



The TEFL Org Guide to
THE WORLD

A person with a backpack is sitting on a ledge, looking out over a valley with a river and mountains. The person has their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or joy. The background shows a lush green valley with a river winding through it, surrounded by misty, karst mountains.

The TEFL Org Guide to the World

Welcome to The TEFL Org Guide to the World 2021!

Comprising over **70 countries** spanning all corners of the globe, this is your essential guide to teaching English abroad.

There's a whole world out there just waiting for you to explore it. And one of the best ways to do that is through TEFL!

With more than 1.5 billion English language learners across the globe, qualified TEFL teachers are in high demand. People of all ages are learning English for a multitude of reasons, which means there are a wide range of TEFL jobs out there. Work as a language assistant on government-run programs like *EPIK* in South Korea, or *JET* in Japan; teach business English in Mexico; volunteer with refugees in English-speaking countries such as the UK and USA; teach kindergarten in one of China's megacities; or adults in one of Spain's many language centres – to name just a few!

TEFL is not just one thing, nor is it for one type of person.

While it's always been popular with graduates looking to get out there and see the world before settling into a career back home, people of all ages and at all stages of life teach English abroad. For one thing, TEFL can be a career in itself and there are many options for progressing in the industry. Whether you're in your 20s or your 60s, looking for something to do over just a summer or a complete career change, TEFL has something to offer everyone.

This guide has been carefully compiled to help you decide where to teach and give you guidance on getting started. You'll find information about salaries and requirements, and learn what it's like to live and work in each country. Read about the experience of TEFL Org graduates who've been there and done it, and discover employers recruiting TEFL qualified teachers.

So, dive in and start planning *your* TEFL adventure!

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English speaking countries

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A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is looking upwards with a slight smile. She is wearing a red puffer jacket with a grey fur-lined collar. The background is a blurred market stall with yellow lanterns hanging from the ceiling. The entire image has a light blue tint.

ASIA

Teach English in Cambodia



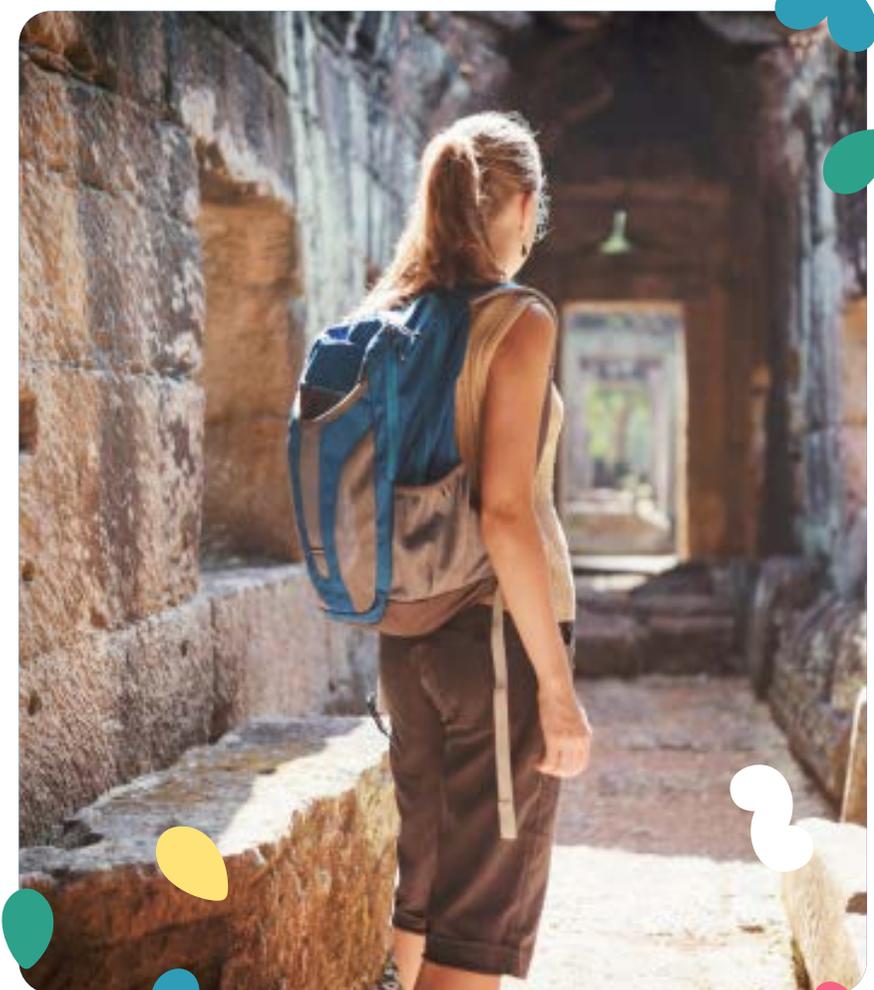
Cambodia has a tragic past, but is these days considered to be a stable country and welcoming to foreign workers.

For several years now, the TEFL market in Cambodia has been one of the fastest growing in Asia and as the country's economy continues to improve so do the opportunities for EFL teachers. In years gone by, native English speaking 'backpacker teachers' could turn up with no qualifications and find work in a large number of Asian countries, but this is rarely the case now. Cambodia, however, is one location where you can still find teaching work without the necessary qualifications that other countries demand – you don't need a degree to qualify for a visa, and while we always recommend having at least a 120-hour TEFL certificate (and many jobs in Cambodia do require this), it can still be possible to find work without a TEFL qualification. You will, however, need a work visa if you're planning on working – the Cambodian government is very strict on this and you could find yourself being fined, deported, or jailed if you're caught working illegally.

With plenty of teaching work, a low cost of living, wonderfully friendly people and delicious food, it's no wonder that TEFL teachers are drawn to this incredible country. Pay isn't great in Cambodia but with such a low cost of living, it's easy to get by. You'll have no shortage of things to do and places to visit on your time off, and Cambodia is a place where you can really have a proper adventure while teaching English abroad.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£680 – £1,000 (\$900 – \$1,300)	No	May	No	No	Yes	Under 65



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Phnom Penh and Siem Reap

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of \$900 – \$1,300 (£680 – £1,000) per month. Top salaried positions pay around \$2,000 (£1,500) per month. Many positions pay by the hour, at a rate of around \$10 – \$15 (£7 – £11) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for many positions

Prerequisite university degree: No degree required for a visa, but can be specified by employers

Term times: May to October and November to March

Currency: Cambodian Riel (KHR) and US dollars

Language: Khmer

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, International Schools, Business English, Bilingual Kindergartens, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not necessary



The experience of teaching English in Cambodia varies greatly depending on the school you work at and what sort of role it is. There are many voluntary positions in Cambodia, some where you pay for the experience and get accommodation and food for free, and others that are free to participate in but you pay for your own costs of living. Paying jobs might be salaried or paid by the hour, even if they're full-time, and again you might find a higher paying job with no perks or one with a lower salary but you get free accommodation.

Professional, academic work can be hard to come by in Cambodia, and even international schools don't always conduct the majority of their lessons in English. Private schools will have varying reputations and it's important to look around and do your homework before signing a contract – it's not hard to find work, so don't just jump at the first job you're offered. Working environments depend largely on the professionalism of the school. Some will provide you with decent teaching materials, whereas others will require you to prepare things for yourself or adapt their materials if you find them to be unsuitable. Large classes of Cambodian children can be hard work even though they're well-behaved, but they're fun, kind, and a joy to teach.

LIVING COSTS

In Cambodia, despite having their own currency they operate on a dollar economy. Only items that cost less than one dollar are usually priced in riels, so don't be surprised to see a combination of price tags. ATMs dispense both. English teachers in Cambodia earn a decent wage in relation to the low cost of living in the country, and you can get a meal at a market for as little as \$1, while a sit-down meal in a restaurant is still very cheap. Prices are rising, but it's still a very cheap place to get by. As is the case anywhere, living and eating like a local is significantly cheaper than eating Western food, frequenting tourist bars, and indulging in home comforts, but the options are there in the capital and Siem Reap if you'd like a more cosmopolitan lifestyle.

Most teachers are on an hourly rate rather than a salary, so benefits such as paid holidays, accommodation, and health insurance are not typically included with the job. Also, with many voluntary teaching positions in Cambodia, a lot of expats are on a tight budget and you won't find it hard to connect with other TEFL teachers who are in the same position as you. With a rich culture and many wonderful places to visit, such as Angkor Wat (the largest religious monument in the world), Battambang bat caves, the genocide museum, Koh Rong island, and Ta Prohm temple. Many expats in Cambodia cite the friendliness, humbleness, and openness of the locals to be one of the most endearing and charming aspects of the culture. Along with glorious weather and amazing food (with top dishes including fish amok curry, green mango salad, beef loc lac, crab and pepper, and pumpkin custard) it's no wonder that many TEFL teachers are drawn to the adventurous lifestyle you can have in Cambodia.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £388 – £811 / \$507 – \$1,059

Utilities: £71 / \$93

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £25 / \$33

Monthly transport pass: £17 / \$22

Basic dinner out for two: £7 / \$9

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.73 / \$2.26

A beer in a pub: £1.33 / \$1.73

1 litre of milk: £1.88 / \$2.46

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.29 / \$1.69

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN CAMBODIA

A degree isn't required to teach English in Cambodia, but you will find that the vast majority of jobs advertised online will ask for one. If you don't have a degree, then by far your best bet for securing work is to apply for jobs after you arrive in the country. Most jobs are found in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, but there are opportunities to teach in rural parts of the country where you'd likely be the only Westerner for miles around, as well as plenty of voluntary positions in rural locations. The most common types of work available in Cambodia involve teaching young learners, positions with private language schools, and teaching business English.

EMPLOYERS IN CAMBODIA

[Abundant Life International School](#) seeks experienced teachers.

[Bright Line](#) is an International School in Cambodia that offers a UK based educational program in its kindergarten, primary school, and general English program.

Rural school [Cesheo](#) provides accommodation for TEFL volunteers.

[EESS](#) Elementary and Secondary School is worth contacting for ELT positions.

[Jora Cambodia](#) is an online jobs search engine where you can find listings for TEFL positions.

[Learn4Life Cambodia](#) is a private language school in Siem Reap.

[Learning Jungle](#) has one preschool and one elementary campus.

[Teachers in Cambodia](#) is a recruitment agency in Phnom Penh.

Check out the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

Getting through your first few weeks of teaching can be tough. And that's not normally because of the material you're teaching. It's because everything you know has been flipped on its head, turned upside down, shaken a few times, dunked under water and then pulled back up again. It's wildly different to how you could ever imagine it. And if you can't imagine it, it becomes seemingly impossible to prepare for.

It's all fine and well for me to sit here and tell you to 'Make sure you bring stickers!', 'Oh don't forget to play bingo at the end of the lesson, they love that!' And 'No matter how many whiteboard pens you bring they will run out!'. But what I can't prepare you for is the changes that you will go through as a person, and the things that you will learn and grow from, which are so much more than what you just experience when teaching.

Kat, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in China

China is undoubtedly the TEFL powerhouse of the world. Whether you want to teach Chinese students online or get a TEFL job somewhere in this vast country, the industry is massive, and still growing.

Some people speculate about when the TEFL boom in China is going to slow down, but there seems to be no indication that this will happen any time soon, with ever more Chinese people signing up for English lessons to boost their education and career prospects.

In years gone by, any backpacker could turn up in China and find teaching work, even without qualifications or a degree. In the last decade or so, regulations have steadily been tightened, and now to get a visa for teaching in China you need to have both a degree and a TEFL qualification. With such a huge population of English language learners in China, new schools and employment opportunities are always popping up, but it's worth doing your research. From giant chains to independent language schools, your experience in China will very much depend on the exact branch you work at, what the DoS (Director of Studies) is like, and what level of quality and professionalism is required of the teachers.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,000 – £2,000 (\$1,300 – \$2,575)	Yes	September	No	Yes	Yes	Under 55



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Beijing, Shanghai, Ningbo, Chengdu, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Dalian, Yangzhou, Nanjing

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 9,000 – 18,000 RMB (£1,000 – £2,000 / \$1,300 – \$2,575) per month, with the usual salary at about 13,000 RMB (£1,450 / \$1,860) per month. Many schools offer flight reimbursement, performance bonuses and other perks such as accommodation

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is a minimum requirement.

Prerequisite university degree: You must have a BA degree (in any discipline) to get your Foreign Expert Certificate for your Z visa

Term times: September to July

Currency: Chinese Yuan Renminbi (RMB)

Language: Mandarin Chinese

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Public Primary and Secondary Schools, Universities, Kindergartens, Volunteering, Freelance, Online, Business English, Summer Camp

Age restrictions: Under 55

Previous teaching experience: Necessary for some positions



There are so many varied positions available for TEFL teachers in China (from kindergartens to universities, business language schools to fun summer camps), it would be hard to sum up what the experience is like in general. Most teachers in China work for private language schools where they predominantly teach children, and sometimes have teen or adult classes, too. Most of these schools operate as extra-curricular clubs where wealthy parents send their children to get ahead. The job might be geared more towards fun and games, with plenty of singing, dancing and craft, or you might be somewhere that provides professional lesson plans and materials and has structured goals for students.

However, whatever the educational emphasis, these private language schools are ultimately run as businesses rather than educational facilities. Class prices are high and only wealthy families can send their kids there. As such, they expect results, something you'll discover if you try and give a student a negative grade or comment on their report – parents don't pay thousands of RMB and expect this sort of service. If you're dedicated to academic excellence, you'll find plenty of challenges working in China, from fake grades to keep parents happy, to squeezing extra kids into overcapacity classes to make sure friends can sit together. It can be very hard to turn a blind eye to this sort of thing, but if you accept the experience for what it is, private teaching roles can be fulfilling, fun, and provide you with a firm grounding in your TEFL career.

Chinese students are great fun to teach. Young learners can have a cheeky or naughty streak, but they're chatty, enthusiastic, hardworking, and competitive. Teens can be quiet and reserved, and in general you'll find that older students are less opinionated, preferring activities where there are right and wrong answers. Most full-time positions are for 20 – 28 teaching hours a week. The job is what you put into it. You can work hard, develop as a teacher, and make some great connections. There are also plenty of 'gap year' teachers who just do the minimum and enjoy their time off.

LIVING COSTS

How much it costs you to live in China depends very much on where you're based, and also the lifestyle you choose. For example, an expat who dines out in foreign restaurants and visits Starbucks on the weekend will very quickly burn through their wages, even if they're on 15,000 RMB per month. On the other hand, a teacher earning just 11,000 RMB per month can both live like a king and put money in the bank if they avoid imported products and eat like a local, choosing fried rice over beef burgers. Just look at the cost of a cup of coffee (imported product) over a basic dinner for two (eating local produce). If you live in a city like Shanghai, it will be hard to have much left over at the end of the month, even if you're frugal. However, live in a moderately sized city like Hangzhou (population of 10 million), and if you embrace the local lifestyle and share a flat with another teacher, you can expect to be saving a few thousand RMB of your pay packet every single month. Don't write off smaller locations, either – plenty of teachers have found much appeal in small towns and far flung places over the cosmopolitan metropolis of Shanghai.

