

THE NO-NONSENSE GUIDE TO EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TEACHING ABROAD



READY FOR A CHANGE AND HAVE A PASSION FOR TRAVEL?

You might have heard that it's possible to get paid to live in Spain, Thailand - even Japan - by teaching abroad. And the truth is, you can. You can make money, experience a new culture, enrich your students' lives - and have a lot of fun in the process!

But, like anything that's worth doing in life, going abroad to teach English requires plenty of planning and research. With all the various websites, blogs and random advice out there, you probably feel unsure about how to get started.

We hear you! That's why we've teamed up to create a guide to teaching abroad - for people just like you.

At the OISE University of Toronto TEFL and Teach Away, we know a thing or two about what it takes to land a teaching job abroad - we've trained and placed thousands of teachers across more than 50 countries. With advice from hiring experts and real teachers who've taught abroad, we've got you covered with everything you need to know to land that dream teaching job abroad.

It's time to stop dreaming and start doing!



ESL: English as a Second Language

TEFL: Teaching English as a Foreign Language

TEFL Certification: An internationally recognized qualification to teach English abroad, that can be online or classroom based

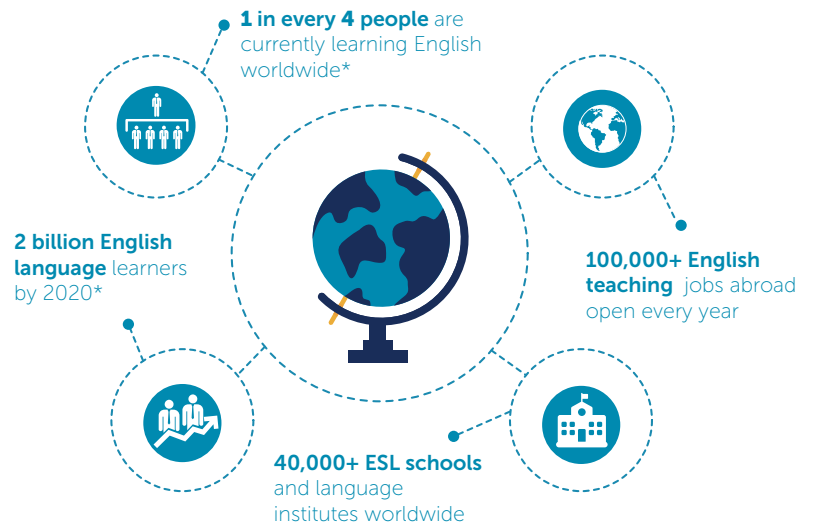
ELL: English Language Learners



WHY NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO TEACH ABROAD

Starting a job hunt always feels a little daunting. A job hunt in an entirely new country? That's a whole new level of stress!

The good news is that English teaching job openings worldwide hit an all-time high and there's no sign of the demand slowing anytime soon.



*Source: 2016 British Council Study

WHAT TEACHING ABROAD IS REALLY LIKE: 3 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW



Teaching abroad is hard.

"I didn't prepare for teaching at all! I thought the week of training provided by my school would adequately prepare me, but I greatly underestimated the challenges of teaching."

- Jen, taught English to young learners in South Korea, 2013



Teaching abroad will change you - for the better.

"One of the best parts of teaching abroad was getting to travel around, meeting new people and build relationships. For the first time in my life, I decided to say yes to everything"

- Irma, taught English to high school students in China, 2012



Teaching abroad gives you itchy feet.

"Teaching abroad opened my eyes to new cultures and ways of living. I left parts of myself in each place I visited. The experience has truly ignited a feeling of wanderlust in me - for life."

- Christie, taught English to adults in Spain, 2014





REAL TEACH ABROAD ADVICE - STRAIGHT FROM A RECRUITMENT PRO

Graeme Craig, Senior Account Manager @ Teach Away

You're probably wondering what it takes to teach English abroad. That's why we asked Graeme to weigh in on some of the common questions from teach abroad hopefuls.

Graeme, you've taught English all over the world. Now, you match English teachers with their dream jobs abroad every day! So tell us, is teaching experience really necessary to teach abroad?



