

**Information for Applicants  
and Reassignments to the  
Department of Defense Education Activity's  
Ankara Elementary/High School in  
Ankara, Turkey**

dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

## Ankara Turkey is an UNACCOMPANIED DUTY LOCATION

Is Ankara a good fit for you? When deciding, please consider that only the DoDEA employee is authorized to be in Turkey as part of this assignment, you are NOT permitted to have your dependents (family members) with you. This location offers an annual Renewal Agreement for Transportation, allowing employees the opportunity to travel back to the United States (US) to visit family.

## About Ankara, Turkey

Ankara is the capital of Turkey, located in the central part of Anatolia with a population of about 4.5 million, it is Turkey's second-largest city after Istanbul. Ankara has a stable government and economy, it is on this strength, its NATO alliance, and its fairly well-developed infrastructure, it has become a leader in the region. Turkish is the official language; though English is widely understood and is used by some businesses. Islam is the predominant religion of Turkey although places of worship for other faiths exist in the city. Ankara has a continental climate with cold, snowy winters due to its inland location and elevation, and hot, dry summers. Monthly mean temperatures range from 0°C (32°F) in January to 23°C (74°F) in July.

## Ankara E/HS School Community

Ankara school opened its doors in 1950 with a staff of 8 servicing a student body of 150 Kindergarten through 9th grade servicing children of US military families. In 1964, the present school buildings, located on a Turkish Military base in Ankara, were dedicated to former U.S. Secretary of defense George C. Marshall. Today they serve students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The student body has a international composition with 220 students hailing from 35 different countries. Ankara E/HS maintain the highest standards and have among the highest standardized test scores in DoDEA which itself has among the highest state scores in the U.S.

At Ankara E/HS, students, parents, and community leaders work together in partnership with teachers. Ankara E/HS supports programs that encourage parent involvement. Parent Night, parent teacher conferences, parent advisory groups, awards programs, classroom volunteers, parents as resource, persons in the classroom, and parent chaperones are just a few of the opportunities parents have to be included in the day-to-day life of the school.

## What to expect upon arrival to Ankara, Turkey

Upon accepting your position to Ankara, Turkey, you will work with DoDEA CHRA and Human Resources to apply for your official travel passport. Once you have your travel passport and travel orders, you will request travel itinerary. You will share your flight itinerary with your staff sponsor and/or school administration. They will be at the Ankara Airport to meet, greet, and transition to the hotel upon your arrival.

Traveling to Turkey requires a tourist VISA, this will get you into the country. After arriving in Turkey, part of the in-processing requirements to acquire a residency pass (called a "kimlik"). The kimlik takes the place of the VISA and allows you to rent an apartment, register a car, acquire a cell phone account, etc. Any fees associated with these required documents will be reimbursed when you submit your travel reimbursement claim after arriving.

Please visit this website for more information about the VISA requirements for Turkey: <https://www.visasturkey.com/>

Due to COVID-19, all new arrivals to Turkey are required to complete 14 days of Restriction of Movement (ROM). This means that you will not be permitted to leave the hotel during this 14-day period. Arrangements will be made to ensure you are provided meals and other essentials which are needed during this time. If you have proof showing you are fully vaccinated, there is the possibility that ROM will be reduced to 7-10 days via Installation Commander review/approval. A COVID test will be initiated on the 7th days after arrival in-country. You must have a negative COVID test to be released from ROM.

## Housing

Teachers are not eligible for government housing. Apartments and houses on the economy are available through commercial agencies. All who are associated with the installation live on the economy with the majority residing in high rise apartments. Many of the apartments offer varied amenities (i.e., fitness centers, shopping malls, underground parking, indoor swimming pools, etc.). Individuals are encouraged to bring what you know will make your apartment feel like home, as well as furniture, appliances, family photos, etc. The electricity is 220 volts, 50 cycles, but with the help of dual-voltage appliances and a transformer, you will not need to purchase all new appliance. Transformers can be purchased at the post exchange.

## Internet, Telephone, Cell Phones, and Cable TV

Telecommunications are like those found in the United States. There are many different plan options available to choose from. Cell phone services from the United States do not work in Turkey, though you can bring your current phone with you. Individuals should be prepared to pay a considerable tax to have their phone recognized in Turkey. Depending on the age of the phone determines the cost associated with the tax. Once this sticker shock expense wanes, the monthly costs of cell phone plans pales in comparison to the high costs which we are accustomed to paying in the USA.

## Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs)

Individuals are encouraged to ship a vehicle to Turkey. Buying a used car in Turkey can be expensive. DoDEA sponsors can ship one automobile to Ankara at the government's expense. You are encouraged to ship a vehicle which is in good running condition as parts and repairs may become expensive.

All vehicles must be registered upon arrival. When registering your car there is a minimal insurance plan associated with the annual registration. Since US car insurance coverage is not available in Turkey, many individuals purchase a supplemental insurance plan (approximately \$450 annually) for additional protection, as the driving in Turkey is a bit aggressive.

## Medical Care

There are no US medical facilities at this location. All medical needs will be met through the host nation/local economy medical facilities. In fact, Ankara has a reputation for its (cosmetic) plastic surgery as well as hair implants for men. Individuals will pay out-of-pocket for medical services they receive. You will submit a claim to your health insurance after each medical visit. It is important for current Federal employees to review your health plan manual to ensure you are enrolled in a plan which includes **Nationwide Coverage**. If an employee is currently enrolled on a health maintenance organization plan, you will be eligible to change your plan due to this overseas move. When looking at plans, take into consideration that some plans provide benefits for professional medical evacuation to the nearest hospital suited to provide treatment and the patient's condition requires immediate evacuation (air or sea evacuation may be covered if emergency ground transportation is not available). An employee may change their health coverage policy prior to departure from U.S.

Prescription drugs may be available on the local economy or through your medical plan's Mail Order Pharmacy benefit (sometimes you need to have an address with a Zip Code, such as an APO and FPO address or in U.S. territories). You may be able to file a claim for prescription drugs you purchase overseas. Usually, the drugs must be prescribed by a physician who is licensed, and the drugs must be equivalent to drugs that by Federal law require a prescription for in the U.S.

## Shopping & Mail Services

There is a small Exchange and commissary on the installation at Ankara. All military personnel and civilians may use these facilities. Many people shop online or on the economy! Ankara is a major city, so retail therapy options are available on every sidewalk and corner. Online purchases are shipped via the US Postal Service to your base mailing address. However, due to the remote locale, mail goes out/arrives 1-2 times weekly and lives up to its name of "snail mail." When shopping on-line, you are encouraged to buy in bulk and plan ahead.

## Teacher Pay Schedule and Leave

Incoming teachers are paid in 21 pay periods their first year in Ankara, Turkey, and they can request spread pay to 26 pay periods for the next school year. Teachers should obtain the specific details from Human Resources and the finance office.

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