China is a traveller's wonderland. Cheap travel in-country, from express trainlines to domestic flights, make it easy to see the country during your holidays. Be warned that crowds can be a huge issue during public holidays, and many people choose to take a foreign holiday during those crazy seasons, such as Spring Festival, rather than face the largest human migration in the world. Even in your locality on a modest budget you can still afford to indulge in entertainment every weekend – scenic parks and gardens, traditional old towns to visit, sprawling museums, quirky hutong backstreets, modern art and theatre, mountains to climb... the opportunities are endless. One important consideration about how you spend your time in China will come down to where you are and what the weather's like! China is vast, with freezing winters in some places and tropical weather in others. Be sure to do your research.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £606 – £813 / \$775 – \$1,040

Utilities: £47 / \$60

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £39 / \$50

Monthly transport pass: £18 / \$23

Basic dinner out for two: £21 / \$27

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.61 / \$4.62

A beer in a pub: £3.19 / \$4.08

1 litre of milk: £1.55 / \$1.99

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.87 / \$1.12

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN CHINA

Teachers approaching China for the first time would be wise to go with a well-known chain company, particularly if they don't have experience. A large franchise which provides plenty of lesson materials and support will be a huge benefit if you're new to the TEFL world, and as franchise schools often have a large staff, there will be plenty of other expats around as you settle into this strange new world. After a one year contract with one of the large companies, you might decide to chase a higher paying job, like those at international schools if you have the relevant qualifications, or perhaps specialise in teaching in a kindergarten or Business School. Do an internet search for TEFL jobs in China and you'll get hundreds of results any day of the year, but here we're listing a few of the well-known recruitment agencies, schools and franchises which are popular with new TEFL teachers.

EMPLOYERS IN CHINA

[Berlitz](#) requires a degree and TEFL, and preferably some experience, especially in Business English.

[BFSU](#) offer one year contracts teaching young learners in their English training centres in Beijing, Nanjing and Suzhou.

[Chengdu Golden Apple Child Education Group](#) runs more than 30 kindergartens in Chengdu.

[EF English First](#) is a global company, with over 300 schools in China across 60 cities. You need a degree, a TEFL qualification, and will be background checked.

Save yourself the trouble of trawling through job listings by approaching an agency. [Gold Star Recruitment](#) sends numerous teachers to China every year.

[Shane English / Saxoncourt](#) hires teachers at dozens of schools across China.

Find numerous listings for TEFL jobs in China on [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#).

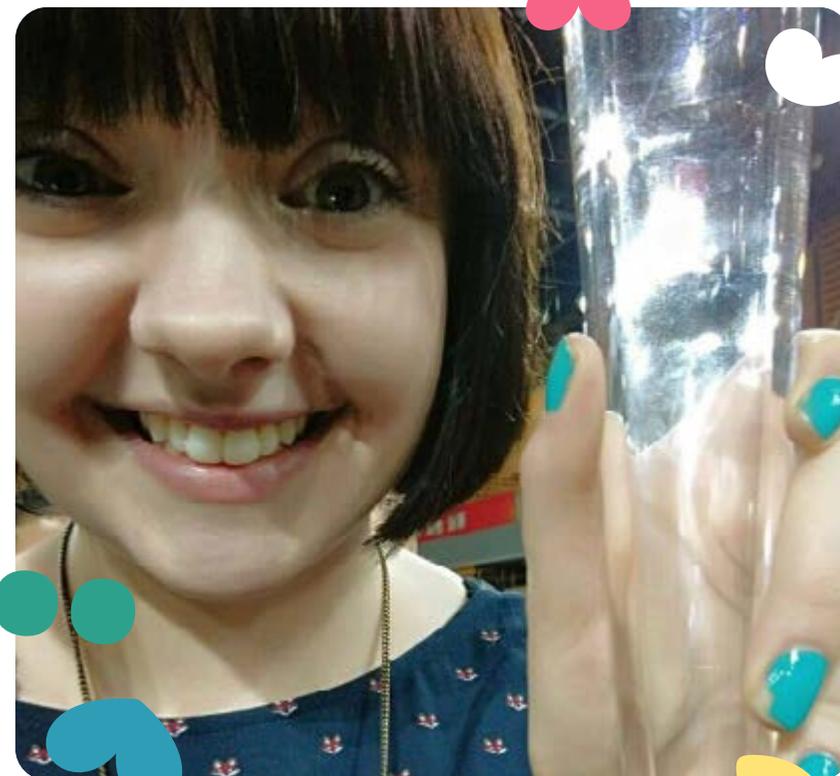


TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

I arrived here with no Chinese, not much money and no sense of direction. I was placed at a campus in the south of Beijing, which is now like my second home. I have been teaching at the same campus for my whole time here, which is quite unusual for many foreigners who flit between jobs depending on which way the wind is blowing, but the company I work for is solid, legitimate and has a serious amount of GuanXi. GuanXi means connections of significance and translates to the western world somewhat as 'Friends in high places'; so working here is really a fantastic, fulfilling and interesting experience.

I really enjoy working for a government company, although it can sometimes be culturally challenging, I work with so many local Beijing people but also far away provinces. One of my best friends in Beijing is my TA (Teaching assistant) called Flora, who I've known since I arrived. She is from a small province in the south west of Beijing, and she has helped me engage with Chinese culture in a really personal way. I know we will always be friends, which is really something special. My colleagues are extremely helpful, kind and respectful of my culture and experiences and like to spend time sharing treats from their home provinces or videos of their families who live in faraway cities.

Sarah, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Hong Kong

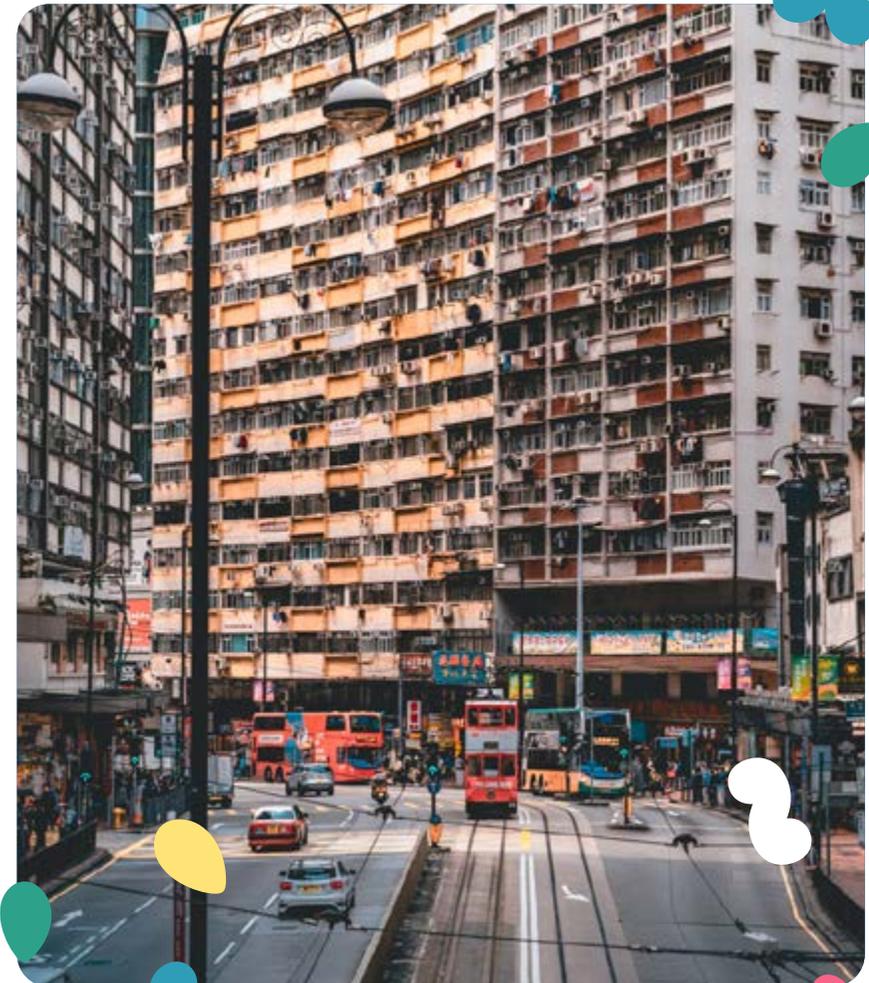
A British colony until 1997, Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China, but don't expect teaching and living in this country to be anything like life in China.

People in Hong Kong speak Cantonese, an entirely different language to what people speak in mainland China. English is also an official language of Hong Kong and is spoken by just under 50% of the population, about the same number of people who also speak Mandarin Chinese. If you happen to speak other foreign languages such as French or Spanish, you have a good chance of being hired at an elite international school in Hong Kong which offers several linguistics courses.

Speaking English is a major priority for the people of Hong Kong, some of whom send children for English lessons at as young as 6 months old, which means the demand for qualified TEFL teachers is huge. Predominantly, the private language school industry is filled with exam preparation classes, but there are also a large number of business English classes. In order to compete effectively in the world playing field, Hong Kong emphasizes that English is taught universally from childhood up.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,550 – £6,300 (\$2,000 – \$8,380)	Yes	September	Preferred	Sometimes	No	Under 65



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Hong Kong is both a country and a city – positions available across Hong Kong

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of HK\$16,000 to HK\$65,000 (£1,550 – £6,300 / \$2,000 – \$8,380) per month. HK\$100 – \$550 (£10 – £50 / \$13 – \$70) per teaching hour for freelance work

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: You need a degree to work in Hong Kong. Some international schools and university positions require degrees in certain fields, or higher qualifications such as an MA, PGCE or PhD

Term times: School year starts in August

Currency: Hong Kong Dollar (HKD)

Language: Cantonese and English

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Public Schools, Universities, Kindergarten, International Schools, Freelance, Voluntary

Age restrictions: Under 60

Previous teaching experience: Applicants for most jobs will find more success if they have a year or two of experience



Private language school recruitment for TEFL teachers in Hong Kong takes place year-round, with the exception of the Chinese New Year. Generally the best time to look for work teaching English in Hong Kong is in May/June time as the summer is a very busy time for learning centres, and you'll consequently find a large increase in the demand for TEFL teachers. However, if you're hoping to start with the academic year at an international school, it's best to start looking early in the new year. In private language schools, you'll often find that students range from young children to adults, and from beginners to advanced level, but that there will probably be a focus on exam preparation classes.

In public schools, TEFL teachers work as teaching assistants on the NET (Native English Speakers) Scheme, where they work alongside a local teacher. This scheme is put together by the Hong Kong government and is a major employer of foreigners in the state education system. You can work for the NET in primary or secondary schools; both roles require native or fluent speakers with TEFL experience, a BA and a TEFL certificate, as well as other qualifications depending on the role. Working for the NET scheme is by far the most lucrative position we've found in Hong Kong, although many international schools probably pay a similar salary.

LIVING COSTS

Hong Kong is the fourth most expensive country in the world, and the most expensive in Asia. Rent is particularly expensive, so finding a job that provides accommodation is certainly a bonus, though it's likely to be a shared apartment. If you need to find your own place, using flat share websites such as AsiaXpat or GeoExpat will help you to find something affordable. There's no shortage of rental accommodation in Hong Kong with supply meeting demand, but you might find affordable properties are quite cramped and tired looking. Better deals can be found in the older, less fashionable areas of the city. When it comes to furnishing your apartment, IKEA is the best option – everything else is either expensive and bespoke, or cheap and poor quality, with little else in between.

Hong Kong isn't a place where you're going to experience too much culture shock. It's a popular cosmopolitan city where you'll be able to meet expats from all over the world, although with a high turnover, expect to be making new friends on a regular basis. You can find foreign food and products easily, although shopping and dining like a local will give you the best value for money. Hong Kong has good nightlife, plenty of outdoor pursuits on offer, great public transport, and a cuisine that many Westerners find much easier to get on with than the food in mainland China.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £2,235 – £4,136 / \$2,993 – \$5,537

Utilities: £131 / \$176

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £39 / \$52

Monthly transport pass: £51 / \$69

Basic dinner out for two: £36 / \$48

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.02 / \$5.38

A beer in a pub: £6 / \$8

1 litre of milk: £2.22 / \$2.97

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.30 / \$1.74

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN HONG KONG

It's illegal to work in Hong Kong if you're on a tourist visa – if you find a job while there as a tourist, you have to leave the country to apply for a work visa, a process which takes six to eight weeks' time to complete. It's most convenient to do this from nearby Macao, or better still, secure work before you travel.

For a work visa, you need an employer that is willing to sponsor you, and then you submit an ID990A application form to the Immigration Department. There is a lot of paperwork for the employer, so don't start proceedings with more than one employer and make your mind up later. The government stipulates that teachers hired from overseas must earn at least HK\$20,000 per month, although you sometimes see jobs advertised for less than this, which must surely offer some other bonus (like accommodation) to get around this rule.

EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG

[Berlitz](#) asks for a BA degree and TEFL certificate, experience beneficial.

[Elton Educational Services](#) is a recruitment agency, hiring TEFL teachers for Hong Kong kindergartens, primary schools, and secondary schools.

[The English Schools Foundation](#) has kindergartens, primary schools, and secondary schools in Hong Kong.

Send an email to apply to [English Excel](#), a British-owned network of schools around Hong Kong.

[HK Edu](#) asks for a TEFL and a degree, with preference given to candidates with teaching experience.