No. While hands-on teaching experience or a background in education can be an asset, these are not required. That's why teaching abroad is often a popular job choice for new graduates - regardless of their major.

When is the best time of year to find teaching jobs abroad?



Timing is everything. There are jobs open year round in certain regions, especially Asia. In Europe and Latin America, hiring tends to be more cyclical, and there's a huge demand for English teachers in the fall and winter.

What are your top three tips for people looking to get started with teaching abroad?



- 1. Keep an open mind!** If you have your heart set on teaching in one particular location, you risk missing out on the adventure of teaching and traveling abroad. You can always teach in one country or region and then move on to your dream destination afterwards - be flexible and open to new experiences!
- 2. Know the requirements before you start applying for jobs.** Visa and qualification requirements will vary from country to country. As a general rule, you will need to be fluent in English. You'll also need to have a Bachelor's degree - in any subject. Try browsing job postings in the countries you want to teach in - that'll help you in preparing to teach abroad.
- 3. Make sure you get TEFL certified.** Repeat after me: just because you can speak English doesn't mean you can teach English! Hiring schools abroad commonly make a TEFL certificate (with a minimum of 100 hours) a requirement for hiring new teachers. Without one, it can be difficult to land a job teaching English at a more reputable and better-paying school.



SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN EARN TEACHING ABROAD

To make your research easier, we've scoped out some popular destinations and compiled a handy chart of some of the best places to teach abroad:

ASIA









 Country	 Average Monthly Salary	 Benefits	 Start Up Costs	 Cost of Living	 ESL job hot spots (urban/rural)
China	10,000 - 13,000 RMB (approx. \$1,500 - 2,500 USD)	Airfare, housing allowance, vacation time, health insurance	TEFL Certification, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Low	Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen
Japan	¥250,000 - 300,000 (approx. \$2,200 - 2,625 USD)	Airfare, health insurance, end-of-contract bonus	TEFL Certification, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Low in rural areas	Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, as well as rural areas
South Korea	1.8 - 3.0 million KRW (approx. \$1,500 - 2,600 USD)	Airfare, 50% health insurance, contract completion bonus, rural placement bonus	TEFL Certification, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Medium in urban areas	Seoul, Busan, Daegu as well as rural areas
Taiwan	NT 40,000 - 62,000 (approx. \$1,260 - 1,900 USD)	Airfare, health insurance, housing allowance	TEFL Certification, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Very low	Taipei
Thailand	\$800 - 1,200 USD	Airfare, health insurance	TEFL Certification, housing, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Very low	Bangkok, Chiang Mai
Singapore	\$4,500 SGD (approx. \$3,170 USD)	Airfare, relocation allowance	TEFL Certification, housing, travel insurance	High in urban areas	Singapore

Find out even more about top teaching destinations around the world





CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

 Country	 Average Monthly Salary	 Benefits	 Start Up Costs	 Cost of Living	 ESL job hot spots (urban/rural)
Mexico	12,000 MXN (approx. \$540 USD)	Housing allowance, health insurance	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, housing, travel insurance	Very low	Mexico City
Brazil	1,000 - 4,000 BRL (approx. \$320 - \$1,270 USD)	Housing allowance	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Low	Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, as well as rural areas
Argentina	2,600 - 10,400 ARS (approx. \$150 - \$590 USD)	Assistance with finding housing	TEFL Certification, airfare, housing, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Very low	Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Rosario, Mendoza, Mar de Plata, as well as rural areas

Find out even more about top teaching destinations around the world 



EUROPE

 Country	 Average Monthly Salary	 Benefits	 Start Up Costs	 Cost of Living	 ESL job hot spots (urban/rural)
Spain	€700 - 1,800 (approx. \$750 - 1,950 USD)	Paid vacation	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Lower in rural areas	Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid
Italy	€900 - 1,600 (approx. \$970 - 1,720 USD)	Paid vacation	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Low in rural areas	Milan, Naples, Rome, Turin, Palermo, Genoa, Bologna, Florence
France	€1,400 - 1,700 (approx. \$1,490 - 1,800 USD)	Paid vacation	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, housing, travel insurance	High in urban areas	Paris, as well as smaller cities and rural areas
Turkey	\$1,000 - 1,800 USD	Paid vacation	TEFL Certification, airfare, initial daily expenses, housing, travel insurance	Very low	Ankara
Czech Republic	18,000 - 24,000 KC (approx. \$810 - \$1,080 USD)	Housing allowance	TEFL Certification, Airfare, initial daily expenses, travel insurance	Very low	Prague

