



## CRITICAL THINKING FOR TEACHERS TRAINING

### 2017 Scholarship Opportunity for Citizens of OAS Member States



**Scholarship Application Deadline**  
**May 15, 2017**

The General Secretariat of the [Organization of American States](#) (GS/OAS), through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC) of the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment, and the [Inter-American Teacher Education Network](#) (DHDEE/ITEN), are offering scholarships to qualified candidates of the Americas to participate in the training opportunity below.

### SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

<b>PROGRAM:</b>	Critical Thinking for Teachers: An Audio Program
<b>MODALITY:</b>	Online, United States
<b>LANGUAGE:</b>	English
<b>DURATION:</b>	1 month
<b>CALENDER:</b>	<p><b>OAS Scholarship Deadline:</b>  <b>May 15, 2017</b></p> <p><b>Start and end date:</b>  <b>July 1, 2017 – September 27, 2017</b></p>
<b>BENEFITS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A one-time allowance of USD \$250 to the top ranked candidates who successfully complete the audio program and train a minimum of five (5) teachers.</li> <li>• Access to the audio program, <i>Critical Thinking for Teachers</i>.</li> <li>• Access to ITEN's Virtual Community of Practice.</li> </ul>

## ▼ ABOUT THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The OAS General Secretariat (GS/OAS) is the central and permanent organ of the [Organization of American States](#) (OAS). Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), GS/OAS supports [OAS member states](#) in creating policies and executing programs that promote human capacity development at all educational levels. By enabling formative opportunities to citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this: (i) by supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve the quality of and equity in education; and (ii) by assisting the citizens of the Americas in realizing their full potential by giving them access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the standard of living for individuals, families and communities in the region.

The [Inter-American Teacher Education Network \(ITEN\)](#) is an initiative of the DHDEE of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the OAS.

ITEN is a network of teachers and policymakers working with the teaching profession in the Americas. Its mission is helping to improve the quality of teaching in OAS member states through knowledge exchange, capacity building, technical assistance, and by granting access to virtual tools and in-person activities. Among its tools, ITEN offers a free virtual community of practice, online and audio courses, and on-site workshops.

Furthermore, ITEN promotes collaboration and interaction among Ministries of Education and among teachers of the Americas, hoping that participants will take the lead and learn from each other by exchanging ideas, generating positive change towards the professionalization of teachers and thus contributing to the improvement of education in the Americas.

ITEN believes that teachers are at the core of education, and play a key role in preparing young generations to act in an interconnected world. Despite the considerable improvement in the access to primary and secondary education in recent years, the Americas still faces challenges in achieving a high quality education for everyone.

## ▼ ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In 2015, ITEN developed its first audio program for teachers titled *Critical Thinking for Teachers*, which is a series of interactive audio programs and podcasts for teachers in rural areas of OAS member states. These audio programs have the objective to strengthen teachers' ability to teach critical thinking skills in mathematics, literacy, science, and citizenship education. Woven into an entertaining drama series, the participatory lessons feature short pauses that allow teachers to respond to questions, partake in group discussions, write plans for their classes, and more. Participants learn practical skills to apply in the classroom immediately.

After participating in the audio program, the scholarship recipient will facilitate the participation of at least five other teachers. A pledge to train more than the minimum of **five (5) teachers** will enhance the strength of an application. Once the training of five (5) or more teachers is complete, the scholarship recipient will submit a final report (template provided by ITEN) detailing the names of participants, dates, times, and locations of the training sessions.

Before and after participating in the audio program, the recipient will be observed by the head of school, principal, or department head to measure success in applying the practices learned through the training. An observation form, with instructions, will be provided by ITEN. Ideally, the observer will be familiar with critical thinking, including the use of Bloom's taxonomy. If a head of school with teaching duties applies for the stipend,

he or she may be observed by a colleague or a Ministry of Education official. Upon submitting the observation form, a satisfactory training plan, and a satisfactory final report, the participant will receive the stipend.

### **Training Content: The ITEN Audio Classroom: “Critical Thinking for Teachers”**

The Course will be presented in 7 audio episodes of 35 minutes each, which can be listened to directly online or downloaded to USBs, CDs, or a smart phone.

#### **Episodes:**

1. **Episode I: Why Critical Thinking?**
  - **Theme: What is critical thinking and why is it important?**
2. **Episode II: Objectives and Objections**
  - **Themes: Writing learning objectives; levels of thinking in Bloom’s taxonomy part I**
3. **Episode III: A Higher Order**
  - **Theme: Levels of thinking in Bloom’s taxonomy part II; asking thinking questions; critical thinking activity: the interview**
4. **Episode IV: We recommend...**
  - **Theme: Critical thinking in math; critical thinking activity: analyzing real-life data to make decisions**
5. **Episode V: The Method Rules**
  - **Theme: Critical thinking in science; forming and testing hypotheses; critical thinking activity: experiment using the scientific method**
6. **Episode VI: Measuring Up (and Down)**
  - **Theme: Assessing critical thinking activities; using a rubric**
7. **Episode VII: Thinking Things Through**
  - **Theme: Developing a lesson plan for critical thinking**

#### **Benefits of participating in the training:**

Our children and youth need to be prepared to be citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Critical thinking is increasingly important to succeed in work and other elements of life, yet our education often still focuses on memorization and the accumulation of knowledge, with limited emphasis on thinking skills. Participants in this course will understand what critical thinking is and learn practical tools for incorporating critical thinking into the classroom on a daily basis. Skills include writing learning objectives, writing effective questions, organizing learning activities, and assessing learning, all with an emphasis on fostering critical thinking in students.