The [NET Scheme](#) offers a generous salary to primary and secondary school teachers

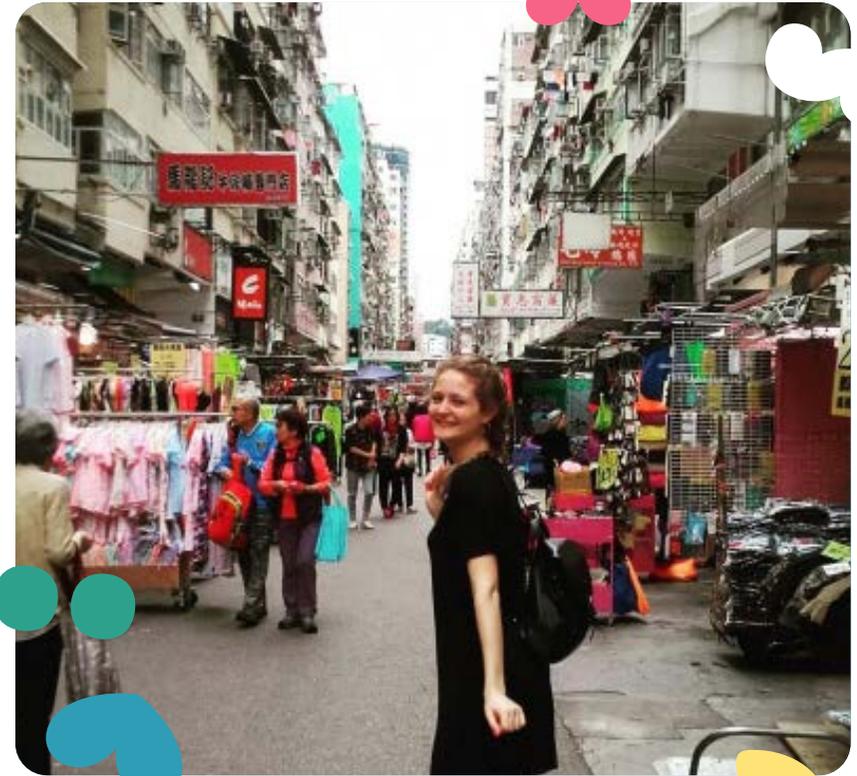
Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“In Hong Kong I taught English through an NGO. The organisation placed tutors into schools in which the students came from low-income households. These students were therefore less exposed to English language opportunities outside of school. Although there are many different ways to teach English in Hong Kong (often for more money), I decided that a high salary wasn't everything and that I wanted to work in an environment where I would be helping underprivileged students. In Hong Kong it is extremely important for teenagers to learn English – if they don't, they will most certainly not get a place at university. When I saw statistics of how many students didn't make it to university based on their English-language skills, I knew I had made a good decision in choosing to work for a non-profit organisation.”

Madeleine, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in India

The second-most populous country in the world, English is one of India's official languages and as such is widely spoken around the country.

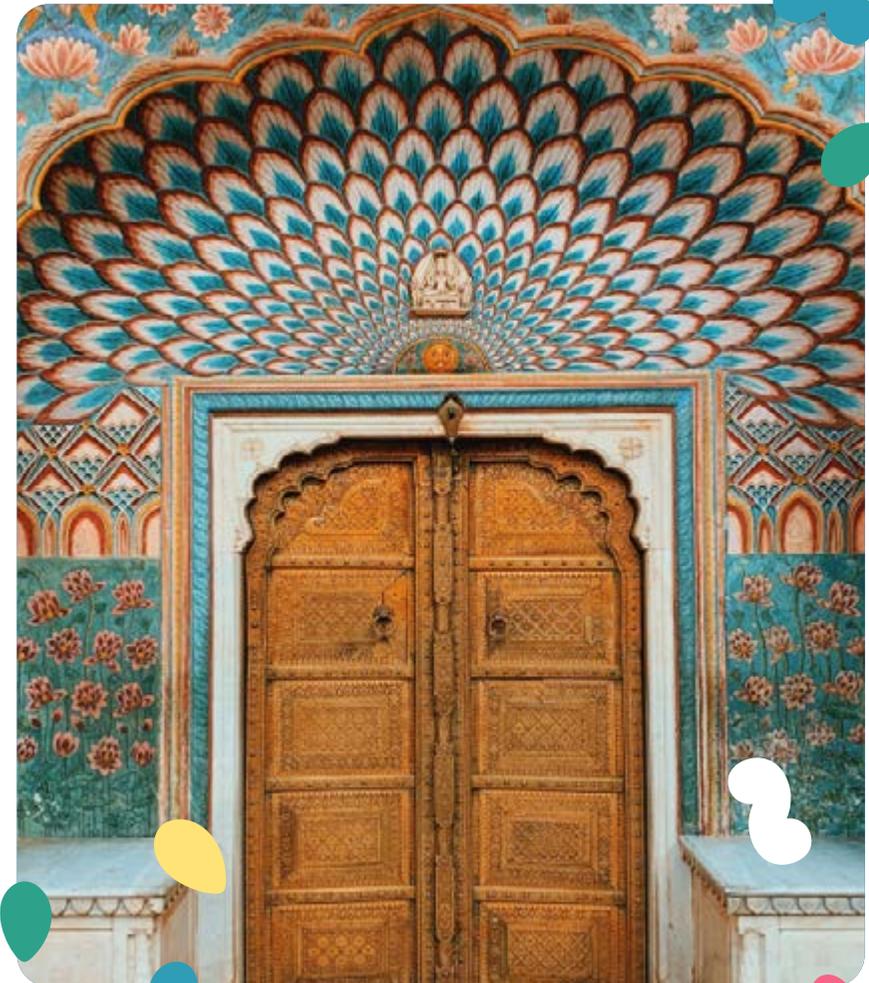
While many people in India are studying English, the demand for paid TEFL teachers is quite low. There are plenty of voluntary positions to teach English in India, but as few state schools can afford to hire a foreigner, only those applying to expensive international schools are likely to find paid work. However, for those who are drawn to this fascinating country, a spot of voluntary teaching isn't too hard to find and can be a great experience for newer TEFL teachers.

Although there remain many problems facing India the country has made impressive economic gains and output in recent years. India has always been a popular destination for western travellers seeking an adventure, and teaching English in India can be a great way to give something back to a local community, even if you aren't getting paid for it. Hindi is the official language of the government and spoken as a first language by most people in India. English is used extensively in business and administration, and it is also important in education, especially as a medium of higher education, so whether you want to volunteer teaching children or adults, there will be an opportunity for you.

India has much to offer the adventurous TEFL teacher: a cheap cost of living, bustling cities, world-famous cuisine, white-knuckle rickshaw rides, amazing wildlife, epic train journeys, shopping heaven and ancient cultural sites. While you might not be able to find paid work (or, if you do, you're unlikely to earn and save a huge amount) India still holds appeal for many intrepid TEFL teachers.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£120 – £775 (\$150 – \$1,000)	No	April	Preferred	No	No	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Nagpur, Shimoga, Bijapur, Nagercoli, and Bangalore

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 11,000 – 74,000 INR (£120 – £775 / \$150 – \$1,000) per month. Most positions are voluntary

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for all paid positions as a minimum

Prerequisite university degree: Necessary for paid positions, often in specific subjects

Term times: The school year usually starts in April

Currency: Indian Rupee (INR)

Language: Hindi and English

Teaching programmes: International Schools, Business English, Freelance, Voluntary

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Necessary for paid positions



English is the second language in India, and it is now taught in state schools from the age of six. If you do secure a position teaching English, it is most likely to be voluntary work. Very few ordinary citizens in India can dream of affording the luxury of English conversation classes and there are also very few westerners who could manage on the low wages earned by typical local English teachers. However, there are plenty of opportunities for volunteering to teach English in India and you will have no problem in finding eager students who would jump at the chance to learn English. Expect to teach large class sizes and with limited resources.

Teaching English in India is a rewarding experience. TEFL teachers in India are generally treated with the utmost respect and Indian students tend to be hardworking. Although you can expect to live well by local standards if you secure a paid TEFL job, do not expect to be able to save a lot or get rich from teaching English in India.

LIVING COSTS

India is one of the cheapest countries in the world, but the cost of living fluctuates greatly depending on where you're based. While it might cost next to nothing to live in a small city or town, living somewhere like Mumbai or Delhi can be hugely expensive, with rent being comparable to capital cities around the world. As most TEFL opportunities in India are voluntary, the cost of living is quite important to potential volunteers – if your position doesn't provide accommodation and other perks such as food, you'll need to work out your finances carefully before undertaking the trip. Some positions ask teachers to pay a participation fee.

While rent might be high in the more popular cities, the cost of food is low across India, with cheap options available across the country. Public transport might be crowded and uncomfortable, but the price is also low. It's important to bear in mind that India isn't a place to travel to if you aren't interested in more earthy adventures – life in India will likely be noisy, crowded, stressful, and uncomfortable, but for some TEFL teachers, that's half the fun!

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £223 – £351 / \$293 – \$462

Utilities: £43 / \$57

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £9 / \$12

Monthly transport pass: £12 / \$16

Basic dinner out for two: £13 / \$17

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.28 / \$3.01

A beer in a pub: £2.14 / \$2.81

1 litre of milk: £0.54 / \$0.71

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.87 / \$1.14

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN INDIA

Most international schools in India hire directly through their website, and positions are limited with much competition. It is sometimes possible for expats living in India to find freelance work, especially if they teach business English or exam content, but there's no guarantee of finding enough work to live on, and they'll only want to hire teachers who are already in the country. Many TEFL jobs are filled by Indian nationals with reasonable levels of English, and so only the most elite schools can hire foreigners. For voluntary positions, experiences vary – some ask for a participation fee, some will cover your costs, and other positions will ask you to pay your own way while you volunteer.

EMPLOYERS IN INDIA

[Edify](#) schools seek qualified, experienced teachers for their centres across India.

[Excelsior American School](#) is a Montessori school seeking teachers for paid and voluntary positions.

[HELP](#) (Himalayan Education Lifeline Programme) is a popular voluntary teaching opportunity in India.

Volunteer with [iSpiice](#) in the Himalayan foothills.

[King's College India](#) lists hiring opportunities on their website.

A variety of positions available at [Manjoorans Group](#), which has 10 academies delivering English language programmes and IELTS exam preparation classes.

[Sagreen International](#) offers teaching and Montessori teaching internships.

The [British School New Delhi](#) hires through their website.

Check out [The TEFL Org jobs centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in India.



Teach English in Indonesia

Indonesia is a major global hirer for TEFL teachers, with positions available year-round at the bigger chain schools. Teaching work can be found across the country, from the sprawling capital Jakarta to the stunning island of Bali.

While competition will be high in the most picturesque and sought-after locations, with applicants needing an impressive CV and qualifications to make an impression, there are also plenty of opportunities for newly-qualified teachers. Regardless of your qualifications, do research into the wide variety of locations you could be working in rather than just going for the most popular options, as the country has a treasure trove of unique destinations. TEFL jobs in Indonesia offer great wages in comparison to the low cost of living, so EFL teachers can really make the most of their time off. Jobs are plentiful, with many even offering benefits such as airfare and accommodation.

Those with a sense of adventure are truly spoilt for choice in Indonesia. Explore tranquil islands, witness the continuously smoking active volcanoes in the Pacific Ring of Fire, and see incredible wildlife such as orangutans in their natural habitat. Indonesia boasts 17,000 islands, 200 active volcanoes, more than 500 languages, and a population of 255 million. The largest archipelago in the world presents a lot of adventures and opportunities for EFL teachers!

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£565 – £1,030 (\$745 – \$1,355)	Yes	July	No	Not usually	No	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Jakarta, Bali, Palembang, Medan, Surabaya, Bandung, Semarang, and Yogyakarta

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 11,000,000 – 20,000,000 IDR (£565 – £1,030 / \$745 – \$1,355) per month. Most positions pay around 14,000,000 IDR (£720 / \$950) per month

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be a minimum requirement for most positions.

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is a visa requirement.

Term times: The school year starts mid-July and ends in mid-June, but many schools hire around the year

Currency: Indonesian rupiah (IDR)

Language: Indonesian

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Independent Schools, Public Schools, Kindergarten, Voluntary, Freelance, Corporate

Age restrictions: Maximum 60

Previous teaching experience: Some positions ask for 3+ year of experience, or specify experience type – young learners/adults/IELTS exam



In general, you can expect your young students in Indonesia to be polite and highly motivated to learn English, with few of the discipline problems associated with European youngsters. Class sizes might be big (up to forty students) but on the whole you'll find them well-behaved. Whatever type of position you're looking for, be sure to pitch it correctly in your interview and work out what they're looking for. Some schools are academic and professional, with a focus on grammar and teaching specific areas that will benefit students in their exams. Others will want the students to have a good time and be engaged in the lesson, with fun and games that won't go down well at other institutes. Wherever you're applying, do your research and find out what is expected of you.

A teaching bugbear you'll get familiar with in Indonesia is jam karat, which means 'rubber time'; basically, being pretty flexible with the official start time of things, even lessons. You'll have to get used to students turning up late for class. As it's part of the culture, presenting a hard line on student lateness won't get you anywhere. The majority of locals in Indonesia practice Islam, so teachers should be conservatively dressed. Also, make sure you're smart and formally dressed for interviews as appearances really do matter, particularly if you don't have the best-looking CV.

LIVING COSTS

The fourth cheapest country in Asia, the low cost of living in Indonesia makes it an attractive TEFL destination. On a teacher's salary you can live well, having enough to enjoy eating out and go on trips during your time off work. Food is inexpensive if you're eating local cuisine – buying your own groceries and cooking at home will save you some money, but it's comparable with the cost of local dining, so many teachers eat out a lot at markets and local restaurants. Western imports are expensive and, with the exception of beer, so is alcohol. If your lifestyle includes visiting bars and clubs a few nights a week, you'll quickly burn through even a generous salary, but savvy spenders in Indonesia can see themselves saving a large sum of money by the end of their contracts.

The biggest expense for teachers is accommodation, but costs can be kept low if you share with other teachers or if you secure a teaching position that comes with free accommodation or a stipend. In Jakarta it's common for renters to have to pay their annual rent in a lump sum at the beginning of the tenancy, but many employers can offer you a loan to cover this at the start of your contract. For those newly arrived in the country, sharing accommodation that is provided for you is certainly easier than signing up to a contract with the weight of it on you if you decide to leave early.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £376 – £1,044 / \$501 – \$1,391

Utilities: £62 / \$83

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £14 / \$19

Monthly transport pass: £20 / \$26

Basic dinner out for two: £9 / \$13

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.34 / \$3.11

A beer in a pub: £3.03 / \$4.04

1 litre of milk: £0.96 / \$1.28

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.85 / \$1.13

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN INDONESIA

A 120-hour TEFL qualification is required by most employers and there are plenty of opportunities for newly qualified EFL teachers with no previous teaching experience. The demand for teachers is high in Indonesia so you shouldn't have a problem securing your first teaching job. As well as your TEFL certificate, in order to get a work visa to teach English in Indonesia you will need a BA degree (preferably in linguistics, English lit/lang, or education) and a passport from one of the following countries: UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa. The visa requirements are strict but if you want a full-time job, it's worth applying before you travel for the perks of a full-time position and a proper visa.

Getting hired on the spot does happen in Indonesia, but working freelance makes it difficult to get a work permit. The process of getting a correct visa once you've already arrived in the country can also be tricky, so it's recommended to seek full-time employment before you travel. Many full-time positions offer reimbursement of visa costs and airfares at the end of your contract, and others will also provide medical insurance and free housing.

EMPLOYERS IN INDONESIA

[EF English First](#) is a major employer of TEFL teachers in Indonesia.