Find out even more about top teaching destinations around the world 



MIDDLE EAST



Country

Average Monthly Salary

Benefits

Start Up Costs

Cost of Living

ESL job hot spots (urban/rural)

UAE (United Arab Emirates)	\$2,400 - 5,500 USD	Airfare, health insurance, housing, tuition, end-of-contract	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	Housing costs are high	Abu Dhabi, Dubai
Egypt	\$2,300 - 4,500 USD	Airfare, housing allowance, health insurance	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	Low	Cairo, Alexandria
Saudi Arabia	\$4,500 USD	Airfare for teacher, spouse and dependents, housing allowance, relocation allowance, end-of-contract bonus	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	Medium in urban areas	Riyadh
Qatar	9,000 - 14,000 QR (approx. \$2,400 to 3,700 USD) tax free	Airfare, housing allowance, health insurance	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	High in urban areas	Doha and other rural areas
Kuwait	792 KWD (approx. \$2,600 - 4,000 USD) tax free	Airfare, housing allowance, health insurance	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	High in urban areas	Kuwait
Jordan	\$3,000 - 3,800 USD	Airfare, housing allowance, health insurance, professional development	TEFL Certification, travel insurance	High	Amman

Find out even more about top teaching destinations around the world



LIKE WHAT YOU'VE READ SO FAR? FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A TEACHING JOB IN ONE OF THE COUNTRIES LISTED ABOVE, YOURS



HOW YOU CAN STAND OUT IN THE GLOBAL ENGLISH TEACHING JOB MARKET

As a common requirement for most international teaching jobs, the best way to be leaps and bounds ahead of the competition is to get TEFL certified!

OF PEOPLE LOOKING TO TEACH ABROAD:

48%



• Have a University Degree

12%



• Have a University Degree AND a TEFL Certificate

*This data is representative of over 200,000 accounts from the Teach Away teacher database

A TEFL CERTIFICATION WILL INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB ABROAD

A TEFL certificate is recommended for everyone looking to teach abroad, including recent university graduates and experienced teachers. A TEFL certificate is ideal for savvy job seekers looking to stand out in their job applications and boost their earning potential with more reputable schools.

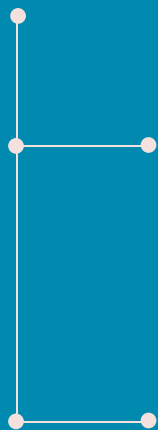
► What if you're not a teacher?

No worries! 68% of people who enroll in a TEFL course aren't qualified teachers*, have majored in lots of different subjects - and have never taught abroad.

WE ASKED PEOPLE WHY THEY CHOSE TO GET TEFL CERTIFIED BEFORE TEACHING ABROAD



WHY are people choosing to get TEFL certified?



64% of people choose TEFL to boost their chances of getting a job abroad*



19% of people choose TEFL to improve their ESL teaching skills*



Who's choosing to get TEFL certified?



51% of TEFL students are university students or recent graduates*



20% of TEFL students are certified teachers*

*This data is representative of 1,494 responses to a 2016 OISE University of Toronto TEFL survey

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO LEARN IN A TEFL COURSE

To get you ready to teach abroad, your TEFL course needs to cover the following elements:



6 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING THE TEFL COURSE FOR YOU

TEFL

With so many TEFL courses out there, it's easy to feel overwhelmed when it comes to choosing the course that fits your needs.

