¡Profes! Fellowship Application

The 2016-2017 ¡MAESTROS! FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

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OVERVIEW
The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) has awarded a five year grant to Texas A&M University-Commerce, entitled ¡Profes!: Preparing Teachers & Administrators to Better Serve English Learners in Bilingual, ESL & STEM Classrooms. The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of bilingual and ESL teachers and administrators in the region. As a result of this grant, the ¡Profes! Fellows program was founded during the fall of 2012. The ¡Profes! grant office invites you to submit your application for the 2016-2017 Fellows program.

FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION
This competitive, non-needs based $3,000-$4,000/year fellowship seeks masters or doctoral students in Curriculum & Instruction specializing in bilingual or ESL education. Grant funds will be used to provide financial assistance to graduate students seeking a master’s or doctoral degree in Curriculum & Instruction specializing/focusing in bilingual or ESL (English as a Second Language) education.

The following will be given special consideration when making the fellowship selections:

- Applicants who are bilingual and biliterate (Spanish-English)
- Teachers with experience teaching English Learners (ELs)
- Teachers who have taught math or science in departmentalized settings or who have other evidence of a strong math or science background
- Teachers and staff from the grant partner districts (Commerce, Greenville, Mount Pleasant, Richardson, Sherman, and Sulphur Springs)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for a ¡Maestros! fellowship:

- Bilingual, ESL, math and/or science teacher certification or enrolled in the TAMUC alternative certification program seeking bilingual or ESL certification
- Admitted to the M.Ed. or the Ed.D. program through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the university’s Graduate School
- Master’s degree plan on file which includes a bilingual education or ESL specialization, or doctoral degree plan on file with a bilingual education or ESL area of focus
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Commitment to serve English Learners at the classroom, school, or district level
GRANT TERMS

Initial Awards
The award will be divided into the fall and spring semesters, and will be added to student accounts after fellowship selection is made. Funds may be used to pay tuition and fees, or to lower student loan amounts. Payment dates are tentative and subject to change, but will be distributed consistent with the purpose and requirements of the program.

Reapplication
Students may re-apply annually for a fellowship provided they maintain a 3.0 GPA, continue to seek an M.Ed. or Ed.D. with a bilingual or ESL specialization/area of focus, and enroll in a minimum of 12 hours/year. Doctoral students who have reached candidacy and are working on their dissertations may enroll in 6 hours/year and will be awarded half fellowships. Students who do not enroll in the minimum number of hours required may have their fellowship funds reduced. In addition, fellowship recipients must communicate regularly with one or two undergraduate students, as part of the ¡Guiamos! mentoring program, before and up to three years after the undergraduates’ graduation.
  ○ ¡Guiamos!We Guide-Fellows will be assigned one or two undergraduate students as mentees. As a mentor you must communicate with mentees regularly, invite them to visit your classroom at least twice a year and submit monthly communication logs. Mentors must also participate in the online ¡Guiamos! discussion forums designed to create a professional learning community for the mentors and mentees.

After Graduation
Upon completing their M.Ed.s or Ed.D.s fellowship recipients will be required to:
  • Continue or seek employment as a bilingual or ESL teacher or otherwise serve English Learners as a bilingual or ESL educator for at least three years.
  • Provide employment and contact information to the grant’s office annually.
  • Cooperate with requests from the project evaluator for information required as part of the three year federally-mandated follow-up monitoring.

Students who fail to comply with any of the above requirements for fellowship recipients may be required to reimburse the grant funds in accordance with the payment procedures established in the ¡Maestros! fellowship Agreement/Contract, which all recipients sign to receive the award.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST
Applicants must submit the following by May 2, 2016:
  • Completed application form (by email, snail mail, or at the ¡Profes! office located in EDS 132). Must be signed by the applicant (hand-written signature required). See page 3.
  • 400–600 word typed essay in response to the questions. See page 4.
  • Official college transcript(s) if transferring from another university. If already enrolled at TAMU-Commerce, an unofficial transcript may be submitted.
  • Three professional letters of recommendation (at least one from a college instructor).