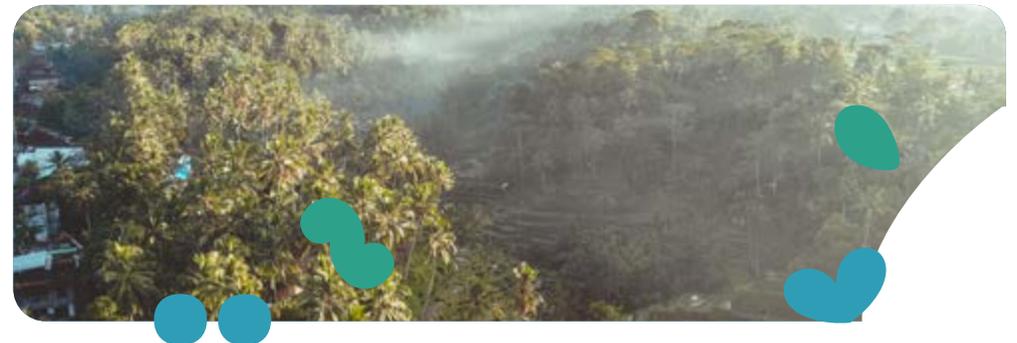
[IELC](#) requires a BA degree, an entry-level qualification and required experience levels vary depending on the position.

[Kelt](#) hires predominantly British teachers with a degree and TEFL qualification.

[Prime One Schools](#) seeks American, Australian, or British teachers with a degree in English Language/Literature, Linguistics or Education.

[Teaching Nomad](#) looks for TEFL teachers to teach kids from 3 to 18 years.

Find listings for current TEFL jobs in Indonesia on [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#).



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“By doing TEFL, you’ll experience huge personal development. This cannot be understated and yet I don’t even know where to begin. I’ll just say that the version of me who arrived in January 2017 experienced huge upgrades in areas where they were needed by the end of the year. When you remove yourself from a monotonous and comfortable environment and put yourself in a place where every day is an adventure and a challenge where you are constantly learning – you adapt magnificently. Remember, Cheryl Strayed says in Wild: “You can quit anytime”. You can. Or, like Bilbo Bagins, you can miss your home comforts and go on an adventure anyway. Because like Bilbo, I’m single. I’m also childless, I don’t have a mortgage and one day I might have all three of those things. I know now, that then, I won’t want to be miserable that I didn’t take a chance to grab life with both hands and have an adventure while I’m still fully independent!”

For Christmas 2017, I visited a local Church and enjoyed humming along to familiar hymns. I went with the Christian sister and father of one friend – she and her mother are Muslim. After the service, all of the family and I went out to Pizza Hut for a Christmas meal (pizza – for Christmas!). I was stunned, humbled and so happy to be a witness to this unified and diverse family – and was invited back for this year! Experiences like this one are the real crown jewels of the travel diary.”

Helen, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Japan

Think you know Japan? Think again – Japan is one of those TEFL destinations that often leave expats stumped.

Many TEFL travellers head out to the land of the rising sun expecting job-smacking technology, futuristic experiences, and robots on every corner. The truth is that many 'modern' technologies in Japan now seem outdated, and while you can certainly find a robot or two, it's more of a tourist gimmick than a day to day experience. What you'll be more impressed by in Japan, particularly once you step out of the capital, are the majestic scenes of natural beauty, the unblemished countryside and humble abodes of the locals, and a country steeped in history, tradition, and culture.

This exquisite blend of old and new gives Japan an enduring appeal to both the newbie and seasoned TEFL teacher. Despite the bustling modern cities, Japan is anything but cosmopolitan, and while children now learn English in school, it's not a place where proficiency is high. As such, there is a good demand for English teachers in Japan and you can find work all over the country. Jobs vary greatly, from 'English assistant' roles where you'll feel like little more than a human CD to accompany the textbook, to independent kindergartens and bilingual schools where you'll have the freedom to strive for academic excellence. There's a strong market for teaching business English to adults, and children's classes are booming, even lessons for babies – no, seriously. As such, there are positions available for everyone. So, wherever you're at on your TEFL journey, if Japan appeals, you can find a way to get there.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,600 – £2,000 (\$2,100 – \$2,675)	Yes	April	No	Sometimes	Yes	Under 65



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Fukuoka, Nagoya, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Sapporo, and Sendai

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 220,000 – 280,000 Yen (£1,600 – £2,000 / \$2,100 – \$2,675) per month. 250,000 Yen (£1,820 / \$2,390) is a common rate. International school jobs may pay as much as 600,000 Yen (£4,360 / \$5,730) per month. Freelance or part-time hourly rates start at 2,000 Yen (£14 / \$19) per hour, up to 6,000 Yen (£44 / \$57) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: At least a [120-hour TEFL qualification](#)

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term times: The academic year starts in April

Currency: Yen

Language: Japanese

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Eikaiwa, JET Program, Public Schools, Bilingual Kindergartens, University, Freelance, Online, Volunteer

Age restrictions: Under 65

Previous teaching experience: Useful but not necessary for most jobs



While Japan might not be exactly what you imagined, the stereotypes about the students are true – your typical Japanese student will be shy, quiet, modest about their ability, good at reading and writing but reluctant to speak, and reluctant to offer opinions. Teaching kids can be a lot of fun, but adult classes can be a struggle if they students aren't willing to talk! However, you always get students who buck the trend, and a lot can depend on class dynamics. Japanese students expect their teacher to be formal, respectful, professional, and to support their learning without pushing them too hard.

Japan is full of unusual teaching gigs that probably seem a bit odd compared to your prior teaching experience. You might get offered work teaching English to employees in a bar, so that they can attract foreign clients. You may be offered a short gig teaching Christmas carols to kids in a non-bilingual kindergarten, just so they can perform them at the Christmas talent show. Your private language school might run 'parent and baby classes' where you're teaching someone who can't even speak Japanese yet. The best thing to do when faced with this sort of lesson is to laugh it off and go with the flow – it's just part of the job when you're in Japan.

LIVING COSTS

Japan has a reputation for being an expensive place to live, and it's certainly true of Tokyo, where even a working couple can struggle to get more than a rented room with shared kitchen facilities. However, get outside of the capital and Japan is immensely affordable. Some chain schools will pay the same whichever branch you're at, so on 'Tokyo wages' in a small city or town, you'll be living like a king. Knowing where to go makes a big difference too – buy fruit, veg, meat, and fish from local markets and you'll grab a great deal, and head to supermarkets after eight o'clock at night and you'll grab some bargains. When eating out, look out for amazing lunch deals, which are often half the price of dinner menus, and choose budget 'family restaurants' to make your money go further. When you're shopping savvy in Japan, you can save a large chunk from your wages each month.

If you commute every day transport prices can stack up, but many employers will pay for your travel card. If you live somewhere with a city tram these are often very cheap to take, as are local trainlines – it's just when you get the subway frequently or travel by bullet train that prices rocket. Renting is hugely expensive in Tokyo, but in smaller cities it's really quite affordable, with good deals to be found on the outskirts of busy areas. Space is a commodity and you're unlikely to find a roomy apartment.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £810 – £1,031 / \$1,051 – \$1,337

Utilities: £121 / \$157

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £69 / \$89

Monthly transport pass: £70 / \$91

Basic dinner out for two: £23 / \$30

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.63 / \$4.70

A beer in a pub: £4.01 / \$5.20

1 litre of milk: £1.51 / \$1.96

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.49 / \$1.93

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN JAPAN

Working at a private language school (eikaiwa) in Japan, most will provide flight reimbursement, health insurance, pension, social insurance, and local travel reimbursement. Some provide accommodation (at a cost) or can assist in finding somewhere to rent. For some jobs, you're required to hold a driving licence to travel between corporate gigs and schools. If you're finding it hard to get interviews without being in the country, see if you qualify for a working holiday visa – it's a great way to get into the country and give you time to find work, and your employee can switch your visa once you start working full-time, or you can use the working holiday if you're just doing part-time work. Another good way in would be on a short-term contract in Tokyo, then you can find something elsewhere in the country once you have your feet on the ground.

EMPLOYERS IN JAPAN

[AEON](#) has hundreds of school branches across Japan.

[Amity](#) has over 80 branches in Japan, teaching kids aged 6 months to 15 years.

For a list of highly-rated bilingual or international schools in Tokyo, visit the [Good School Guide](#).

ECC provides lessons for kids (and babies, from 18 months plus) and adults.

[Gaijin Pot](#) is a great place to find current listings for jobs in Japan.

Similar to the JET Program, at [Interac](#) you'll be an Assistant Language Teacher working in elementary, junior high, and high schools.

The [JET Programme](#) is popular with new teachers

Visit [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) to see listings of current job opportunities in Japan.

[Westgate](#) offers contracts teaching in universities and elementary schools.

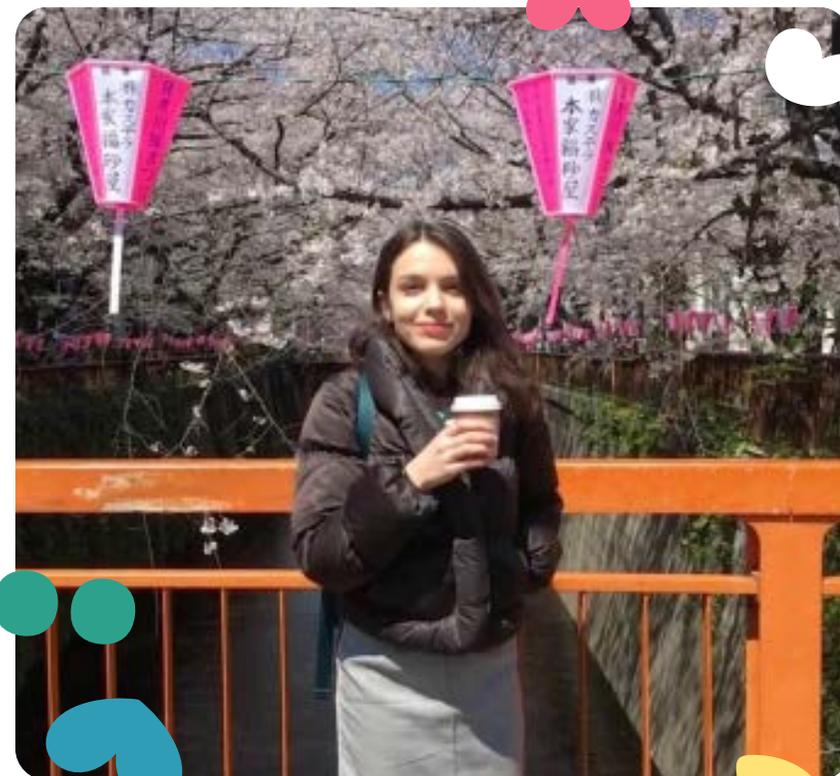


TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“When I arrived at my apartment, I found I was staying next to two teachers who worked at the same company as me. Often teachers that are hired from overseas get accommodation organised for them to lessen the stress of finding a place. Teachers got the choice of either a small single apartment or a share house. A share house is a kind of dormitory for adults. All sorts of people live there, from foreigners, to students, to office workers.

The guy in the room next door knocked on my door and asked if I wanted to go to dinner. I was so tired from the flight that I nearly walked into the glass screen in front of the restaurant. But we talked and laughed, and I realised I was in my new home. Still, that first night I lay in bed and honestly thought: what have I done? I was out of my comfort zone and far away from everything I'd ever known. It felt like I'd been dropped on an alien planet. The first few months were incredible and incredibly confusing. It took quite a while to get used to even basic things: the supermarket, the train and the teaching itself. The train stations in central Tokyo are notorious for being confusing. I barely travelled through them alone in the first few months. But after some years whizzed through them with ease: proof that you can pick up anything with time. The first few months can be tough for many teachers. As we all arrived not knowing what to expect, and people reacted in their own way. Most of us had our first experience living abroad in such a different place. Some people felt homesick or it wasn't right for them. But often negative feelings lessened, when, after a few months, we were all more adjusted.”

Ursula, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Kazakhstan

While Kazakhstan might not be a destination that immediately springs to mind when you're planning your next TEFL adventure, there are loads of reasons why you should consider moving there.

The TEFL industry is growing, with plenty of opportunities for teachers experienced in IELTS and exam preparation, as well as a growing number of positions for teachers of young learners. Kazakh students are enthusiastic, motivated, and lively, something which many teachers would consider plus points when considering where to go and who to teach. If you have the right credentials, there are plenty of decent positions in this country that don't receive too many applicants, making your chances of success greater than in more sought-after TEFL locations. Wages aren't high, but neither is the cost of living, making the country a break-even location where you might even be able to save a bit of money if you take on private students in your free time.

Beyond the classroom, Kazakhstan is a wonder to behold. Expats love exploring the bazaars in bustling cities, as well as the good selection of bars and restaurants that are on offer. Skiing, skating, hiking, and running are popular pastimes. The world's ninth largest country is one of the last great travel unknowns with a diverse range of landscapes from mountains, deserts, and endless steppes to explore. Couple this with the Kazakh's unrivalled hospitality to foreigners and the friendly locals that make it easy to find friends in Kazakhstan, and you have a unique travel and working experience that in many ways is unmatched elsewhere on the global TEFL map.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£360 – £470 (\$465 – \$600)	Yes	April	Yes	Yes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Almaty, Astana, Kyzlorda

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 200,000 to 260,000 tenge (£360 – £470 / \$465 – \$600) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions require a BA degree

Term times: August to May

Currency: Tenge (KZT)

Language: Kazakh

Teaching programmes: IELTS and Exam Preparation, Private Language Schools, International Schools, Universities, Freelance, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Many positions ask for a minimum of one year of teaching experience



Teaching TEFL in Kazakhstan is primarily all about IELTS and other exam preparation, but there is also a growing market for teaching young learners, as well as English for academic purposes, Business English, and other professional niches. While Kazakhstan isn't a particularly popular TEFL destination, expats who work there report that many schools offer a good level of professionalism and are happy to accommodate new ideas rather than trying the same old thing. If you're fed up of being told what to do and getting stuck in jobs with archaic methodology, in Kazakhstan you'll find a much more open policy on progressive practices and adopting new teaching methods.

Kazak students are enthusiastic, talkative, lively, and happy to study aspects of the language that some students groan about, such as grammar. Getting the students to work hard in class isn't a problem, but any sort of self-study or homework can be an issue for these students, so utilize classroom time instead. The professional barriers that, in other countries, sometimes prohibit teachers from socialising with their students, don't exist in Kazakhstan, so expect to be invited places by your adult students. CEFR levels vary, but students in their late teens/young adulthood are unlikely to be at a beginner level, and there are certainly opportunities to teach higher level students. If you get into voluntary teaching in Kazakhstan, expect the level of your students to be much lower.

LIVING COSTS

The second cheapest country in Asia, and also the second cheapest country in the world, Kazakhstan doesn't offer high wages to TEFL teachers but it's not hard to get by.

Most TEFL jobs come with flight reimbursement and free accommodation and bills, as well as other perks such as covering the visa costs, free language lessons, and more. As such, don't just look at the salary when considering your quality of life in this country.