Whether you choose to get TEFL certified in person or online is up to you! That said, here's what you should keep in mind when evaluating course options:

Find an option that suits your schedule. Onsite TEFL courses are more intensive and often full time. Online TEFL courses have a similar course curriculum, but are usually self paced, meaning you can easily fit your study time into your current work, school or family schedule.

Know what matters to hiring schools abroad. While onsite courses do often offer a teaching practicum component, it's important to remember that these don't count as full-time teaching experience - meaning schools abroad will not recognize it as actual teaching experience.

Choose an option that fits your budget. Online TEFL courses are usually much easier on the wallet than their onsite counterparts, with most reputable TEFL courses starting at \$1,000 (vs upwards of \$2,500 for the equivalent onsite course). Be wary of super cheap TEFL courses - like those \$69 Groupon TEFL courses - they're cheap for a reason!

Beware of TEFL providers that promise guaranteed job offers. First off, these are usually not the best paying jobs, and the benefits can be lacking too. More than that, though, you won't need a guaranteed job placement! With an internationally recognized TEFL certification, the sky's the limit on how many English teaching jobs you can apply for abroad.

Watch out for false claims of accreditation. This is one of the most confusing parts of selecting your TEFL course provider. In spite of what you may have read elsewhere, there is no one global accrediting body for TEFL. Some TEFL courses will claim they're accredited, but the simple fact is, that's impossible! You'll need to choose a quality and reputable course provider.

You might find it useful to check out reviews left by past students on sites that compare TEFL courses, like Go Abroad, Go Overseas and the OISE University of Toronto TEFL Facebook page.

Be sure the TEFL certificate you choose is internationally recognized. While TEFL certification is the most highly regarded ESL teaching qualification, not all course providers are created equal. Choose a course that has a strong reputation in the international education community, ideally from a leading institution with expertise in the area of ESL education.

Want to know even more about choosing your TEFL course? **Check out a quick video of our top tips!**



CHOOSE THE RIGHT TEFL COURSE

Now that you've made it all the way down here, and we've shared with you the ins and outs of teaching abroad - all that's left to do is to choose your TEFL course. Don't skip this part: a reputable TEFL certificate is the cornerstone of your teach abroad resume and what matters most to your future employer.

With the large number of TEFL courses that are available nowadays, it can be difficult to figure out what TEFL option works best for you. If you're planning on moving halfway around the world, you owe it yourself to do as much research as possible, so you can invest your time - and money - as wisely as possible.

If you know someone who has taught abroad, pick their brain. Ask them which TEFL course provider they chose and why - and what they would have done differently looking back on their time teaching abroad!

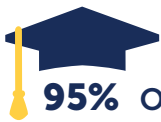
We asked our grads why they chose our TEFL course. Here's what the majority had to say:

40%

Because it was designed by the University of Toronto's Faculty of Education

31%

Because it's online and self-paced



95%

OF ALL GRADUATES WOULD RECOMMEND THE OISE TEFL COURSE TO A FRIEND



The OISE University of Toronto TEFL program fit my needs perfectly and I trusted that the university would not lend their name to an inferior course. The course has a wealth of reference material to take with you and I highly recommend it."

Dan, OISE TEFL graduate currently teaching EFL learners in a middle school in Guangeng, China

"I wouldn't be in this wonderful country with the great job I have right now if it wasn't for this course, and it was easy, informative, and helpful and there's no reason not to add it to your resume if you have the time!"

Gregory, OISE TEFL graduate currently teaching grades 4-6 in a public school in Seoul, South Korea



TEFL

We know that when it comes to TEFL courses, there's no one-size-fits-all option! We have three different course options you can choose from (all of which meet the minimum requirements to qualify for teaching jobs abroad):



Great for experienced teachers looking for a grounding in the foundations of ESL teaching.



Our most popular course option and perfect for anyone starting a career teaching English.



If you're looking for the most comprehensive TEFL training, this is the right option for you.

You have one year to complete your TEFL training - but most students complete the course in as little as 8 weeks. With a TEFL certification, you can hit the ground running in your job search in no time at all.

TEACH ABROAD WITH A TEFL CERTIFICATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO OISE

GET TEFL CERTIFIED



Have questions?
Contact us!

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