



IAG Teacher Exchange: Cross-Cultural Activity Requirements

According to Department of State regulations, all exchange teachers are required to complete and document **a minimum of two cross-cultural activities** each academic year.

Teachers must document two different types of activities*:

Activity #1: Share your culture with Americans in your classroom/community.

Activity #2: Facilitate dialogue between U.S. students and students in your home country.

**Whenever possible, classroom activities should align with standards/support learning goals.*

Activity #1: Share your Culture

Design an activity for your classroom / school community to provide an overview of your home country's history, traditions, heritage, culture, economy, educational system and/or other attributes. **Activity #1 should be completed during the fall semester, if possible.**

Suggested activities:

- **Take a virtual field trip.** Use student-friendly online educational or travel sites to take your students on a tour. Create a student-centered "travel guide" to help them prepare and follow along. If available, consider using VR headsets to create an immersive experience.
- Teach your students/other staff how to **play a sport or game** popular in your country.
- Share about a **celebration or holiday tradition** around the time it occurs in your country.
- Explain about your country's **political / election system** and compare it to the U.S. system.
- **Teach a cooking class** and prepare favorite/traditional food from home for your students to try. Provide recipes for them to take home. *(Be mindful of any food allergies.)*
- Share about **hobbies** you participate in that are unique to your culture.
- Have students **research aspects of your country** and present them to each other.
- Help your students make a **traditional craft from your country/region**.
- Share about your country's **history and geography**.
- **Read a folk tale** from your country and discuss the literary elements/compare it to American folk tales.
- Share **traditional and/or popular music** and discuss how it compares American music.
- Host a **fashion show** that highlights cultural/traditional dress.
- Discuss the **education system** in your country in comparison to the U.S. system.
- Teach key phrases from your **native language** and integrate them into the classroom (greetings, call-backs, etc.).
- Create a **gallery walk** with stations where students can learn about your country's culture and participate in activities.
- Consider **partnering with a local international club, globally-minded group, or other teachers** to present activities.

Activity #2: Initiate Student Dialogue

Facilitate an activity that involves dialogue between **U.S. students and students in another country** (preferably your home country). This can be through a virtual exchange or other means to supplement the goals of the in-person exchange. **Activity #2 must be completed by the end of the spring semester.**

Suggested Activities:

- Coordinate an international **pen pal exchange** – this can be written or by email, depending on resources at both schools. For information on how to facilitate a written exchange, visit: <https://www.aroundtheworld.com/how-to-run-a-successful-international-penpal-exchange/>
- Have students help **create a video** highlighting information about your classroom/school/community to send to students in your home school and have them send one back.
- Plan a **ZOOM or Skype session** for classes to conference in real time. (*Time zone differences and technology will need to be considered.*)
- Organize a **virtual book club**: have students in both classrooms read the same text(s) and share their reflections with each other through email or video chat.
- Select **student ambassadors** and have them design a culturally-rich lesson/activity for a class in another country and ask that class to respond/provide activities for your class.

Cross-Cultural Activity Completion and Documentation Guidelines

Exchange teachers should plan to complete at least one cross-cultural activity each semester. Documentation of **two cultural activities** is an essential component of the teacher exchange.

The report for Activity #1 should be submitted by **January 31**.

The report for Activity #2 should be submitted by **April 30**.

Documentation of each cross-cultural activity must contain:

- The date(s) of the activity.
- The location of the activity.
- The audience for/participants in each activity (*do not use full student names for privacy*).
- A general overview of the activity including the topic; and
- The estimated impact of the activity.

Submit reports using the Google Form at this link: <https://forms.gle/sbdn16WEE5K87Yqu6>

Include supporting evidence such as photos/videos, relevant files, handouts, and student work.

If you have questions, email: kristen@iagusa.org