Contracts last up to a year so remember to take a good range of clothes as temperatures soar in the summer and plummet to well below freezing during winter months! If you enjoy sports like skating and skiing in your free time, remember to factor in costs of appropriate equipment if you'd like to indulge in these hobbies on a regular basis.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £287 – £395 / \$374 – \$516

Utilities: £33 / \$43

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £9 / \$12

Monthly transport pass: £11 / \$14

Basic dinner out for two: £13 / \$17

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.57 / \$2.05

A beer in a pub: £1.43 / \$1.87

1 litre of milk: £0.58 / \$0.76

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.77 / \$1

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN KAZAKHSTAN

Visa applications for Kazakhstan can be tricky because there just aren't that many Kazakh embassies around the world, limiting where you can go for your paperwork. However, it's the school's responsibility to sort out your visa so this shouldn't cause you too many issues, just be aware that it might take longer than you hope to get things sorted. As well as the usual professional paperwork you'll have to submit a medical certificate and have a HIV/AIDS test before you're approved.

EMPLOYERS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Contact [AGI Language and Culture School](#) for information about current employment opportunities.

[Euro Speak](#) is based in the UK but have a branch in Kazakhstan – contact them directly for details.

[Cultural Homestay International](#) has a TEFL program where you can live and work in Kazakhstan.

[Galaxy International School](#) follows a British curriculum and teaches kids aged 5 to 18.

[Haileybury](#) is a British International School in Almaty.

Teach TEFL in Almaty with the [KAZAKH BRITISH STUDY CENTRE M&K](#).

The [Kazakhstan International School](#) is based in Almaty. They offer an IB program and seek bilingual teachers. You need a BA, a formal teaching qualification, and at least two years' experience in an international or national school setting.

[Language Link](#) has schools in Russia but also has a branch in Atyrau. Salary is \$2,000 per month.

[Miras International School](#) teaches kids ages 3 to 18 and follows an IB curriculum.

[Study Inn](#) has schools in 6 cities around Kazakhstan and have been operating since 2008.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Kazakhstan.

Teach English in Malaysia

Unlike other countries in the region (such as Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam) there isn't an abundance of teaching opportunities in Malaysia for newly-qualified teachers.

Most TEFL jobs in Malaysia are for certified teachers to work in international schools, and require teachers to have a BA degree, TEFL qualification, and at least three years' teaching experience, as well as possibly a higher teaching qualification like a PGCE or MA in education. Visa applications are slow and positions come up infrequently, so it's not a country you can turn up and teach in on a whim.

However, for qualified EFL teachers with the necessary experience, Malaysia is a great country to work in. Affordable, modern, and vibrant, there are plenty of reasons why a seasoned TEFL teacher might want to head to this area. Malaysia is a diverse country, enriched by a multicultural population comprised of Malays, Chinese, Indians, and indigenous peoples. With the oldest and most biologically-diverse rainforests in the world, picturesque islands, and otherworldly caves, Malaysia is a country that boasts a wealth of natural wonders. It's also home to dynamic cities such as its capital, Kuala Lumpur. You'd never guess looking at its incredible skyline, which is decorated with futuristic skyscrapers, that this city (home to 1.8 million people) is only 200 years old.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£550 – £1,450 (\$720 – \$1,900)	Yes	January	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Under 65



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Johor Bahru

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 3,000 to 8,000 MYR (£550 – £1,450 / \$720 – \$1,900) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: At least a [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) from an accredited provider

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is a visa requirement

Term times: January to May/June and May/June to mid-November. The school year ends with a six-week holiday from mid-November to early January

Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)

Language: Malay

Teaching programmes: International schools, International kindergartens, Language Centres, Volunteering

Age restrictions: Maximum 65

Previous teaching experience: Usually required



With such strict standards for TEFL hiring in Malaysia, it's no wonder that teachers moving there are expected to be professional, inspiring, seasoned in different teaching methodologies, and what one would generally call 'a good teacher'. Even for kindergarten roles, turning up looking scruffy and playing the same tired games lesson after lesson just won't cut the mustard. Teachers in Malaysia are expected to be well-versed in their subject and be able to facilitate quality learning, whatever age the students are. If you're working at an international or bilingual school, you'll have to put in the effort to become familiar with their curriculum, and doing research into which exams they offer will put you in good stead when it comes to interviews.

In most roles you will be expected to work 30–40 hours per week, with up to around 24 of those being teaching hours. Part-time teaching jobs aren't common in Malaysia, and in order to get a visa you'll be better off applying for a full-time role with a respected school. It's possible to get private, freelance students, but you're only permitted to do this sort of work if you have a working visa – working on a tourism visa is strictly prohibited. With such good wages for most full-time positions, you're unlikely to need your own private students in your free time to get by. The demand is high for top-quality teachers, so if you have the experience and qualifications necessary to get work in Malaysia, there will be no shortage of positions for you to apply for.

LIVING COSTS

The third cheapest country in Asia, living costs in Malaysia are low, so teachers can live comfortably on their salary. Many TEFL jobs in Malaysia are highly paid, especially those at top international schools, so it's possible to enjoy a luxurious, expat lifestyle without taking on private students in your free time. While accommodation and eating out is affordable, you'll find that certain items such as alcohol and cigarettes are very expensive compared to the rest of Southeast Asia. Interestingly, while Malaysia is a predominately Muslim country, alcohol is only banned in two states (Kelantan and Terengganu), and despite the tax rate on alcohol being the third highest in the world, alcohol consumption in the country is actually very high.

When it comes to food, you're spoilt for choice with Malaysian cuisine being nothing short of incredible, drawing influences from its varied population and cultures. A restaurant meal is comparatively cheap (unless you're having some beers with it!) but dining out on street food is even more so – and often more exciting! In more cosmopolitan areas you'll be able to find food from home that you might be craving, but it will come with an inflated price tag, and the cheapest way to get by is living as the locals do.

Although Kuala Lumpur is the most expensive place to live in the country, it's still very affordable compared to the UK or US. You can expect to pay much less for accommodation (although this is typically included as part of your teaching contract), utilities, and groceries than you would back home. Travel in the country is also reasonably priced, so you can enjoy exploring on your weekends off – or even venture further and visit nearby countries.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £368 – £637 / \$481 – \$833

Utilities: £49 / \$64

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £13 / \$17

Monthly transport pass: £17 / \$23

Basic dinner out for two: £16 / \$21

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.58 / \$3.37

A beer in a pub: £4.32 / \$5.65

1 litre of milk: £1.17 / \$1.53

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.73 / \$0.96

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN MALAYSIA

Most EFL teachers in Malaysia work in international schools, universities, or bilingual kindergartens. There are a few private language centres, but there are nowhere near as many private language schools in Malaysia as there are in other Asian countries. Teachers in international schools are usually required to have a teaching qualification, such as a PGCE or an MA in education. Given the high salary and unusual job perks (such as decent accommodation) that come with an international school job, you can understand why requirements are so high.

Recently, the upper age limit for a visa was raised to 65, but it's common to see employers specify that they're looking for teachers under 50. If you're from Australia or New Zealand, you might qualify for a working holiday visa. Working on a tourist visa in Malaysia will result in you being fined and deported.

EMPLOYERS IN MALAYSIA

To work for the [English Language Company](#), you need one year of experience, a BA and a TEFL qualification.

[Erican](#) is an education and training company seeking teachers with a TEFL/CELTA.

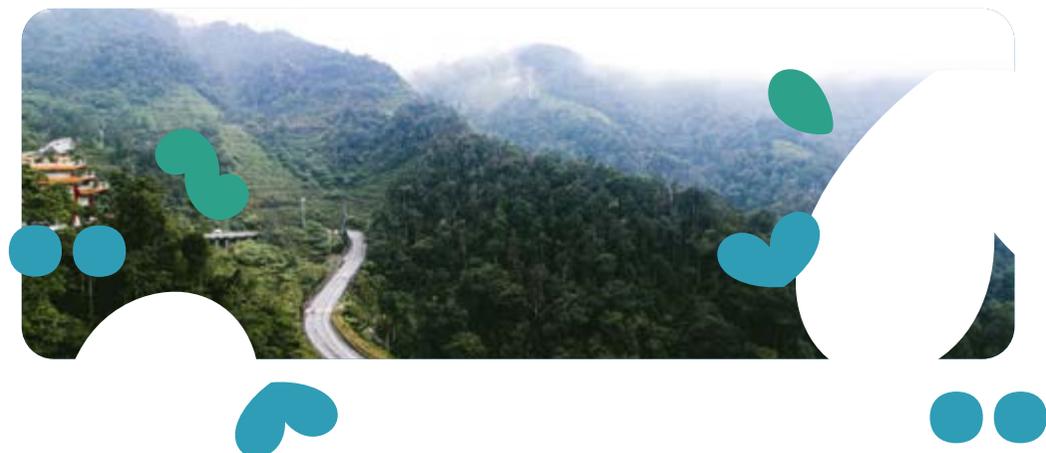
[Garden International School](#) is the largest international co-ed school in Malaysia.

[GEC](#) seeks dynamic, experienced teachers who are native speakers.

[International Malaysia Education center](#) (IMEC) teaches English to beginners and is one of the most popular language centres in Malaysia.

Search for 'English Teaching' on the [Malaysia Recruit](#) website.

Find listing for current TEFL jobs in Malaysia in [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#).



Teach English in Mongolia

Despite what could be called a fair demand for TEFL teachers in Mongolia, there's relatively little information out there for those wanting to embark on this TEFL destination.

As such, if you're looking for the untrodden path and an authentic experience in a foreign country, choosing Mongolia could be a great choice. With English now being taught to all school children in Mongolia from the fourth grade upwards, and with business English schools catering for linguistically-minded adults, there are certainly enough varied opportunities to choose from. Highly qualified and experienced TEFL teachers can apply to work at the elite international schools in the capital, whereas TEFL newbies can seek out voluntary experiences to introduce them to the country.

Often overshadowed by neighbouring Russia and China, Mongolia offers unique charms that you'll come to love during your time there. However, there are challenges, too. Mongolia has a serious problem with pollution from coal burning. Although efforts are being made to improve this, with nearly half the population living in Ulaanbaatar alone, it's difficult to get on top of. With air pollution rates that are some of the worst in the world, it's certainly worth careful consideration if you suffer from asthma or other respiratory issues.

However, The Land of the Eternal Blue Sky has its perks too. As the nickname indicates, Mongolia is a land of vast open spaces. Once you get out of bustling Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia is one of the least densely populated countries in the world. Cold winters are offset by plenty of sunshine (around 250 days per year), and if you're a fan of the great outdoors, your choice of weekend activities including hiking on the incredible steppes, archery, wrestling and horseback riding should give you much to enjoy on your time off.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£630 – £1,000 (\$875 – \$1,400)	Yes	September	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Ulaanbaatar

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions (in International Schools) is likely to be in the region of 2,500,000 – 4,000,000 MNT (£630 – £1,000 / \$875 – \$1,400) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for all paid positions

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: Tugrik/Tögrög (MNT)

Language: Mongolian

Teaching programmes: Private language schools, Business English, University, International Schools, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Required for most positions



In the last 100 years, literacy rates in Mongolia have gone from less than 1% to nearly 100% of the population, although funding cuts to seasonal boarding schools in the 1990's contributed to a slight dip in literacy rates. A recent change to the education system means that school children now spend 12 years in school, as opposed to the 10-year system that was previously favoured in Mongolia. 60% of Mongolians now go to university and, since 2006, English has been taught in all secondary schools across Mongolia, beginning in fourth grade.

As such, there is a continued increase in demand for qualified TEFL teachers in Mongolia, particularly amongst students aspiring to study abroad, or for adults learning business English. Russian is the most frequently spoken foreign language in Mongolia, although English has been gradually replacing Russian as the second language in a trend that seems set to continue. In the 2020 edition of the EF English Proficiency Index, Mongolia rated at number 78 (out of 100), which is on the very low side of the scale. However, what this means is that there's certainly a great need for top TEFL teachers in the country, and of course the level of your students' fluency will vary greatly depending on if you're working in an elite international school as opposed to volunteering with a local homestay family.

LIVING COSTS

TEFL salaries aren't high in Mongolia, but neither is the cost of living. Some jobs will provide you with flight reimbursement and accommodation, but these are likely to be limited to the elite International School roles. Volunteers can expect a homestay experience with a private room in the home of their host family, and three meals a day in exchange for their English services.

One of the perks of staying with a host family is that you'll get to sample genuine Mongolian food. Vegetarians might struggle as the cold climate of Mongolia in the winter has fostered a hearty meat-eating culture, including local favourites such as mutton, beef, lamb, horse, yak, and even camel. Khorkhog – Mongolian barbeque – has a distinctive smoky taste, and dumplings will likely become a firm favourite. Heavy carbs like Tsuivan (a noodle stew) help to see locals through the winter, and sweet treats like Boortsog cookies and UI Boov cake (shaped like the sole of a shoe) will be familiar sights on the dinner table. While you'll find similarities with Chinese cuisine (such as plentiful helpings of fried rice and noodles) the flavours are distinctly different, and you'll see more dairy products than you would in mainland China. Top dishes to try are yak hot pot and butter tea.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £456 – £616 / \$646 – \$873

Utilities: £50 / \$70

Monthly transport pass: £8 / \$11

Basic dinner out for two: £11 / \$16

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.85 / \$2.62

A beer in a pub: £1.20 / \$1.69

1 litre of milk: £0.60 / \$0.85

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.80 / \$1.14

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN MONGOLIA

May and June are peak hiring seasons in Mongolia. International Schools will usually hire to start at the beginning of the academic term, whereas voluntary positions are likely to have opportunities year-round. When choosing when to go, bear in mind that the weather can turn very cold in the winter – you should bring adequate clothing and be aware that, being better used to the climate than you, your host family might not keep their home as warm as you would find comfortable! If you're looking at working for an international school with plenty of foreign teachers, ask if you can speak to a current member of staff to get an on-the-ground opinion on what your provided accommodation is like and how comfortable it is in the cold season.

EMPLOYERS IN MONGOLIA

[British School of Ulaanbaatar](#) offers the National Curriculum of England and Wales to its students aged from 3 to 18.

[Cultural Homestay International](#) asks volunteers to teach their host family English for 15 hours per week in exchange for meals and accommodation.

[ESP](#) looks for IELTS qualified TEFL teachers with several years of experience.

[The International School of Ulaanbaatar](#) offers the International Baccalaureate curriculum for its students from Pre-School to Grade 12.

[LETU Mongolia](#) prepares students for international study.

[New Choice](#) is a Mongolian charity offering volunteer and intern experiences.

[Raffles International Institute](#) specialises in English, Business, Interior Design and Visual Communications,

[Talk Talk English Mongolia](#) is in Ulaanbaatar.



