



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Estimated Expenses Associated with Participation in the KSDE Visiting International Teacher Program

Per federal guidelines, visiting teacher candidates must receive a summary of anticipated expenses during the visiting teacher experience. This document attempts to summarize: 1) costs associated with the J-1 visiting teacher program, 2) estimated employment income and tax rates, 3) estimated monthly living expenses in Kansas. Please consider these estimated expenses only.

Teachers in Kansas are contracted by the school district in which they teach. Districts employ J-1 visiting teachers in accordance with state regulations and policies and pay them according to a locally negotiated and published salary schedule. This document is intended to help you to plan for expenses associated with living and teaching in Kansas.

By accepting the school's job offer, you are agreeing to serve as a full-time teacher for at least one year. This one-year contract could be extended annually for up to 3 consecutive years (and possibly extended another 2 years for a total of 5 years).

1. PROGRAM FEES

The hosting school district pays the Kansas Stated Department of Education a fee of \$2,000 per teacher. This fee covers expenses associated with the administration of the VIT program: selection, placement, orientation week, teaching license, fingerprinting, professional development and retreat weekend in October for up to three years. This one-time fee also includes fees the KSDE must pay to the Department of State to participate and administer the Exchange Visitor Program. **The visiting teacher does not pay or repay any portion of this fee.** The Visiting International Teacher is responsible for paying the fees associated with obtaining a visa, round-trip travel to the U.S., and the credential equivalency translation report.

Moving costs:

The expenses involved in moving to Kansas are the personal responsibility of each Visiting International Teacher. School districts in Kansas are not obliged to help with moving expenses. **The USCIS requires that each candidate must have on hand a minimum of \$3000 in order to establish a residence.** However, keep in mind that this amount might is a minimum requirement and is probably not adequate. Depending on the duty calendar for each district, there could be as much as a six-week delay between the first day of the teaching contract and the first pay day.

Expenses Associated with VIT Program – Teacher Responsibility		
SEVIS fee	For a 3-year program, the SEVIS fee is paid once. J-2 dependents do NOT pay the SEVIS fee.	\$180
Home country visa application fee	In some countries, teachers may incur a telephone or courier envelope fee (\$20-25) to make the payment.	\$20-25
Round trip-travel to and from the U.S.	Varies depending on date and home country	\$1300-\$3000
ECE/WES credential equivalency reports	Required for teaching license	\$180-\$300
Kansas Teaching License	VIT program fee paid by the school district covers fingerprinting costs and application fee for the Exchange Visitor License; it is renewed twice for a total of 3 years.	\$0 Covered by district's fee

2. ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT INCOME AND TAXES

Kansas teacher salaries rank low in the nation (41 out of 50 states), however the cost of living is also low when compared to the rest of the Midwest, but especially compared to the East Coast and West Coast states. When salaries are compared by factoring in the low-cost of living **Kansas teacher salaries rank in the middle, 24th out of 50 states.**

Estimated Average Salary	
Average Salary for Visiting International Teachers in Kansas: This amount is an average. The salary could be lower or higher depending on the teacher's credentials and years of experience.	\$46,100
Teacher Salaries in Kansas	
Teacher salaries are determined by local school districts and Educational Service Units based on two factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative years of full-time employment as the teacher of record in K-12 classrooms • Level of educational degrees (in recognized post-secondary institutions) 	
During the 2020-2021 school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average salary of Kansas teachers was \$47,550 • The average starting salary for new teachers was \$35,555 (kasb.org) • The average salary for Visiting Teachers in Kansas was \$46,100 	

