

## FAST-TRAIN Program Information Form

**1. Name**

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Social Security Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Phone**

Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Have you ever held a teaching certificate?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list state and area of endorsement.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Have you ever taught in an international school?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list school name and location, subject or level, and length of service.

School \_\_\_\_\_

Subject/Level \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Please list chronologically all colleges/universities attended (including George Mason University).**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Are you the spouse of a U.S. government official?**

Yes  No

If yes, please indicate his/her name and agency.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Is English your native language?**

NOTE: Non-native, English-speaking applicants are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam.

Yes  No

If no, what is your native language?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The following information is optional. It is requested for statistical purposes.

**10. Male**  **Female**

**11. Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Country of Citizenship** \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Race/Ethnicity**

African American/Black  Caucasian/White

Native American/Indian  Hispanic American

Asian American  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form, official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended, and three letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Jack Levy, Coordinator  
 FAST-TRAIN Program  
 Graduate School of Education  
 MS 4B3  
 George Mason University  
 Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

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# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**CENTER**  
 FOR BILINGUAL/MULTICULTURAL/ESL  
 TEACHER PREPARATION



Preparing Teachers  
 for International Schools

George Mason University



**FAST-TRAIN** is an alternative certification program that prepares teachers for international assignments.

**BACKGROUND** In 1988 representatives of George Mason University, the U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Schools, and the Virginia Department of Education began discussions about training spouses of foreign service officials for teaching positions in international schools. The Foreign Affairs Spouses Teacher Training Program, or FAST-TRAIN, was initiated in the fall of 1990. Since then, more than 100 participants have completed the program, and many are now teaching around the world. Although FAST-TRAIN still maintains a formal relationship with the U.S. State Department, the program has expanded and is open to all applicants who seek to teach abroad.

The curriculum consists of six required education courses offered over a one-year period. Upon successful completion of course work and passing scores on the Praxis Exam, participants receive a provisional Virginia teaching certificate at the PK-8 (Elementary/Middle Ed.) level. Once graduates have completed one year of teaching abroad, they receive the Collegiate Professional Certificate, the regular license for Virginia teachers. Since Virginia has a reciprocal agreement with more than 20 states, FAST-TRAIN graduates will be qualified to teach in a variety of settings throughout the United States and abroad.



**ELIGIBILITY** Admission requirements for FAST-TRAIN include a bachelor's degree, a minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of college/university study, and three satisfactory letters of recommendation. Applicants with degrees from abroad must have transcripts officially translated. Non-native, English-speaking applicants must also pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam.

Applicants should also have completed 12 semester hours in the humanities, 12 in social science, and 12 in math/natural science. Specific requirements are listed below.

- A. Humanities (12 semester hours; at least one course in each area)**
  1. English grammar and composition
  2. Literature
  3. Art, music, philosophy, or foreign language
- B. Social sciences (12 semester hours; at least one course in each area)**
  1. U.S. history
  2. Courses selected from history, anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, geography, psychology, world studies, or contemporary world cultures
- C. Math/Natural Sciences (12 semester hours; at least one course in each area)**

Many FAST-TRAIN applicants have unusual backgrounds and qualifications, so all those interested in the program are encouraged to apply.

**CURRICULUM** All students complete the following six-course FAST-TRAIN curriculum. Each class has a multicultural, international school focus and requires 20 hours of field experience.



**FALL** **EDUC 511: Introduction to Early Childhood and Middle Education in International Schools**

- a. Structure of international schools
- b. Human growth and development—early/middle grades
- c. Educational psychology
- d. Use of technology

**EDUC 512: Teaching and Learning Social Studies K-8 in International Schools**

**SPRING** **EDUC 513: Teaching Math K-8 in International Schools**

- a. Developing concepts and problem solving in K-8 math
- b. Teaching and learning K-8 math

**EDUC 514: Teaching Science K-8 in International Schools**

- a. Developing concepts and problem solving in K-8 science
- b. Teaching and learning K-8 science
- c. Health issues

**SUMMER** **EDUC 516: Language across the K-8 International School Curriculum**

- a. Language/literacy in early childhood education
- b. Second language acquisition
- c. K-8 literature
- d. Teaching reading in the content areas

**EDUC 520: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in International Schools**

- a. International baccalaureate, other curricula
- b. Instructional techniques—reflective practice, research on effective instruction
- c. Assessment—portfolio, test design; individual assessment; observing, guiding, and managing behavior.

**MASTER'S DEGREE OPTION** Upon completion of four additional courses (30 semester hours total), FAST-TRAIN students can receive a M.Ed. degree with a specialization in Middle Education.

**LOCATION** Most FAST-TRAIN courses are offered in the evening at George Mason's Arlington Campus, 3401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington. The campus is located directly across from the Virginia Square Metro station.

**TUITION** Current (1996) tuition is \$526.50/course for Virginia residents and \$1,260/course for nonresidents. In order to qualify as a Virginia resident, you must have lived in the state for 12 months and paid Virginia taxes. In the past, all FAST-TRAIN students have paid in-state tuition, though there is no guarantee this policy will continue.

**APPLICATION** Those interested in enrolling in FAST-TRAIN must submit a graduate school application (\$30 fee), a program information form (included in this brochure), official transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to:

Dr. Jack Levy, Coordinator  
FAST-TRAIN Program  
Graduate School of Education  
MS 4B3  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Graduate applications will be sent upon receipt of the program information form or other notification of interest.

**FURTHER INFORMATION** For further information, please call (703) 993-3689/3688, fax to (703) 993-3336, or send an e-mail to [jlevy@gmu.edu](mailto:jlevy@gmu.edu).