Teach English in Myanmar

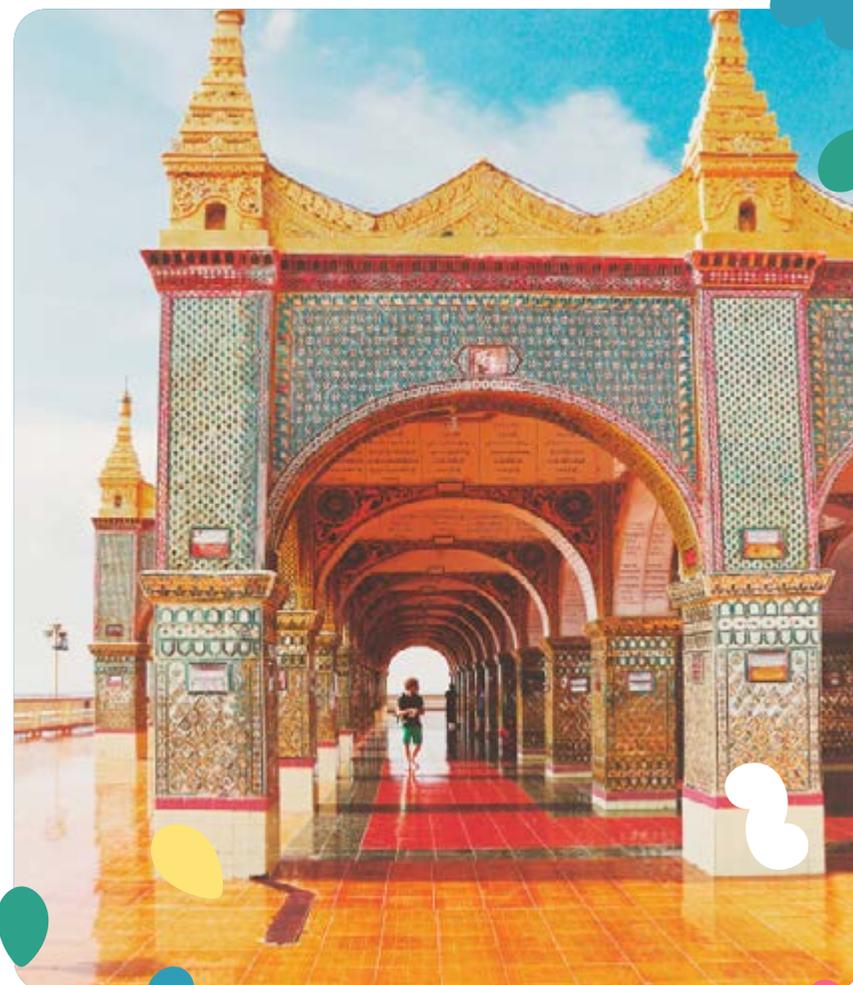
Until only a few years ago, Myanmar (also known as Burma) was off limits to most foreign travellers due to travel restrictions, and as such had no TEFL industry at all.

Since it opened its doors, the country now welcomes millions of visitors every year who are intrigued to finally explore this hidden gem in Southeast Asia. It's a country economically on the rise, with increasing opportunities for EFL teachers. There aren't a huge number of TEFL jobs about, and many positions are voluntary, but its expected that the industry will continue to grow.

Those who are able to find a decent job in an international school can expect good salaries and very low living costs, with low rental costs or accommodation provided by your employer. Myanmar is largely untouched by Western influence and lacking in infrastructure, with top issues including frequent potholes on poor roads, aircon isn't standardly found in rental properties, and lack of internet connection. As such it's a country that offers more of an "off the beaten track" experience for EFL teachers. It's a beautiful country with many places to explore, and beach-lovers will enjoy exploring the 2,250 miles of coastline. If this sounds right up your street keep reading to find out more about teaching English in Myanmar!

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£600 – £1,500 (\$800 – \$2,000)	Yes	June	Preferred	Sometimes	No	Under 62



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Yangon, NayPyiDaw, Mandalay, Ngapali, and Tachileik

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,000,000 to 2,650,000 MMK per month (£600 – £1,500 / \$800 – \$2,000) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is a visa requirement

Term times: Official term commencement date is June 1st

Currency: Burmese kyat (MMK)

Language: Burmese

Teaching programmes: International Schools, Volunteering, Private Language Schools

Age restrictions: Upper age limit of 62, some jobs have limits of ages 21 – 55

Previous teaching experience: 1+ year of experience preferred, 2/3+ for top jobs



Myanmar is predominantly a Buddhist country, and teachers are highly respected. As such, you're expected to dress conservatively and behave in a formal manner. TEFL teachers in Myanmar report that students are eager, well-behaved, friendly, and welcoming people. As most positions in the country are either at international schools or voluntary positions in poorer areas, you'll find students vastly different depending on where you teach.

Literacy rates in Myanmar are at 89.5%, with boys more proficient than girls. School is compulsory until the end of elementary school (when students are aged just 9 years old) but at international schools it's compulsory until students are 15 or 16. The government provides a very small budget for education, and across the country the education standards are low at public schools, which is why there is a demand for quality international schools for those that can afford it. English is learnt in school from kindergarten, but proficiency is low. On the 2019 EF English Proficiency Index, Myanmar ranked as 86 out of 100 countries, in the 'very low' category. The study also found that the average number of years of schooling was less than 5 years per student, meaning that most students finish their education before starting high school. Those who can attend an international school are in a privileged position and their ability will be much higher than their state educated peers.

LIVING COSTS

On a typical teaching salary, EFL teachers in Myanmar can live comfortably and put away savings each month. International schools pay handsomely compared to the local wage. Many employers will offer accommodation as part of your contract, but not all. Yangon is the most expensive city to live in, and rent can be high compared to other parts of the country, so it's best to secure a teaching contract there with accommodation included. If you find a fairly priced rental apartment, the condition will likely be quite tired. It should be noted that there is currently a lack of adequate infrastructure in Myanmar, although this is continually improving. It does mean that there can be issues with electricity cutting out and poor internet connection, as well as housing availability. The housing market has not been able to keep up with the rise in visitors and workers to the country, which is why property is at a premium.

Eating local cuisine is very cheap but you'll find that Western food is relatively expensive. Burmese cuisine is a mixture of influences from Southeast Asian, Indian, and Chinese food. Some foods to try in Myanmar include the popular lephet, which is a salad of fermented tea leaves, mohinga (the unofficial national dish), curries, samosas, and noodle dishes. The cuisine in Myanmar has a reputation for being a bit oily and not being of the standard of neighbouring countries like Thailand, but there are certainly great culinary experiences to be found!

Getting around the county is easy and affordable, and with more areas opening up to foreigners there are plenty of adventures to be had.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £745 – £1,071 / \$995 – \$1,430

Utilities: £79 / \$105

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £30 / \$40

Monthly transport pass: £11 / \$14

Basic dinner out for two: £14 / \$19

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.94 / \$2.59

A beer in a pub: £1.10 / \$1.47

1 litre of milk: £1.19 / \$1.59

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.89 / \$1.19

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN MYANMAR

You can acquire a business visa before you travel or purchase one on arrival for a slightly inflated cost, as long as you have a letter of invitation and a sponsor letter. These are single entry visas, valid for 70 days, and can be renewed or turned into a Multiple Journey Entry Visa for Business which is valid for 6 months. Until only a few years ago there were very few opportunities to be found teaching English in Myanmar. The opening up of the country and a more pro-Western attitude means EFL teachers in Myanmar are in increasing demand. You can secure well-paid work with benefits even without previous teaching experience. As long as you have a TEFL qualification and a university degree you shouldn't have too much trouble finding work, but the sought-after international school jobs will expect applicants to be experienced, well-qualified, and professional.

EMPLOYERS IN MYANMAR

[Brainworks](#) is part of the Total Group of schools, hiring TEFL qualified teachers.

[Green Heart Travel](#) offers paid positions of 3 months, 6 months or 1 year.

If you're from Australia or New Zealand (or happy to travel there for the induction) and want to volunteer in Myanmar, visit [Palms](#).

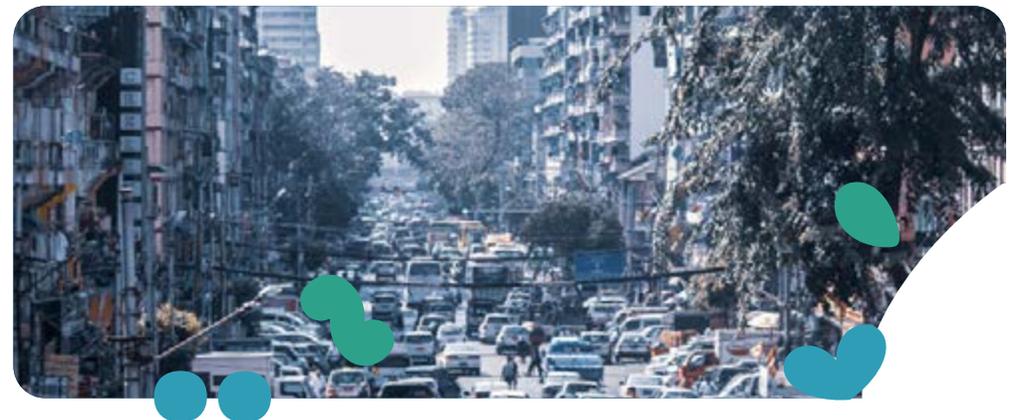
[SKT International College](#) is one of several linked education centres in Myanmar.

[Teachers Across Borders](#) has previously run workshops in Myanmar.

[Teach in Myanmar](#) lists a number of TEFL opportunities across the country.

You need a TEFL to teach with [XploreAsia](#) in Myanmar.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Myanmar.

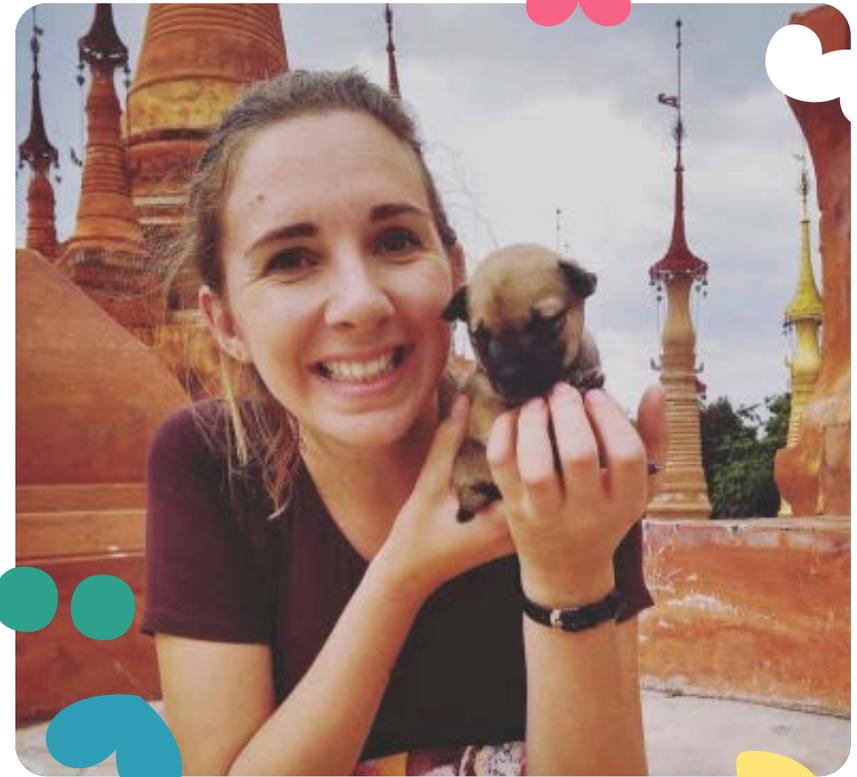


TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

I work for an international school here, they have 6 branches in Yangon and one in Taunggyi. After teaching in summer schools, language centres and public schools around Asia and Europe it's a nice change. I feel this school encourages and supports me to be the best teacher I can be. Of course, working for a school with more funds means I can dream bigger without worrying how to fund it! I teach pre-school and run a drama club with students from grade 7 -10. All the students are wonderful, funny, smart and kind – and their level of English is incredible.

When you read about Myanmar you will of course read about how kind and welcoming the local people are. I've never encountered a more gentle, neighbourly, and giving community. My landlord often picks fruit with me from his garden, and if you get stuck in the rain an umbrella and a smiling face will surely appear. You are warmly welcomed into homes and families and someone always says "good morning". When accidents happen both people apologise and sort out costs without an argument and someone always offers you a ride if you look tired!

Holly, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Nepal

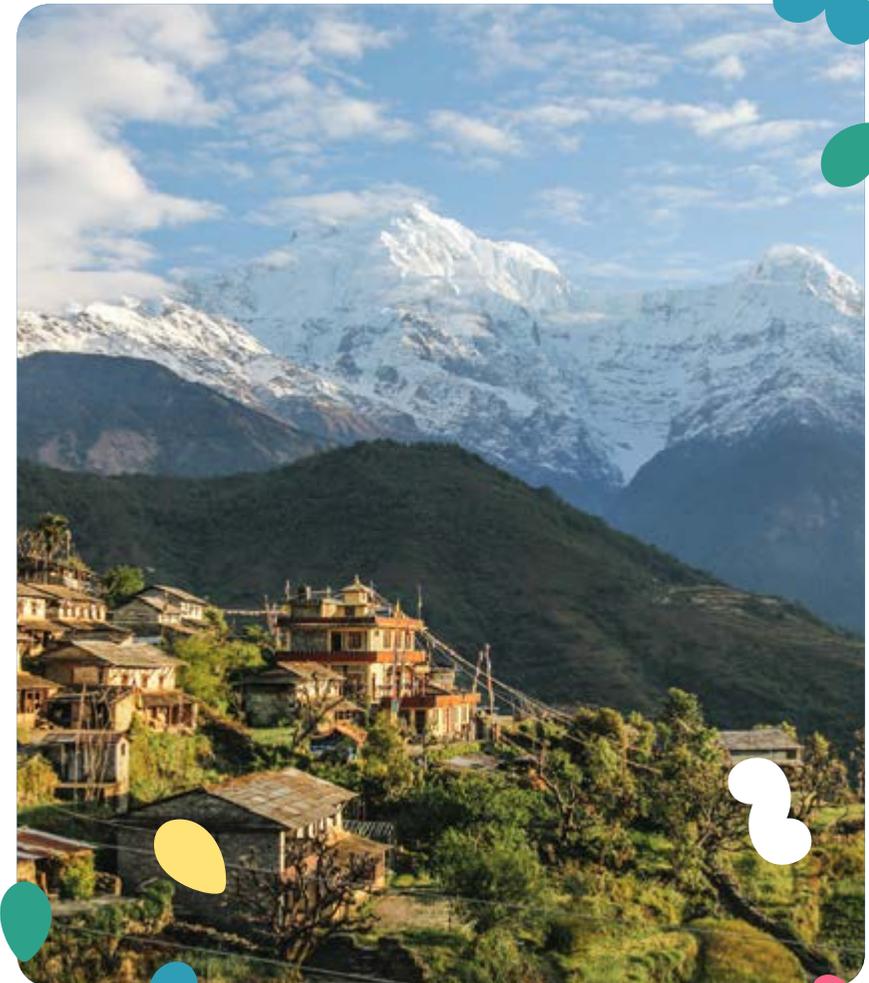
In the last few decades, the situation in Nepal has been up and down to say the least, making it tricky for a culture of language learning to take place.

