



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 to 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.



IAG Teacher Exchange Program

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.

Each sponsor has its own process for collecting this information, which may change from year to year, and teachers receive direct guidance on how to submit their cultural activities. For IAG, teachers complete a form with supporting documentation and submit it through Records for review and approval.

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.

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

For questions contact:

visa@iagusa.org or your Alternative Responsible Officer