An Exchange Program was initiated in February 2003 between UTeach - Natural Sciences (UTNS) and the Institut Universitaire de Formation des Maîtres (IUFM) of Grenoble.

Eight French mathematics and science student teachers came to Austin with their instructor to be hosted by an American counterpart. Their participation included observing in middle schools and high schools, attending university courses, visiting Houston, San Antonio, and Fredericksburg. The French teachers had first hand experience with the American School System raising questions and generating ideas that impacted all participants. This opportunity was then reciprocated when the American teachers traveled to France after May graduation.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first year of this program, it has become a regularly offered opportunity for teachers to enhance their understanding of educational systems, emphasize best teaching practices across cultures, and to gain experiences to relate to their future classroom students about the practicality and usefulness of science, mathematics, and computer sciences in the world. Each year, in the spring semester, French student teachers will come to Austin. American student teachers will host them, taking them to see their teaching environments in the public schools, to their UT classes, and to participate in activities and tours that allow the French student teachers to experience American culture. The American student teachers will then go to France at the end of the semester to observe their French student teacher counterparts, their teaching environments, and their culture. The program requires for the participants to purchase their own travel tickets and to room/board their counterparts in their homes.

The goal of the program is to develop mutual understanding, promote international appreciations, and strengthen teaching skills for all participants.

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2003 Student Teachers Visiting Texas  
2003 Student Teachers Visiting France