After coming out of the civil war and finding stability, the earthquake of 2015 was certainly a setback that the country didn't need. However, things have come on since then and most areas of Nepal are safe to visit, with a new constitution to bring political peace. The demand for TEFL teachers in Nepal is now on the rise, although fewer than 1% of the population speak English as a second language. About 44% of the population speak Nepali as a first language, but there are more than 120 mother tongue languages in this country, which also boasts the same number of distinct ethnic groups.

Like many foreign countries, the desire to learn English mainly comes from the younger generation who are hoping to succeed in international business and work abroad. Apart from teaching English in schools, business English is also increasingly widely sought after and is an alternative option for TEFL teachers in Nepal. While paid work is hard to come by, the rewards for teaching English as a volunteer in Nepal are plentiful. With some of the greatest heights of the Himalayas as its backdrop, Nepal is a place of outstanding beauty and awe. Landlocked between the two powerful nations of India and China, Nepal is a romantic destination for TEFL teachers and popular for backpackers and first time TEFLers. It's an amazingly diverse country, and the friendliness and openness of the Nepali people is something most TEFL teachers are enchanted by.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
Voluntary	No	April	No	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan

Average salary for EFL teachers: Almost all positions are voluntary

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is recommended for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Not usually required for voluntary positions

Term times: The school year starts between the 10 and 17 April each year (after the New Year celebrations)

Currency: Nepalese Rupee (NPR)

Language: Nepali

Teaching programmes: Volunteering, International Schools, Business English

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not usually necessary



Most teaching opportunities in Nepal are for volunteer work, making it a great place for newbie TEFL teachers to start out and get a bit of experience under their belt. Many positions provide accommodation in the form of living with a host family or in volunteer dorms. Living as a volunteer teacher in Nepal you can immerse yourself in the culture and learn from the expertise of more experienced volunteers and team leaders. While you might anticipate that English proficiency will be very low in Nepal, in the 2020 data of EF English First's English Proficiency Index, Nepal ranked a 60 out of 100 countries, which isn't too bad and about the middle for countries in Asia. All the same, if you haven't taught before, getting at least a 120-hour online TEFL before you travel to teach will boost your confidence and give you a grounding in how the TEFL classroom works, as well as teaching you some games and activities you can use when you're teaching in Nepal.

LIVING COSTS

For about £500 a month you can easily get by in Nepal, so it's easy to see why backpackers and TEFL newbies are able to stay in this country without breaking the bank. Most organised volunteering programs will have a standard participation fee, which usually covers your accommodation and food, but not your flight out there. So, if you can, it's best to go for a longer stint so you can get the most for your money rather than paying the same flight fee for a shorter trip.

If you volunteer as part of an organised group, make sure you choose a company that gives you plenty of time to explore this amazing country. While in Nepal you'll want to see Buddhist monuments such as the Boudhanath Stupa, Peace Temple, and the Swayambhunath Temple. As well as natural wonders such as the Sarangkot Mountains and the Phewa Lake, and, of course, Mount Everest. Nepali food that'll should be on your sampling hit list includes dal bhat (rice with lentils and side dishes, a typical home cooked meal), yomari (a dish made from rice flour), momo dumplings, and spicy chatpate.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £217 – £252 / \$303 – \$353

Utilities: £27 / \$38

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £8 / \$11

Monthly transport pass: £9 / \$12

Basic dinner out for two: £11 / \$15

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.64 / \$2.30

A beer in a pub: £3.12 / \$4.36

1 litre of milk: £0.54 / \$0.75

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.23 / \$1.72

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN NEPAL

You can apply for a visa online, or a tourist visa can be purchased on arrival (\$100 for 90 days, extendable for \$2 per day for up to 150 days). Fines (and prison sentences) are imposed when foreigners overstay their visa so make sure you've got all the right paperwork. Most work in Nepal is voluntary, and if you want to do it on the cheap, you'd be better to contact a school or company directly rather than going through a volunteering agency which will impose a fee. However, if this is your first TEFL trip abroad, the security of an organised trip is worth paying for.

EMPLOYERS IN NEPAL

[Adventure Alternative](#) has volunteering programs in Nepal where you'll live in a Sherpa community for a minimum of two weeks, although longer stints are preferred..

[Education and Health Nepal](#) is an NGO based in Kathmandu.

[HELP](#) (Himalayan Education Lifeline Program) looks for TEFL qualified volunteers.

[Hope Home Nepal](#) looks for volunteers aged 18 – 35.

The [Kathmandu International School](#) is one of the few international schools in Nepal.

[KEEP](#) (Kathmandu Environmental Education Project) runs English language courses which they need volunteer teachers for.

[RCDP Nepal](#) has various projects available asking from 1 to 12 weeks.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Nepal.



Teach English in South Korea

While the capital city of Seoul and the bustling city of Busan (home to Haeundae Beach) are popular destinations, South Korea is full of hidden gems when it comes to finding a place to live.

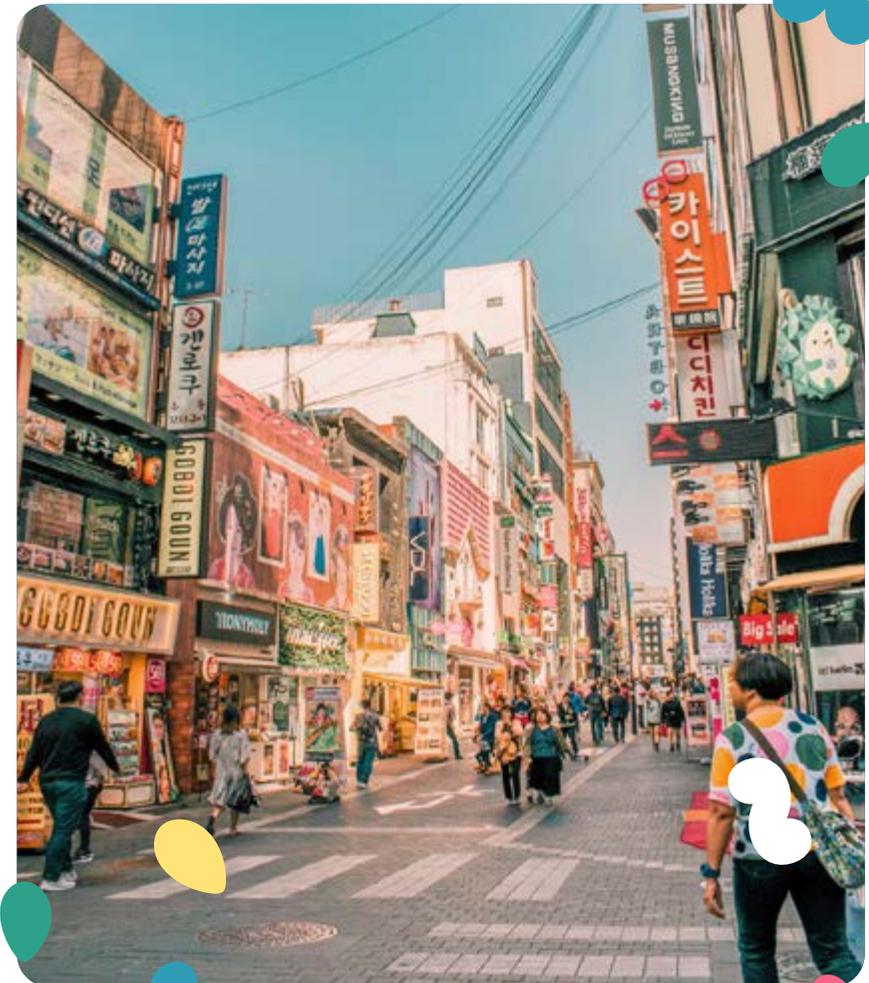
If you get a job working in a public school, you might be the only foreign member of staff, and if you don't mind quieter locations away from the big cities, this can be a great way to immerse yourself in Korean culture and language, making plenty of local friends.

With the situation between North Korea and South Korea being as it is, there is of course some element of risk in accepting work in this divided part of the world. It's not beyond the realms of possibility that Korea could be the location of a modern war, but for the adventurous TEFL teacher, this risk is a small one and easily outweighed by the benefits of living in Korea. On the plus side, there is a very low crime rate in Korea, even in the bigger cities.

Life in Korea is a marmite thing for many expats – while it doesn't suit everyone, some love the working culture (high pressure, with a lack of flexibility from the boss, and with frequent last-minute changes to schedules, but with a great social aspect of having drinks with co-workers, who are often friendly) and building relationships with locals (sometimes shy, but also keen to make friends). With such beautiful scenery and wonderful cultural places to visit, Korea is certainly an adventurous destination for any TEFL teacher.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,280 – £1,600 (\$1,670 – \$2,000)	Yes	March	No	Yes	No	Under 62



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Seoul, Busan, Bucheon

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 2 million – 2.5 million Won (£1,280 – £1,600 / \$1,670 – \$2,000) per month. Experienced teachers can earn up to 2.8 million Won (£1,800 / \$2,345) per month. Part-time positions with fewer teaching hours are available.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: All positions require you to have a degree, some may require your degree to be in an English or educational field

Term times: March to July, and August to February

Currency: Korean Republic won (KRW)

Language: Korean

Teaching programmes: Public School, Private Language School, Business English, Freelance, Kindergartens, Bilingual Schools and International Schools, Summer Camp

Age restrictions: Must be under 62 for public school positions

Previous teaching experience: *Not always required*



In South Korea you can find work in both public and private schools. In a public school, you might be the only native speaker working there, and the job will be fairly stable regarding your teaching hours. Working in a public school, your salary is usually lower but so are the total hours you'll be working each week. If you work in a Hagwon (private language school) you can expect a higher rate of pay, but the workload is heavy – often around 30 teaching hours per week.

A staggering 83% of 5-year-olds attend hagwons, where English lessons are extremely popular. Young children are often encouraged to learn English by their wealthy parents, especially the Korean 'Tiger Mothers' who are vicariously ambitious when it comes to academic study. With so much pressure put on the children to achieve, it's no wonder that many private language schools encourage unscrupulous practices such as awarding fake marks to underachieving students so that parents will be happy with their progress. Any complaints from professional teachers are largely ignored – these educational institutes are often more interested in turning a profit than the wellbeing of the students.

There are also a high number of secondary school students who sign up for TEFL classes because they must pass an English proficiency test to gain entrance to university. The Korean government spends more per capita on English language education than any other country in the world, demonstrating the high importance they assign to this skill. Business English is increasingly popular in South Korea, too.

LIVING COSTS

With many TEFL positions in South Korea coming with free accommodation (as well as reimbursed airfare, severance pay at the end of contract, health insurance and other benefits), most TEFL teachers find that they're able to save a large portion of their salaries while also having a decent social life. Many teachers can live on around 1 million won per month, and with most jobs paying over 2 million won, you can see how easy it is to save money. Apartments can be pretty small, but they'll usually be comfortable enough and there's always the option of finding your own place when you renew your contract or change jobs. The further you get out of the city, the bigger the apartments are. Wherever you live, you'll be in a modern, even futuristic setting.

In big cities, you'll find a cosmopolitan vibe and there will be no difficulty in sourcing foreign restaurants if you want a taste of home. However, don't forget to soak up the local culture while you're in Korea, from the rich history and traditional practices to the local customs and unusual delicacies. Cosmopolitan cities will also have the benefit of a good expat community where you'll find it easy to make friends. Korean locals can be quite shy, and don't be surprised to find people staring at you. If you live somewhere rural, it can be hard to make friends, especially if you're the only foreigner in a town, but if you have an adventurous side and love immersing yourself in the culture of the country it won't be long until the locals warm to you.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £429 – £1,056 / \$560 – \$1,378

Utilities: £215 / \$281

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £138 / \$180

Monthly transport pass: £48 / \$62

Basic dinner out for two: £25 / \$33

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.18 / \$4.15

A beer in a pub: £3.73 / \$4.87

1 litre of milk: £1.66 / \$2.17

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.68 / \$2.19

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SOUTH KOREA

Many schools and educational institutes use recruiters to fill positions rather than hiring directly, so don't be surprised if you find this is the best way to get hired – we've listed several recruiters below. Getting a job once you're already in Korea can make it easier to make connections, but it does make it trickier to sort out the visa. If you're applying to work at a hagwon, insist on speaking to a current member of staff to make sure it's a reputable company and not one that will land you in contract disputes – if a school refuses, look elsewhere. You want to avoid a disreputable school at all costs, where practices such as eleven-month firings (to avoid paying you your severance pay at the end of a one-year contract) are not unheard of. Hagwon quality varies enormously, and while you'll hear plenty of horror stories about cowboy operations, there are also plenty of great schools out there – the best thing is to speak to someone on the ground and get a feel for the place. Some schools prefer North American accents, but if you are a native speaker then it shouldn't be hard to find work. Most jobs are only open to native applicants from Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and USA.

EMPLOYERS IN SOUTH KOREA

[Adventure Teaching](#) is a recruitment agency.

[Canadian Connection](#) offers 1-year contracts.

[Chung Dahm](#) has 180 campuses and employs around 1,000 teachers.

The [EPIK \(English Programme in Korea\)](#) is run by the Ministry of Education and places around 3,000 graduates in state schools across the country.

[Flying Cows](#) is a UK based recruitment company.

Gyeonggi English Program in Korea ([GEPIK](#)) employs around 1,000 teachers.

[Gone2Korea](#) is a recruitment agency.

The Teach and Learn in Korea ([TaLK](#)) Program.

Visit [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) to see our latest listings of jobs in South Korea.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

I think we have such an amazing job and I love our school and all the little munchkins we're lucky enough to teach. In my previous job I worked as an administration manager for a health care company, and I was under a massive amount of stress that was really affecting my mood. I was working long hours each week, with barely any time or energy left over to spend time with my husband. My schedule couldn't be more different now, especially as we are the only native teachers at our school so we spend pretty much all of our time together!

My working day starts at 8am when we arrive at school after walking through our neighborhood. I enjoy a coffee in my classroom and get ready for the day. First up is my "morning class"; a group of 10 third and fourth graders of mixed ability. I teach these guys four mornings a week for 50 minutes, and it's an elective based on teaching English through science. We do a lot of experiments and games as well as teaching vocabulary and quizzes to check their understanding of the material. The textbook we're using for this semester comes with a teacher's guide so the lessons are really easy to plan, but I can also add in any extra activities or materials that I think would be of benefit to the kids.

