

Frequently Asked Questions: Interested Tutors

Is there a TutorMate video overview?

Check it out! <http://tiny.cc/tutormate>

How do I get started as a tutor? (Registration opens mid-July)

You can register at: <http://tutormate.org/register>. Please be sure to select the correct Tutor Group (organization - tutoring city). If you are unsure of which tutor group to sign up with, please reach out to your organization's Tutor Coordinator or your city's TutorMate Community Manager, if applicable. To complete registration, you will need to watch the 5 minute video and complete the required background check. If you have trouble, please contact help@tutormate.org.

Do I need experience with reading, tutoring, or computers?

No tutoring experience is necessary, though basic computer proficiency is useful. IFL provides online training using an e-Learning platform. Online training will be sent to the tutor shortly before their student assignment so that tutoring knowledge is fresh and relevant.

Tutor training is self-paced and will take most people less than one hour. After training is complete, and once you are actually tutoring, our interactive web application will guide you through every step of a typical tutoring session each week.

Who will my student be?

Your student will likely be a first grader at an inner city public school. Teachers identify students who need extra help but who are capable of solid growth during the year.

When will I be paired with my student?

Tutor-student pairings are dependent on two checkpoints: classroom readiness and tutor compliance.

1. Classroom readiness means that the classroom roster has been determined by the teacher (i.e. which students will be receiving a tutor), hardware is setup in the classroom, and both teachers and students are trained to accept tutor calls.
2. Tutor compliance means that the tutor in question has fully completed their registration, background check, and introductory training. Since each classroom has approximately 10 TutorMate students, we require all 10 tutors to be compliant before opening up the room for tutor-student pairing.

What is my tutoring commitment?

As a volunteer, you will tutor your student in reading for 30 minutes each week during the school year. Tutoring typically starts in October but this can vary. You will select a regular weekly tutoring time slot during school hours, but remember that this time can always be changed.

TutorMate scheduling is extremely flexible even for very busy professionals. You can tutor from anywhere, even when traveling, as long as you have a telephone and a computer with Internet access. You can skip weeks now and then for vacations or other reasons, but we do ask that you try to connect with your student during most non-holiday weeks.

Are there opportunities to meet my student in person?

Yes indeed – a TutorMate program highlight! Usually twice per year (fall and spring) we urge the entire tutor team to visit the school and classroom as a group. Most of our tutors are in the same broad metro area as their students, making this possible. Here’s a [spring classroom visit on video](#) by GM tutors. Note that the TutorMate Program does not encourage our online tutors to visit the school on an individual basis as this can be a distraction for teachers and students.

What are the benefits of tutoring?

Teachers report and our research confirms that students who are regularly tutored develop strong vocabularies and exhibit improved reading confidence, fluency, oral skills, and self-esteem. Tutors find it highly rewarding to experience the growth in their students’ abilities during the school year. In addition, students and their tutors enjoy building warm and meaningful relationships.

TutorMate Timeline:

