

Kaohsiung American School (KAS) /University of Maine Student Teaching Placement Program



This unique UMaine program will give education students the opportunity to learn about teaching in an international context and allow students to practice their teaching skills. During the program students enroll for student teaching credits at UMaine and complete the second half of their student teaching placement abroad.

Kaohsiung, Taiwan Overview

Kaohsiung city, the third largest city in Taiwan with 2.5 million inhabitants. The subtropical city has sunny and humid summers, and mild winters. Boasting one of the world's largest container ports, Kaohsiung is southern Taiwan's economic, political and industrial center. Having been relatively recently developed, its streets are wide and well-organized, making transportation with the city rather easy. Night markets, monkey mountain and the numerous temples around Lotus Lake are some of the city's most visited sites.

Kaohsiung American School

Kaohsiung American School (KAS) is a private, non-profit, co-educational Pre K – 12 institution offering an American, college preparatory program leading to a US high school diploma and the opportunity for an IB Diploma. Kaohsiung American School was established in 1989 as an elementary school serving the needs of local and expatriate families with children. KAS students come from over 30 different nationalities. There are approximately 800 students from prek-12.

Contacts

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MAJORS

Undergraduate:

Elementary Education
Secondary Education
Art Education
Kinesiology

Graduate students in Teaching Programs

BUDGET

Budget Item	Taiwan
UMaine Tuition & Fees (15 credits) UM cost	
Housing	\$1,650
Meals	\$1,000
Airfare	\$1,200+
Visa	\$200
Miscellaneous	\$1,000+

Two scholarships of \$1,500 each are available to the first two applicants for the Taiwan student teaching.

PROGRAM DATES

7-8 weeks in the second half of each semester. Erin Straine works with placement school to confirm exact dates.

Host School requirements for student teacher placement:

KAS will provide a supervising mentor teacher, will communicate expectations and evaluation purposes, and the student teaching load will follow that of the supervising teacher.

*Application deadlines for placement:
October 15 and February 20*

LOGISTICS

Housing

KAS will assist in securing housing.

Meals

Kaohsiung has a wide range of eating options, from cheap food stalls along many roads to high end steakhouses. Most places serve local Taiwanese or Chinese food, but good Japanese, Thai, Indian and western restaurants are easy to find as well. Local markets stock an abundance of produce and other items, and small supermarkets have most items one could want. Kitchens are small and basic and eating in is convenient and inexpensive.

Insurance

All students will get UMaine On Call insurance.

Airfare

Student purchases flight based on pre-approved dates. Need to include airport codes. USD 800-1500 for local airport code KHH, which is the most convenient. USD 700-1000 for airport code TPE which is cheaper but more challenging. Students can take high-speed rail to Kaohsiung. Kaohsiung does have an international airport and provides another option for flights.

Visas

Office of International Programs will advise. Due to under-90-day stay, participants can use tourist visa upon arrival.

Transportation from airport to housing/school

KHH airport is best, and KAS provides airport transportation to housing upon arrival. If student teacher arrives at TPE, they must take high speed rail to Kaohsiung, and then KAS will provide transportation from train station to housing.

Orientation

The school will provide orientation to the city, culture, and necessary language vocabulary although English is widely spoken in the city.

Health and safety

Kaohsiung is listed by the US government as one of the safest cities in the world.