

Press release

For Immediate Release

**U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) Return to Indonesia: Strengthening Bonds Through Education**

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Jakarta, August 21, 2023 - Eleven U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) have arrived in Indonesia. They will be assisting in teaching English at Indonesian high schools and vocational schools in seven provinces, including North Sumatra, South Kalimantan, and North Sulawesi, from August 2023 to April 2024. The arrival of this year's cohort marks a revival of the program after a three-year pause due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions.

In addition to co-teaching with Indonesian high school English teachers in the classroom, Fulbright ETAs act as informal cultural ambassadors, sharing insights into U.S. society and culture in the communities where they are teaching. As they become immersed in the local school community, they, in turn, learn from their students, co-teachers, and communities about Indonesia's rich cultural diversity.

U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Sung Y. Kim, will host a welcome lunch to celebrate their arrival. The ETAs will then undertake a three-week orientation in Jakarta and Yogyakarta organized by AMINEF, the binational Fulbright Commission responsible for managing Fulbright and other U.S. State Department-funded exchange programs in Indonesia since 1992. They will then proceed to their schools.

The Fulbright ETA program has a 19-year history of promoting mutual understanding between Americans and Indonesians. Former ETAs have come to know the country first-hand, and many develop continuing links with the country and its people and return in various capacities. Indonesian high school students have made noticeable improvements in their English communication skills and self-confidence using the language, and Indonesian high school teachers benefit from the co-teaching experience, as well.

AMINEF will publish the ETAs' monthly activities during their eight-month program on the AMINEF website [www.aminef.or.id](http://www.aminef.or.id).

**About the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program and ETA in Indonesia**

The Fulbright ETA program places U.S. citizens holding bachelor's or master's degrees who receive Fulbright grants from the U.S. Department of State to help English teachers around the globe, including Indonesia. ETAs help teach the English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S. The ETA program began in Indonesia in 2004, initially starting with five schools. It has since grown in scope, with 20-35 schools hosting ETAs yearly. AMINEF collaborates closely with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology to select the schools that welcome ETAs.

In 2022, the Fulbright ETA program, along with other Fulbright programs in Indonesia, was part of a renewed arrangement signed by Secretary General of the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Suharti and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and

Cultural Affairs Lee Satterfield formalizing the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Education signed in December 2021 by Indonesian Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Nadiem Makarim and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

**About AMINEF and Fulbright in Indonesia**

Founded as a binational Fulbright Commission in 1992, AMINEF (American Indonesian Exchange Foundation) oversees the Fulbright Program and other U.S. State Department exchange initiatives in Indonesia. Its diverse Board of Management, which includes Indonesian and American members, collaborates closely with the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education to carry out educational exchanges.

The Fulbright Program's legacy in Indonesia dates back to 1952. Annually around 100 Indonesians travel to the U.S. through Fulbright grants for degree study, teaching, research, or non-degree professional fellowships. Similarly, up to 60 Americans receive Fulbright support to contribute their expertise in teaching, research, or as consultants to Indonesian institutions.

For detailed information on opportunities for Indonesians and Americans for degree scholarships and non-degree fellowships funded by Fulbright and other programs, visit the AMINEF website at [www.aminef.or.id](http://www.aminef.or.id).

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