



Siguatepeque Bilingual Christian School
Siguatepeque, Honduras
Central America
www.ceehonduras.org



PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS' FAQs

FINANCES

How much are teachers paid each month?

Teachers are paid approximately \$315 USD/month. It changes a bit each month depending on the exchange rate, but that is the approximate amount.

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

Yes, it definitely is enough to support yourself, especially if you decide to live at the Teacher's House, which the school provides, free of charge. Your monthly salary then just goes toward your food, entertainment, travel, etc. This is the situation for most teachers each year, without any problems.

Some teachers decide to raise additional financial support from their church, friends and family at home. If a teacher would like to do this, the school is happy to provide an official letter outlining your role at the school. Also, the school is now an affiliate ministry of Latin America Mission, Canada (LAM, Canada). With this affiliation it is possible to raise support while serving in Honduras. Latin America Mission also has a branch in the U.S.A., which means U.S. citizens can also raise support through LAM. Please contact the English Program Coordinator if you have any questions.

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?

When you first arrive in Honduras, you will receive a Tourist Visa (90 days). You will need to leave the country every 3-4 months to renew your Tourist Visa. The school will assist with some of the expenses for these trips (2 during the year), providing approximately \$100USD/trip. This amount will probably not cover the total cost of the trip. Teachers receive the visa assistance money once before December and once after December. The trips will normally take place during long weekends or holidays, and you must travel out of Honduras for 2 nights. You may travel to any country in Central America or farther to renew your visa.

ACCOMODATION

Do I get my own room at the Teachers' House?

Normally, an individual room is provided free of charge for all teachers in a house that is on the school campus. It is a 5-bedroom house, split into 2 apartments. If there are more than 5 teachers hired, the school will look for other accommodations close to the school (i.e. shared apartment, boarding with a family, etc.)

If I want to find my own accommodations, how much will it cost?

To rent your own apartment it would cost approximately \$150-250/month, depending on the size of the apartment, the location, etc. It normally costs about \$300/month to live with a family, but this includes prepared meals as well.

Is there air conditioning in the Teachers' House? School? Is there heat? Do you need either?

There isn't air-conditioning or heating in the school or in the Teachers' House. 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 the Teachers' House?

There is hot water at the Teachers' House on the school campus, in both the kitchen and the 2 bathrooms. Most houses in Siguatepeque do not have hot water, except for in the shower.

Is there Internet in the rooms of the Teachers' House and/or would I be able to have Internet into my own apartment if I rented?

Wireless Internet access is available at the school so teachers can access the Internet through their own laptop after school hours. Many times, the Teachers' House residents decide to pay for wireless Internet so it will be accessible whenever needed and accessible anywhere in the house. Otherwise, there are also many Internet cafes in Siguatepeque as well, where you can also arrange to make cheap international phone calls.

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?

Most 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.

Often, visitors can stay with you at the Teachers' House, as long as this is coordinated with the English Program Coordinator and your housemates.

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.

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 type of curriculum does the school use?

In the Spanish classes, the school follows the national Honduran curriculum. For the English classes, we are in the process of developing a school-specific curriculum, to ensure continuity from Junior Kindergarten to Gr. 11. It will be draw from curriculums from various countries, both ESL and traditional English curriculums.

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

Kindergarten/Preparatoria - Jardín Bilingüe Siquatepeque

Our kindergarten program is offered to children ages 4-5. At this age, most of the students begin school without speaking any English. English is taught to these children in a playful manner, including rhymes, songs, games, story telling, etc. We use Pearson Educations' "Pockets 1" in Kindergarten and their "Pockets 2" in Prepa. We also use the Jolly Phonics program to begin teaching students the sounds of the alphabet.

Elementary school - Escuela Bilingüe Siquatepeque

The elementary School Program at is offered to student's grades 1-6. Our students spend approximately half of their day with their Spanish teacher and half of their day with their English teacher.

In English, students receive the following classes: Language, Reading, Spelling and Science. In Language class, we use McGraw Hill's "MegaFlash Plus" 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 Siquatepeque

Our secondary students receive the following classes in English:

Gr. 7 – English, Spelling, Conversation, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics, Art
Gr. 8 - English, Spelling, Conversation, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics, Art
Gr. 9 – English, Spelling, Conversation, Science, Physical Education, Home Economics
Gr. 10 – English, Physical Education, Psychology
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 not very many reference books, but there is quite a good selection of novels and other fiction material. We are also in the process of developing 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. We currently do not have any computers in the individual classrooms.

Is there Internet at the school? It is 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! Our only concern is that teachers are not using it for personal use during class time. 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, VHS videos, 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 24 students. In the younger grades, most classes have between 18 and 22 students. In the upper grades, most classes are between 15 and 20 students.

What are the mandatory working hours for teachers?

Classes begin at 7:30 and end at 2:15 for elementary, and 2:30 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 about \$5.00 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 last week of August. Teachers arrive 2 weeks prior to classes for Orientation Week.

What does a sample year calendar look like?

The following are the important dates for the 2010-2011 school year:

Foreign Teacher Airport Pick-Up Date	Aug. 10 th , 2010
Teacher Orientation	Aug. 11 th -24 th , 2010
First Day of Classes	Aug. 25 th , 2010
Christmas Holidays	Dec. 18 th , 2010 – Jan. 4 th , 2011
Easter Holidays	April 16 th -24, 2011
Final Day of Classes	May 27 th , 2011
Completion of Teacher Contract	June 25 th , 2011

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 Esther Bettney, English Program Coordinator, at teach@ceehonduras.org. You can also visit the school website at www.ceehonduras.org and fill out the “Contact Us” form.