

PEALV application process F.A.Q.

NB: Candidates are encouraged to read the Candidate Application Guide for the Programme d’Echange d’Assistants de Langue Vivante 2020-2021 that accompanies the application form BEFORE attempting to apply. Both documents can be found at :

<https://alliancetnt.org/english-assistants-programme/>

1. Should we only send pages 1-5 of the application to the Alliance Française if we are first contacted by someone?

A1. No, please send them as soon as possible once you have read the explanatory notice.

2. Does the letter of financial support go with the application?

A2. The letter of financial support is a document that was requested by the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at UWI and should not be sent with your application to the Alliance Française.

3. Is a bank letter sufficient/to whom do we address it?

A3. All queries about the financial support letter should be addressed to the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, UWI.

4. Are we sending the first five pages as sections A-D or is the first page of section E (pg. 6) counted as the 5th page? (The first page isn't part of the application form.)

A4. Sections A-D. Please include the first page as proof that you have seen the instructions. They will be useful when finalising your dossier.

5. Are the 10pgs of the 'Application Requirements' to be sent to the AF by Dec 20th?

A5. No. They are not required at this phase of the application process – see Candidate Application Guide

6. Are persons who previously studied abroad at the tertiary level eligible?

A6. These persons do not fit the primary candidate profile and their applications will only be considered if the number of primary candidates are insufficient to fill all available spots afforded to the Trinidad and Tobago/Barbados/OECS contingent.

7. How long should the letter of motivation be?

A7. Your motivation letter should not be longer than one page. Please be as complete, but as concise as you can.

8. Is question C9 a yes or no or do we have to list specific IT skills/ familiarity with software programmes?

A8. Please provide a short list of software skills that may be pertinent to your teaching experience

9. The questions that don't apply to us, do we leave blank or say Non?

A9. Please respond “N/A”

10. Are there past members we can speak to about their experiences?

A10. Please join the Assistants de Langue – Caraïbe Anglophone group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/954436071573661/> to join the official community of past, present and future language assistants.

11. Can you give an average costing of basic requirements such as the work visa?

A11. Once assigned, assistant candidates are traditionally exempted from paying fees when applying for their visa. Travel costs are of course variable and date sensitive.

12. Is there anyone who can give us general advice on France, such as areas which are more susceptible to crime or areas with a high cost of rent/living expenses?

A12: France is quite a large territory. The educational academies are themselves quite large. Such advice is of little value unless you know exactly where you are planning to go and to which schools you have been assigned. However, there are many online resources comparing the cost and quality of living in different French regions/towns.

13. What is the professor appreciation form/where do we get it to fill it out?

A13. See section F of the Application Form

14. Is Responsable des Assistants de Langue the same/part of the Alliance Française, and if so, to which email address do we send the documents to?

A14: The Responsible des Assistants de Langue is the Pedagogical Coordinator of the Alliance Française, who can be reached at studies@alliancetnt.org

15. Is it necessary to go to St. Lucia to obtain the SCHENGEN visa or can it be posted?

At present, travelling to St. Lucia for a physical interview is compulsory in order to apply for the relevant SCHENGEN visa for the assistantship program. Any developments concerning this process will be posted on the aforementioned Facebook group.

Language level questions

16. Is DELF B1 the same as level 1B at the CLL?

No. The DELF Exam is based on the Common European Reference Framework for languages where DELF B1 refers to approximately 300 contact hours of French. DELF B1 level is therefore closer to 3B at the CLL.

17. I am interested in learning French. Can I do the program for this purpose?

No. The Language Assistant program requires fairly operational French speakers due to its short duration and professional setting. Whereas you are expected to conduct your class interventions primarily in English (particularly for the secondary school assignments), you will be expected to do your administrative procedures and communicate with the teaching and admin staff of the school in French. The programme is an opportunity to perfect the French you have, as opposed to obtaining a base.

If you wish to learn French, you can contact the Alliance Française to find out about their classes, at info@alliancetnt.org or call 622-6119.