Estimated Arrival Costs	
To purchase a used, reliable car *A down payment could finance a car loan, with payment of about \$250/month. *A well-maintained car may be re-sold to recover a portion of the cost at the end of the year. *Car prices have gone substantially in the last 2 years.	\$6,000-\$10,000
Vehicle registration, based on the value of the car	\$300-\$500
Drivers' license application fee. An International Driver License is valid in Kansas for one year. However, most KS drivers use a driver's license as personal identification. This is more convenient than carrying a passport. For this, a driving test is required; go to the local Division of Motor Vehicles office. Car insurance rates are also lower when you have a Kansas driver's license.	\$23
Deposits on rental property and some utilities (Sometimes required due to lack of established credit history in U.S.) *Deposits <i>may</i> be refunded at end of contract.	\$600-\$2,000 First and/or last month's rent
Salary Deductions: Taxes	
Federal Income Tax Rates	
Taxable income between \$9,225 and \$37,450 if filing single	15%
Taxable income between \$37,450 and \$90,750 if filing single	25%
Taxable income between \$18,450 and \$74,900 if filing married	15%
Standard deduction per dependent =	\$1,000
\$870 plus 5.2 % of excess over \$30,000 = \$1560 annually (based on an example salary of \$46,100)	
\$870 plus 5.2 % of excess over \$30,000 = \$1,620 annually (based on an example salary of \$46,100)	\$135/month
Social Security and Medicare Withholding <i>Visiting Teachers are exempt from Social Security and Medicare taxes for the first year and first semester of the second year of their program. Deductions begin in January of your second year of teaching.</i>	
Social Security tax (employer contribution is 6.2%) your contribution is	6.2%
Medicare tax (employer 1.45%) your contribution is	1.45%

Insurance costs	
<i>J-1 Visiting Teachers (and their J-2 dependents) are required to maintain adequate insurance for the duration of their time in the United States. Failure to do so risks immediate removal from the program.</i>	
Minimum required coverage*	Estimated cost
Medical health insurance of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness	\$150-\$750
Repatriation of Remains in the amount of \$25,000	\$40-\$120/year (single-family)
Medical evacuation in the amount of \$50,000 Teachers must supply their own repatriation and evacuation insurance.	

*All visiting teachers must submit documentation of coverage on an annual basis.

*Many districts assist with medical health insurance.

3. ESTIMATED MONTHLY LIVING EXPENSES IN KANSAS

Monthly Salary and Expenditures Based on annual gross salary of \$46,100 for a single visiting teacher, in first year.		
Gross monthly income (before taxes)	\$3,841	
Approximate net monthly income (after taxes)	\$2,881 (one person) \$3,265 (married, 2 children)	
Estimated Monthly Expenses		
	1 adult no children	2 adults, 2 children
Housing	\$700-\$1,000	\$1,000-\$1,250
Renter's insurance	\$15	\$15
Utilities (if not included in rent)	\$40-100	\$40-100
Cell phone	\$30-60	\$90 (2 phones)
Food	\$300	\$700-\$900
Child Care	\$0	\$800-\$1200
Transportation car loan or lease, gas, gasoline = \$3.50/gallon, \$.95/liter	\$400-\$600	\$400-\$600 (assumes only one car)
Car insurance/month	\$50-\$100 full coverage	\$50-\$100 full coverage
Teacher Association (union) dues (optional investment)	\$35-75	\$35-\$75
Internet/cable TV	\$40-120	\$40-120
Remaining funds after deductions and expenses (estimate only)	\$1,271 - \$511	\$95 - -\$185 (insufficient funds)

*These numbers are based on data Economic Policy Institute database and they represent statewide averages. Actual costs may vary greatly depending on the region of the state and may be less than or exceed the estimated ranges listed here. <http://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

Related Question: Can my spouse legally work in the US on a J-2 visa?

Work opportunities for spouses vary depending on where your job is located. Holders of J-2 visas seeking employment must submit work authorization applications and pay application fees to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These applications can only be submitted after J-2 dependents have entered the U.S. The approval process may take 90 days or more. If approved, J-2 dependents can then apply for a Social Security number and consider working in the U.S. There are two USCIS Field Offices that serve the state: one in Kanas City, Missouri, and the other in Wichita, Kansas.