

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Our purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and increase appreciation for the UK's creative ideas and achievements. We operate in 110 countries and territories worldwide.

**Note:** Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information is accurate, the British Council accepts no responsibility for the statements made in these Particulars of Post; the information is provided for guidance only and is not intended to form part of any agreement.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

## **English Teacher Trainers, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)**

**(Two posts)**

**(OA08007)**



## **1. Background Information**

The first visit to DPRK by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was made in 1997 and as a result of this visit and subsequent ELT assessment visits it was agreed that 2 British ELT specialists would be sent to North Korea for one academic year. The first two ELT posts in North Korea, funded by the Department for International Development and administered by the British Council, started in September 2000.

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the UK in December 2000, funding from the FCO became available for an extension to the project. Three ELT specialists were employed to work in three universities in the capital city, Pyongyang, starting September 2001. After a successful second year these appointments were extended for a further year. The FCO then decided to fund the project for another two years, provided the situation in North Korea remained stable and satisfactory development was made under the umbrella of the project. Following significant developments over this period, not only in terms of teaching methodology but also in curriculum and textbook development, funding was approved for a further year.

Following the successes of the project over the past seven years, British Council and the FCO will be jointly-funding a new project. This will focus not only on teacher and trainer training, but also on curriculum development and course book compilation, test construction and in one of the institutions, content and language integrated learning (CLIL). The position of Senior English teacher trainer will be instrumental in liaising between the different stakeholders. Project activity will be in given universities in Pyongyang and it is hoped this will extend to schools and perhaps institutions outside the capital.

The English teacher trainers will report to a university Dean and each will have a co-ordinator at their institution to help with all day-to-day matters. The senior English teacher trainer will report to the Project Manager in British Council Beijing, but will have a close working relationship with institutions in-country.

## **2. Person specification and duties of the posts**

Please see the attached Information about the job for the competencies required and duties of the posts.

The postholders will work as part of a team of four, giving support to each other as necessary.

## **3. Support**

Entrance to North Korea is via Beijing and the British Council in Beijing will provide both professional and practical support. This will include the following:

- The Project Manager based in Beijing will visit Pyongyang twice a year
- Postholders will also discuss issues with the Project Manager during procurement visits to Beijing and by e-mail at other times
- Provision of teaching materials
- Procurement of visas
- Purchase of air tickets between Beijing and Pyongyang at start of contract
- Arrangements for transportation of luggage from Beijing to Pyongyang at start and end of appointment
- Transportation arrangement for luggage from Beijing to UK at end of appointment
- Domestic arrangements
- The British Embassy (which opened in Pyongyang in 2001) will provide emergency support

The above are in addition to the three teacher trainers being supported in Pyongyang by the senior teacher trainer.

## **4. North Korea in brief**

### **Location**

Eastern Asia, northern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan, between China and South Korea

### **Geography**

North Korea occupies about 55 percent of the total land area of the Korean Peninsula. Approximately 80 percent of the land area is mountain ranges and uplands. All mountains on the peninsula over 2,000 meters high are in North Korea.

### **Climate**

Long, cold, dry winters; short, hot, humid summers. Approximately 60 percent of rainfall falls between June and September.

### **People**

Racially homogeneous; there is a small Chinese community as well as a few ethnic Japanese.

### **Religions**

Buddhism and Confucianism, some Christianity and syncretic Chondogyo

### **Language**

Korean

## **5. Living in Pyongyang**

### **Social**

Foreigners are well treated and respected by the Koreans and you can walk about Pyongyang at any time of the day or night without any problem. It is unlikely that you will be invited to visit North Koreans' homes and students and teachers do not visit the foreigners' homes. However, there is an international club where foreign residents meet and socialise on a weekly basis and there are some sports facilities.

### **Food and Drink**

There are many restaurants in Pyongyang which offer a variety of meals. Prices are very reasonable and you can get a decent meal for approximately 12 Euros.

There is a diplomatic shop on the diplomatic compound where the postholders' apartments are located. There is a fairly good variety of foodstuffs available. Prices are roughly about the same as in the UK, although some "luxury" items are slightly more expensive. Previous postholders have always bought provisions in Beijing during procurement visits.

**Currency and exchange rate**

The currency used by foreigners in North Korea is Euros and US dollars.

You will need to take Euro or Dollar cash into the country (in small denominations). Support will be given to you to open a bank account in China, which postholders have previously found very useful.

