum. For the English classes, our school has developed a curriculum based on the overall goals of our school. We revise this curriculum on a yearly basis.

What are the different English classes that are available to teach in each grade?

Kindergarten/Preparatoria - Jardín Bilingüe Siguatepeque

Our kindergarten program is offered to children ages 4-5. At this age, most of the students begin school without speaking any English. We use Pearson Education's "Big Fun" program. We also use the Jolly Phonics program to begin teaching students the sounds of the alphabet.

Elementary school - Escuela Bilingüe Siguatepeque

The elementary School Program is offered to students in Grades 1-6. Our students spend approximately half of their day with their Spanish teacher and half of their day with their English teacher.

Our English program includes the following classes: Language, Reading, Spelling, Physical Education and Science. In Language class, we use McGraw Hill's "Grammar Spot" program. In Reading, we continue using the Jolly Phonics in Grades 1 and 2, as well as the A-Z Reading Program. We use the Balanced Literacy Model to structure our reading time as well. In Science, we use the McGraw Hill's "Blue Planet – English Through Science", supplemented with various other Science textbooks.

Secondary School - Instituto Bilingüe Siguatepeque

The following classes are taught in English in our secondary program:

Gr. 7 – English, Spelling, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics, Art

Gr. 8 - English, Spelling, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics, Art

Gr. 9 – English, Spelling, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics

Gr. 10 – English, Physical Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Art History

Gr. 11 - English, Physical Education, Philosophy, History

Is there an English library at the school?

Yes, the school has a library with English and Spanish books. There are some reference books, and quite a good selection of novels and other fiction material. We also have developed classroom libraries, so every class has quick and easy access to reading material.

Are there computers at the school? Are they in each classroom?

There is a computer lab at the school, with a class set of computers. Each grade takes computer classes each week. There are not any computers in the individual classrooms.

Is there Internet at the school? Is it available in each classroom?

There is wireless Internet available at the school and in most of the classrooms. Also, a few of the computers in the computer lab can access the Internet.

Would I be able to use my personal laptop as a classroom resource?

Definitely! All CEE teachers are required to bring a personal laptop for school use. Our school also has a video projector, which can be hooked up to your laptop to show movies, PowerPoint presentations, etc. The projector is located in the library.

Does the school do any kind of professional development throughout the year?

Yes, there are various training sessions throughout the year, which all teachers are expected to attend. You will also be given individual support by the English Program Coordinator, who is available for any classroom concerns or questions.

What type of resources does the school have?

The school is always trying to add teacher/student resources and many times, resources are donated by incoming teachers. Here are some of the resources that are available for teacher use: projector, DVDs, various planning/subject specific books, computer lab, wireless internet. This is not an exhaustive list.

What is the average classroom size?

We limit our class sizes at 25 students (Kindergarten-grade 6) and 30 students (grades 7-11). In the younger grades, most classes have around 22 students. In the upper grades, classes are between 10 and 26 students.

What are the mandatory working hours for teachers?

Classes begin at 7:15 and end at 2:30 for elementary, and 2:50 for secondary, Monday to Friday. Teachers will attend staff meetings one day per week. Teachers also give 2, one hour after-school help sessions 1-2 times per week. Teachers are also expected to attend staff meetings, teacher-parent meetings, training sessions, etc. which take place after classes. All teachers are responsible for preparing for classes, marking student work, completing necessary plans, etc. which is done outside of class hours. Outside of class, teachers generally work between 1-3 hours per night, grading papers, planning for the coming week or other school related work.

What is the school dress code like?

For women, a knee-length skirt with modest sleeveless shirt or blouse is acceptable. As well as dress pants or Khakis. Either shoes or sandals may be worn. For men, polo's or button down shirts with casual pants and shoes (not sandals) are appropriate. Friday's are more casual days and nice jeans may be worn.

Does the school offer Spanish lessons for English speaking teachers?

The school does not offer Spanish lessons, but we can help you set up classes with a teacher in town. The cost for a 1-hour private lesson with a teacher is \$6.00 USD-\$8.00 USD.

How many foreign teachers teach at the school each year?

The number of foreign teachers at the school varies each year, but it is normally around 8.

When do classes usually start? How many weeks prior to classes do teachers arrive?

The school year normally starts the third week of August. Teachers arrive 2 weeks prior to classes for Orientation Week.

What materials are required to apply for a teaching position?

To apply for a teaching position at the school, you need to fill out and submit an application, 2 professional references, 1 pastoral reference, copy of your university transcript(s), copy of your teaching certificate, copy of your university degree, national police check, and immunization record. If you would like to receive the application materials, please contact teach@ceehonduras.org.

I still have more questions, who should I contact?

Email the English Program Assistant, at teach@ceehonduras.org. You can also visit the school website at www.ceehonduras.org and fill out the "Contact Us" form.