



Requirements for the International Teaching Certificate

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

International Teaching Certificate – Initial Issuance

The International Teaching certificate is issued to teachers from foreign countries who are contracted through the foreign teacher program as authorized by federal statutes enacted by the Congress of the United States or other foreign teacher recruitment programs approved by the United States Department of State or the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and who are working under a J-1 or Q-1 visa. The certificate is valid for the length of the holder's J-1 or Q-1 visa and may be extended to align with the date of an extended J-1 or Q-1 visa, not to exceed 12 years.

Requirements for the International Teaching Certificate are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for International Teaching Certificate](#) and the appropriate fee.
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
3. **Bachelor's degree and comparable teacher preparation:** Verification from a [Department-approved Foreign Credential Evaluation Agency](#) that you have the equivalent of bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States and teacher preparation that is comparable to the requirements for a Standard teaching certificate in the requested certification area.
4. **Verification of Teaching Placement:** A letter signed by an Arizona school personnel director or superintendent verifying that you have been placed in a contracted teaching position through a foreign teacher program.
5. **J-1 or Q-1 Visa:** A photocopy of your valid J-1 or Q-1 visa.

International Teaching Certificate - Foreign Language Approved Area

6. **Option for foreign language teachers:** International teachers who are requesting a certificate to teach a foreign language may qualify for an approved area in the language by submitting a letter from a department chair or dean of an accredited institution in another country or in the United States verifying that the teacher is proficient in the language.

International Teaching Certificate – Extension

The International Teaching Certificate may be extended with the following:

1. **Application:** Submission of an Application to Extend an International Teaching Certificate and the required fee.
2. **J-1 or Q1 Visa:** A photocopy of an extended J1 or Q1 visa. The certificate will be extended to the length of the certificate holder's visa, not to exceed 12 years.
3. **Verification of Teaching Placement:** A letter signed by and Arizona school personnel director or superintendent verifying that you have been placed in a contracted teaching position through a foreign teacher program.