**Communication**

Internet access has been set up in one of the teachers' apartments and is used by all postholders. An account at China Telecom in Beijing is easy to set up for private use should you wish to have your own internet access.

**Getting about**

Transportation to work – a car is provided to transport the postholders to/from their place of work.

**6. Salary and Benefits**

- A sterling salary of £25,772 per annum (paid monthly in arrears into a UK bank account).
- Superannuation Compensation Addition at 11% of salary.
- Rent-free furnished one bedroom flat (all utilities paid, apart from international telephone calls).
- Economy class airfares to and from post (via Beijing).
- Three procurement trips to Beijing at Economy class, each of 5 working days (5 nights' accommodation paid by the British Council).
- 35 working days leave per annum (Christmas day may be taken as an additional leave day above the entitlement if it falls on a working day).
- Leave allowance of £1,500 to enable the postholders to take leave in January 2009
- Baggage allowance at the beginning and end of appointment.
- Private medical insurance.

**Please note:**

- It is your responsibility to sort out your own tax affairs and decisions on liability are made solely by the Inland Revenue, based on individual personal circumstances.
- Depending on personal circumstances, the postholder may have a UK National Insurance Class 1 liability. Should this be the case, the British Council will be obliged to deduct Class 1 contributions (approximately 10% of the monthly salary) direct from salary payments for the first 52 weeks of appointment.
- Decisions on liability are taken by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and in the absence of a non-liability ruling the British Council will make NI deductions.

## **7. Contract**

From 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009.

## **8. Semester and holiday dates**

1<sup>st</sup> semester: September to March

2<sup>nd</sup> semester: April to September

Main university holidays: last week of December -20 January (though this tends to be extended in the case of very cold weather; 1-20 August (shorter if the winter holiday has been longer

Likely North Korean public holidays: approximately 9 days, this usually involves a day or so before to practise for the festivities and a day later as the holiday extends.

All leave will be taken to fit in with local dates.

Procurement trips: middle of each semester (departing Saturday am and returning Saturday am).

## **9. Health**

You will have a medical examination before leaving for post and private medical insurance will be provided, including emergency medical evacuation. You will also be able to use the services of the UN doctor and of the Pyongyang Friendship Hospital.

### **Vaccinations**

The following vaccinations are recommended, though you should check with a doctor for up-to-the-minute information:

Hepatitis A and B, Japanese encephalitis, measles, smallpox, BCG, tetanus, DPT, polio and typhoid.

## **10. Briefing and induction**

Before taking up post, British Council staff in Manchester and Beijing can be contacted to talk through any questions you may have. An induction will take place on the postholders' arrival in Beijing.

## **11. Application and selection**

Candidates must complete and return the application form to Jenna McConnel, TMP, Chancery House, 53-64 Chancery Lane, London SW2A 1QS or by fax to +44 (0)207 406 5944 by **12 noon on Thursday 10 July 2008. Where possible, applications should, initially, be returned by e-mail to [britishcouncil@tmpw.co.uk](mailto:britishcouncil@tmpw.co.uk).**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to appear before a Selection Board in Manchester. Normally candidates at present living overseas can be considered only if they can be in Britain when the Selection Board is held. However, in some circumstances, it may be possible to interview candidates over the telephone if they have held an appointment with the British Council within the last 12 months.

Candidates invited to interview will be expected to travel by the most economical means available. Expenses within the UK will be refunded as follows:

- Candidates must pay the first £4.00 of their travelling expenses within the UK, but if the

total of the travelling expenses does not exceed £5.00, no refund will be made.

- Reasonable expenses (inclusive of evening meal, bed and breakfast) up to a maximum of £95.00 if it is necessary to spend a night away from home.
- Candidates who travel by their own private motor vehicle will be reimbursed at the rate of 40 pence per mile up to a maximum amount equal to the cheapest available public transport fare less £4.00.
- No other expenses will be refunded.

In certain circumstances the British Council may be able to make a contribution towards the cost of international airfares for candidates currently working overseas.

The appointment will be subject to a satisfactory medical examination of the selected candidate prior to his/her departure.

**Please note:**

**Employment is subject to permission from the DPRK Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs.**

**Local restrictions mean that UK passport holders only can be considered for this post.**

**These are unaccompanied postings or in exceptional cases the authorities might agree to a married couple.**

## **12. Useful websites**

[www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

[www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

[www.koryogroup.com](http://www.koryogroup.com)