#### **Participant’s Profile:**

It is recommended that the participating teacher is currently teaching 11- to 14-year-olds, but any teacher can benefit from the ITEN Audio Program. Preference will be given to teachers working with the national public school system.

#### **ITEN Contact Information:**

For more specific questions about the audio program, please contact Mr. Daniel Pier at [dpier@oas.org](mailto:dpier@oas.org) with a copy to Ms. Maria Jose De Leon at [mdeleon@oas.org](mailto:mdeleon@oas.org).

## SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

<b>SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A one-time allowance of USD \$250 to the top ranked candidates who successfully complete the audio program and train a minimum of five (5) teachers.</li> <li>• Access to the audio program, <i>Critical Thinking for Teachers</i></li> <li>• Access to ITEN's Virtual Community of Practice.</li> </ul>
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- ✓ Scholarship benefits are subject to the academic performance of the scholarship recipient and based on the availability of funds.

## EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHOLARSHIP

Expenses not covered by the scholarship, and which are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipients, are:

<b>FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS</b>	Scholarship recipients will be responsible for any cost not covered by the OAS.
<b>COMMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarship recipients will be required to submit an <b>observation form</b>, a <b>training plan</b> for sharing their knowledge gained, and a final training report (templates will be provided).</li> <li>• Scholarship recipients will receive the one-time allowance and certificate upon completion of the <b>observation form, training plan, and final report</b>.</li> <li>• Scholarship recipients will be required to provide a report on the training provided to at least 5 teachers by September 27, 2017.</li> </ul>

## ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, an applicant must:

- Submit a complete scholarship application with all required supporting documents
- Be a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of any [OAS member state](#), except the *United States*.

The following applicants are ineligible:

- ⊗ Current OAS scholarship holders
- ⊗ GS/OAS staff and their immediate relatives or GS/OAS consultants
- ⊗ OAS Permanent officials and their immediate relatives.

## SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

- ✓ The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background;
- ✓ Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies;
- ✓ Applicants whose essays and recommendation letters portray the highest potential for impact in their sponsoring countries; and
- ✓ Gender diversity.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

### Step 1 > Gather required supporting documents

To apply for an OAS – ITEN scholarship, candidates must fill out the OAS online scholarship application form and attach the following required supporting documentation:

1. Government issued ID – scan a photo of [passport page](#) that contains the applicant’s full name, date of birth, and country of citizenship.
2. Proof of English Proficiency, if applicable.
3. The **letter of recommendation** should be provided by the head of your school or principal, a department head who supervises you, or by a representative of your Ministry of Education working directly with your school, indicating why we should select you for the training of fellow colleagues (teachers), the number of fellow colleagues (teachers) you are planning to train (minimum 5), and how this will benefit your school and local community. The letter should include:
  - the letterhead of the school or Ministry of Education;
  - signature and title of referee;
  - date;
  - your current title;
  - your years of service; and
  - your duties and responsibilities.
4. You are required to write **one essay**. The essay must be written in English.

**Essay**  
Describe how participating in this training will directly impact and enhance your professional skills, institution, community and country.

5. Curriculum vitae – in English and no specific format is required. Do not include copies of diplomas, certificates or awards; only include text.

6. Proof of English Proficiency, if applicable – students whose native language is not English will be required to submit one of the following as proof of English proficiency:
  - a. A copy of an official transcript verifying completion of studies in an English speaking university in the last five years;
  - b. A test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 570 or higher for the paper-based test, 230 for computer-based test, or an internet-based TOEFL (IBT) score of at least 89;
  - c. IELTS 6.5, or the equivalent
7. Proof of registration to the ITEN Virtual Community of Practice. The ITEN Virtual Community of Practice can be found [here](#). A screen shot of the registration will serve as proof.

Registration is free and easy. Once registered, please join the interest group **“Critical Thinking for Teachers Audio Program Participants”** by clicking “Groups” in the top menu bar, then clicking the name of the group.

#### **NOTES:**

- ✓ All documents must be in English or officially translated to English by a certified translator.
- ✓ The date stated on the TOEFL or IELTS certificate must be within two years of your proposed start date.
- ✓ The recommendation letters provided for admission consideration to a University can be used for scholarship consideration. However, if you choose to provide new recommendation letters directly to the OAS, the letters should be addressed to the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment.

## Step 2 Apply online

Applicants must complete and submit the [OAS-ITEN Online scholarship Application Form](#), and upload all the required documents listed above and essay in one (1) single PDF file (no larger than 5MB). If the file is larger than 5MB, you will be unable to submit the online form. The application system does not allow for more than one document to be uploaded. Do not include any additional documents besides those indicated above.

[Click here for the Online Scholarship Application Form](#)

**ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED**

### SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS:

**Selection Committee** DHDEE and ITEN will select the scholarship awardees, based on the [criteria](#) listed above. The names of the scholarship recipients will be published at [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships).

**Notification of selected candidates** The OAS will contact selected candidates by email with the scholarship offer and instructions for scholarship acceptance. Applicants who are not selected will not be contacted.

## ▼ DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

- ✓ The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed an OAS/ITEN Acceptance Form, in which the awardees formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
- ✓ Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- ✓ Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees."

## ▼ SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS:

For questions about this scholarship opportunity, please contact Ms. Jennifer Hoogdorp at [jhoogdorp@oas.org](mailto:jhoogdorp@oas.org).

## ▼ FOR MORE INFORMATION:



[www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships)



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