Please submit all documents to the following:
Texas A&M University-Commerce, ATT:¡Profes! Grant Office, EDS 132
Department of Curriculum & Instruction,
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas 75429

They can also be hand-delivered to the ¡Profes! Grant Office in EDS (Education South) 132.
If you prefer to fax: 903-886-5581

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information, contact: ProfesGrant@tamuc.edu, (903) 468-8775 OR
Grant Associate Director, Gilbert Hernández, Gilbert.Hernandez@tamuc.edu, (903) 468-8773 OR
Grant Principal Investigator, Dr. Chris Green, Chris.Green@tamuc.edu, (903) 886-5533

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1. Printed Name: ___________________________ Student ID #: __________________

2. Address: ______________________________________________________________________

3. Home phone: __________________ Cell or work phone: __________________ MyLeo email (will be used as primary email): __________________________________________________________________
Other email (will be used as secondary email): __________________________________________________________________

4. Current status (Check the one that applies):
   _____ Admitted to the M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction program A&M-Commerce
   _____ Admitted to the Ed.D. in Curriculum & Instruction program A&M-Commerce
   _____ Have applied to the ___ M.Ed. or ___ Ed.D. (Check one that applies) program in Curriculum & Instruction: Specialization: ____________________________

5. Which of the following specializations/areas of focus do you intend to pursue for your master’s or doctorate degree?
   _____ Bilingual Education _____ ESL Education _____ Math _____ Science
   _____ Other. Please provide if not listed above: __________________________________________________________________

6. Check the teacher certification(s) you currently hold (Please check/circle all that apply):
   _____ EC–4, EC-6, 4-8 or 9-12 Bilingual _____ EC–4, EC-6, 4-8 or 9-12 ESL
   _____ 4-8 or 8-12 Math _____ 4-8 or 8-12 Science
   _____ Other. Please list: __________________________________________________________________

7. Are you currently employed by any of the following school districts?
   _____ Sherman ISD _____ Commerce ISD _____ Richardson ISD
   _____ Greenville ISD _____ Mount Pleasant ISD _____ Sulphur Springs ISD
   _____ Other, Please provide if not listed above: __________________________________________________________________

8. Do you speak a language other than English fluently? Yes ___ No ___
   If yes, what language? __________________________________________________________________

9. Do you read and write a language well other than English? Yes ___ No ___
   If yes, what language? __________________________________________________________________

10. Are you a re-applicant or a new candidate? ____________

11. Have you participated in the ¡Guiamos! mentoring program? Yes___ No___

I certify that all of the information included in this application is true and complete.

__________________________________________________________  ____________________________
Applicant Signature (Original Signature Required)  Date

See the next page for the essay questions. Submit typed responses to the questions on a separate sheet of paper together with your recommendations, transcript and this application form.
**Directions:**
1. Write your name and the date at the top of your paper.
2. Use Times New Roman size 12 font and 1 inch margins.
3. Copy the essay questions for New Applicants or for Re-applicants, depending on which category you fit into, onto your paper.
4. Answer the questions with 100-150 word responses for each question. This will result in a total of 400 to 600 words.

**Essay Questions for New Applicants:**
If this is your first time applying for a ¡Maestros! fellowship, please answer the following questions:

1. What are your experiences teaching English Learners (ELs)? Describe any experiences you have had with teaching in general and also teaching EL students.

2. What are your teaching career plans? Describe how and why (if applicable) you decided to seek EC-6 Bilingual Generalist teaching certification.

3. What is it about bilingual education that attracts you and what vision do you have of the kind of teacher you hope to become?

4. What will you contribute to the schools and programs you teach in?

**Essay Questions for Re-Applicants:**
If you have received a ¡Maestros! Fellowship in the past, please re-answer the following questions, reflecting all years of being a Fellow. Do not just re-submit the answers you sent in last year.

1. What has receiving a ¡Maestros! fellowship meant to you? Have you felt as though it was an honor as well as a welcome source of financial aid?

2. What have you learned about bilingual education and becoming a bilingual teacher as a result of being a ¡Maestros! Fellow and from your BLED (bilingual education) courses?

3. How have the ¡Maestros! support programs such as ¡Guíamos! helped you? Has participation in any of them been too much of a burden for you in any way?

4. What role will serving the community play in your future life as a teacher?