



## **The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program in Malaysia**

The Fulbright English Language Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program offers recent American college graduates an opportunity to work as assistants to English teachers in secondary schools in 43 countries throughout the world. The Malaysian ETA program has been in existence for 11 years, with between 10 and 100 ETAs per year taking part. ETAs are selected through a rigorous annual competition among America's brightest young university graduates.

ETAs are assigned to schools for ten months where they work under the supervision of qualified Malaysian teachers in order to enrich the schools' English language instruction. They also take responsibility for organizing school clubs, sports teams, English camps, and other extra-curricular activities, all geared toward helping students develop greater interest and ability in using spoken English to express themselves. Living in Malaysian communities and having close daily interaction with students, teachers and residents provide the young Americans with an in-depth cultural experience which is both enriching and unforgettable. In addition, the Malaysian students are able to benefit from interacting with young native English speakers and learn firsthand about Americans and American culture. The program has been very successful in improving Malaysian students' command of spoken English and their understanding of American society and culture. Indeed, the success has been such that the government of Malaysia and the U.S. Department of State recently extended the program for another three years through 2020.

The cohort of 98 ETAs arriving in January 2017 will be assigned to secondary schools in selected districts of the states of Terengganu, Pahang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Perak, Sabah and Sarawak. Each ETA will have direct, sustained contact with hundreds of students in their schools. In addition to contributing their skills and enthusiasm for teaching, the ETAs will bring additional technical support for their schools in the form of English Language Fellows sent from the U.S. to train teachers and advise on curriculum, as well as the latest English learning materials provided free of charge by the Department of State. State education officials and participating school principals and teachers are very excited about the expansion of the program and the much-needed benefits it will bring to their schools and communities.

The ETA program is administered jointly by the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange (MACEE) and the Malaysian Ministry of Education.

For more information about this program, please contact MACEE at 03- 2166 8878.