



Tahoe-Baikal Institute

2008 Summer Environmental Exchange (SEE)

Frequently Asked Questions: U.S. and International Applicants

I don't speak Russian. Can I still apply to the SEE Program?

Yes, you may still apply to the program. Russian language skills are not required, but a desire to learn the language and culture is important.

I didn't major in an environmental field. Can I still apply?

Yes, you may still apply. TBI believes environmental policy comes from a synthesis of many fields including political science, economics, social science, as well as environmental science.

If accepted to the program, how do I get to Tahoe for the beginning of the program?

*Regretfully, TBI does not have the resources to sponsor travel to Tahoe for the beginning of the program. **The program actually begins in San Francisco or Reno.** In years past, participants have flown into San Francisco, Oakland, or Reno International Airports, or have taken a road trip with friends.*

If accepted, how will I prepare for travel in Russia?

TBI will offer you a list of items to bring and what to expect. You will be traveling with other participants who are from the Baikal region, and TBI-Russia will organize the agenda and housing while in Russia. With information supplied by you, TBI-U.S. will apply for and receive your Russian travel VISA.

How do I get an international insurance policy?

Participants are responsible for having health coverage both in the U.S. and Russia. If your coverage does not extend abroad and/or will not cover an emergency evacuation from Russia, TBI can apply and receive discounted rates, but you will be responsible for the cost—usually about \$125.

I don't have much money. What are the chances of receiving financial aid?

The Selection Committee will award financial aid grants as possible to those applicants with strong applications who display a compelling need for aid, as well as a willingness to solicit outside sources to help with the costs of their participation in the program. The maximum aid award for N. American and International applicants is \$4,500. In rare cases a higher amount might be awarded. Demonstrated need does not guarantee financial aid.