Sarah, TEFL Org graduate, taught in South Korea with her husband



Teach English in Sri Lanka

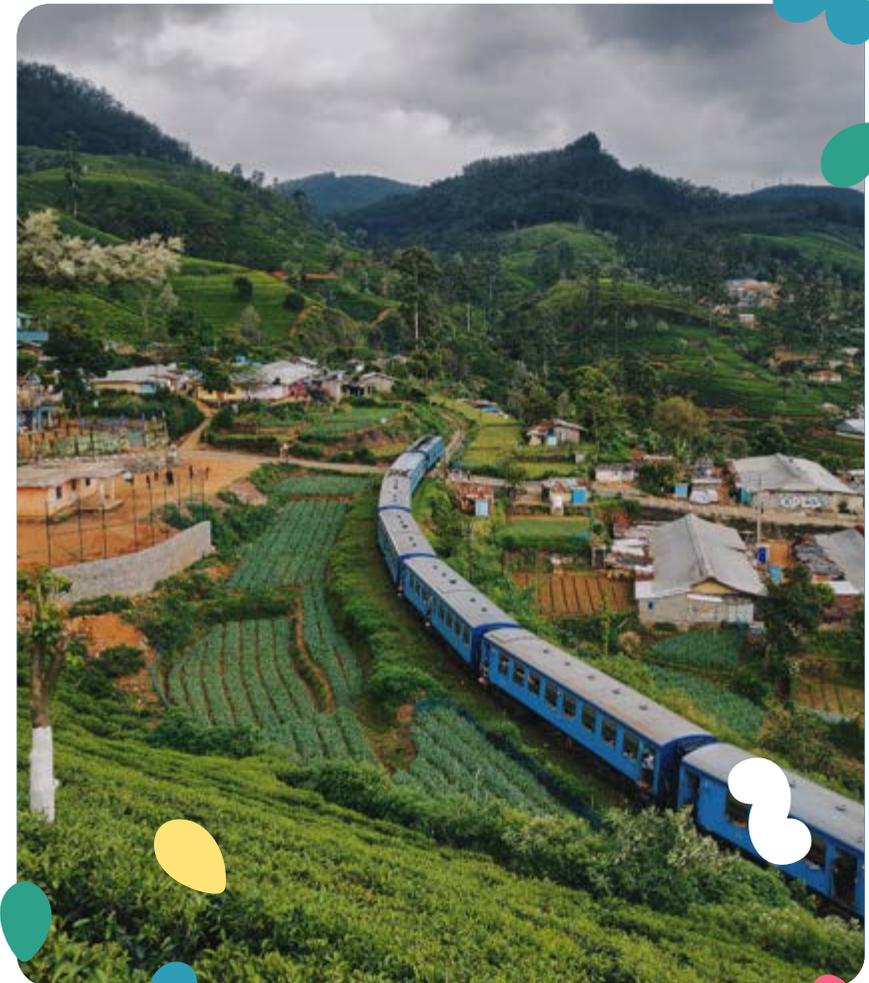
The end of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009 marked the start of a noticeable rise in demand for English language education in the country.

While Sinhala and Tamil are the two official languages of Sri Lanka, around a quarter of the population speak English (mainly in urban areas) and English is used for both official and commercial purposes. For those hoping to send their children to the elite private schools or the top universities in the country, TEFL lessons are a must from an early age. Children learn English in school, but not from kindergarten age unless they're at a bilingual school. Many of the paid positions in Sri Lanka can be found in Colombo, the capital.

While paid positions in International Schools are available to experienced teachers, there are always voluntary opportunities for first-time teachers who want to get some experience under their belts, or those who want to see Sri Lanka without committing to a longer contract. This beautiful nation is one place where you can really immerse yourself in the country – many volunteers live with host families and live like the locals, becoming cherished members of their small communities and forming great relationships with their students. If you're looking for an authentic experience and a welcoming place to do volunteering work, Sri Lanka is a great choice..

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£350 – £1,630 (\$485 – \$2,250)	No	January	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Colombo, Galle, Kandy, Ratnapura, Matara, Nugegoda, and Panadura

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions (in elite international schools) is likely to be in the region of 95,000 – 440,000 LKR (£350 – £1,630 / \$485 – \$2,250) per month. Most positions are voluntary

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most paid positions, but not necessarily for voluntary positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions prefer applicants to have a degree

Term times: The school year starts in January

Currency: Rupee (LKR)

Language: Sinhala and Tamil

Teaching programmes: International Schools, Private Schools, One to One Tutoring, Volunteering, Universities, Government Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Experience is often required for paid positions



It's possible to find work teaching English in government schools (where children learn English from grade 3 upwards) but a lack of funding for these projects means that teachers are usually sourced through volunteering companies, rather than paid positions. Whether you want to work with children or adults, there are voluntary positions available in Sri Lanka. It's even possible to volunteer at one of the unique piriven schools, which instruct Buddhist monks.

Volunteering as a TEFL teacher in Sri Lanka is a hugely rewarding endeavour. Students are cheerful and well-motivated, with volunteer teachers being invited to take part in extracurricular activities such as sports during their free periods. In some rural locations, you're likely to be the only English teacher working at the school, and might be the only foreigner in the area, making you a popular and recognisable face in the community! The Sri Lankan culture is also quite formal, so expect to be greeted as Sir or Madam and be met with handshakes – though if you're a male teacher, be wary that some women won't shake hands with a man who isn't a family member. In a full-time role, you're likely to be working for around 6 hours a day, 5 days per week. Expect students to be in uniform whether you're in a government or international school. The conservative culture means that teachers are required to dress modestly as well as appropriately for the temperature.

LIVING COSTS

The civil war left its mark on the country, and there are still signs of recovery ongoing today. But Sri Lanka has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and there is much to enjoy in this vibrant country. The low cost of living makes it a perfect place for backpacking TEFL teachers or those on voluntary contracts, and while those in paid positions aren't likely to earn a huge wage, if you live like the locals it's easy to get by. Sri Lankan cuisine is often on the spicy side, with Middle Eastern, Dutch, and Portuguese influences making it varied with so many wonderful dishes to try. You'll likely be familiar with dahl curry already, but look forward to sampling kottu roti bread, hoppers (thin, crispy pancakes), gotu kola mallung aromatic salad, and many aubergine dishes. Sri Lanka was called Ceylon until 1972, so it'll be no surprise to find out that the country is one of the biggest tea exporters in the world. Sharing a homecooked meal or a cup of tea with the locals will become one of your favourite and most authentic experiences while in Sri Lanka.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £379 – £541 / \$520 – \$742

Utilities: £72 / \$99

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £10 / \$14

Monthly transport pass: £13 / \$18

Basic dinner out for two: £8 / \$11

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.82 / \$2.50

A beer in a pub: £1.13 / \$1.55

1 litre of milk: £0.85 / \$1.16

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.10 / \$1.51

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SRI LANKA

Voluntary positions in Sri Lanka usually hire around the year, with some positions only running during school term time. The school year starts in January, so bear this in mind when looking for paid positions which will start with the new school year. Some international schools accept prospective applications from qualified teachers. As well as long-term voluntary positions, you can find organised trips that offer a TEFL experience for just a few weeks – perfect for gap year or backpacker travellers. If you want a paid position, your best bet is the international schools in Colombo.

EMPLOYERS IN SRI LANKA

Work for the [British Council](#) in Sri Lanka.

[Bond International Schools](#) look for teachers with Cambridge ESOL experienced teachers to help prepare students for this important exam.

[Colombo International School](#) hires native English speakers for roles across several subjects.

[Leeds International School](#) has several branches across Sri Lanka.

[Lyceum International Schools](#) has 8 branches in Sri Lanka.

[Projects Abroad](#) offers voluntary teaching experiences in Sri Lanka to those aged 16+. Placements are for a minimum of 4 weeks, predominantly teaching students aged 10 to 14.

[Real Gap Experience](#) offers 2-to-6-week placements for teaching English in Sri Lanka. You must be 18 or over. The project is based in Galle on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka.

[Royal Institute International School](#) has several branches in the Western Provinces of Sri Lanka.

The [Senehasa Trust](#) looks for TEFL qualified teachers to volunteer on their English programme – just one of many charitable projects they run in Sri Lanka.

[SVS School for English](#) promises a volunteering experience that will be “one of the most fulfilling things you do in your life.”

Visit [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) to see listings of current job opportunities.

Teach English in Taiwan

Taiwan used to be one of those TEFL destinations where you could just turn up with little more than a native ability, and you could land a job with ease.

These days restrictions are tighter, and to get a work visa you'll need a BA degree, TEFL qualification, and a school willing to sponsor you. Despite tougher restrictions, the TEFL industry is still booming and Taiwan remains a popular destination for EFL teachers at every stage of their career. There are enough jobs that newbies with no experience can still find work, and there are also positions for those with more advanced qualifications and years of experience.

With wages comparable with Japan and a cost of living closer to what you'd expect in China, Taiwan is a great place to make savings while still having a great experience. This beautiful country boasts mesmerizing skyscrapers, epic gorges, stunning mountains and national parks, fascinating museums, a delectable cuisine, and a wealth of historical attractions. You'll find much to enjoy if you embark on a TEFL career in Taiwan.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,335 – £1,735 (\$1,700 – \$2,220)	Yes	September	No	Sometimes	No	Under 65



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Taipei, Kaohsiung, Tainan, Taichung, and Anping

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of NT\$50,000 – NT\$65,000 (£1,335 – £1,735 / \$1,700 – \$2,220) per month. Freelance rates for one to one lessons are around NT\$700 to NT\$1,000 per hour (£19 – £27 / \$24 – \$34). Many full-time jobs pay by the hour at a rate of around NT\$600 (£16 / \$20)

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for most positions.

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree (in any subject) is required

Term times: September – July

Currency: New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$)

Language: Chinese

Teaching programmes: Private language schools (cram schools – buxiban), Kindergarten, University, Summer Camp, Freelance

Age restrictions: Maximum 65

Previous teaching experience: Necessary for more elite positions, not required for most jobs.



A teacher fresh off their TEFL course can easily find work in Taiwan, where there is a high demand for English teachers. Like in many Asian countries, parents are encouraging their kids to learn English younger than ever, and so kindergarten positions are available for native speakers. However, don't think that working with younger students means you don't need to be qualified – the government stipulates that teachers in kindergartens need to be fully trained kindergarten specialists, so if all you have is a TEFL (or even a CELTA) you won't get hired. More advanced qualifications are generally needed for university positions, and also for private language schools where they focus on exam and university preparation classes.

Children learn English in school, but there are opportunities to teach adults in Taiwan, too. Many businesspeople are also looking for one-to-one private English tuition to improve their career prospects in the world of international business. Learning English can make a huge difference to the lives of your students as it improves their job prospects drastically. In Taiwan, you'll find that your students are often enthusiastic and keen to learn, and this makes the whole experience worthwhile and enjoyable.

Taiwan can be a great place to find teaching work, but there are also pitfalls. Expect split shifts, students cancelling at the last minute (and not paying), school managers having unreasonable expectations, frequent weekend work, and a certain amount of 'clowning around' if you're teaching young children. Traditional rote learning in Taiwan and the expectations of parents can add other pressures. Jobs are always available because turnover is high. Some TEFL teachers don't take the role seriously, so you might meet employers who have been given a bad impression by previous teachers.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Taiwan is cheap compared to the amount you earn, and you can afford a good quality of life. By eating locally, not only do you get the chance to sample the local cuisine, you will also save a bundle. Few jobs offer free accommodation, and rent can be a large expense in Taiwan, so finding a flat share will be the cheapest option. Other benefits your school might offer include paid flights and attractive bonuses.

Life in Taiwan can be an exciting adventure, and you won't fail to notice the generosity and hospitality of the local people. Taiwan has a low crime rate, cheap options for eating out, a great social scene (which can cut into your savings if you overindulge!) and plenty of opportunities to make friends. On the downside, expats in Taiwan often complain about the pollution, bad traffic, and typhoon season.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £743 – £1,020 / \$970 – \$1,331

Utilities: £125 / \$163

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £31 / \$40

Monthly transport pass: £45 / \$59

Basic dinner out for two: £32 / \$42

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.13 / \$4.09

A beer in a pub: £3.57 / \$4.67

1 litre of milk: £2.47 / \$3.22

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.79 / \$2.33

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN TAIWAN

Some teachers turn up in Taiwan and look for a job once they arrive, which is easy to do with so many buxiban (cram schools) in popular areas, and the fact that you might be able to get a 60/90 day renewable tourist visa. If you stay in a hostel popular with foreign travellers, you'll likely be able to find other guests or staff who can help you make job connections. However, don't jump at the first job you're offered as quality varies. It's recommended to try and speak to current teachers and even sit in on a couple of classes to get a feel for the school before agreeing to a contract. Schools will expect to be contacted by email/telephone before you turn up on the doorstep.

Freelancing can be lucrative in Taiwan, but you need to also have an official job for your visa, which is sponsored by a school, so one to one lessons can only be a side gig. Once you're established, it's prudent to ask for lesson fees in advance – some teachers in Taiwan report that students are unwilling to pay for lessons they don't turn up to, or cancel at short notice, leaving teachers out of pocket. Even for full-time jobs, most are paid by the hour.

EMPLOYERS IN TAIWAN

[Gloria English School](#) prefers American/Canadian applicants.

[Hess Education](#) has over 200 branches in Taiwan.

[Jump Start](#) have English Immersion cram schools.

[Kang Ning English School](#) has 7 branches seeking teachers.

[Kid Castle](#) has language schools, after school programs and preschool programs.

[Kojen ELS](#) has 35 teaching centres and hires teachers from approved countries.

You need a BA degree, a criminal background check, and a TEFL to apply to [Reach to Teach](#) in Taiwan.

[Shane English School](#) hires through Saxoncourt Recruitment.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Taiwan.

[Tealiti](#) is a great website for finding TEFL jobs in Taiwan as well as searching for flat shares and roommates, teaching information and more.

Teach English in Thailand

Thailand has long been a popular destination for TEFL teachers, particularly those doing it backpacker style and aiming to see as many new places as possible on the cheap.

While being a native speaker might have been the only qualification you needed in days gone by, incoming teachers have to apply for the correct visa and therefore have the correct qualifications to gain work. That said, there are a variety of positions on offer, and while experienced, qualified teachers could see themselves landing top positions as the principal of an international school, there are plenty of opportunities for those without any experience under their belt.

While Bangkok is certainly the most popular area and has the most variety of TEFL jobs, don't overlook other locations where your wages might go a little further. The buzzing atmosphere of the capital is appealing to some, but there are also more exploitative employers in the big city. You might get a more authentic and reasonable experience elsewhere. In Bangkok, Siam Square is a TEFL hotspot and language institutes will be used to teachers turning up with a CV looking for work. Always check the location of a school carefully before you arrange an interview – Bangkok is sprawling, and you won't be on top form if you have to spend a long time travelling on public transport without air conditioning. If you want to avoid Bangkok and tourist areas, look for positions in cities like, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Sawan, Pathumthani, Udon Thani, and Ubon Ratchathani, where competition is minimal.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£740 – £980 (\$1,000 – \$1,280)	Yes	May	No	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Korat

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 30,000 THB – 40,000 THB (£740 – £980 / \$1,000 – \$1,280) per month at a language school, but closer to 50,000 THB (£1,230 / \$1,600) in other positions. International school positions can pay experienced teachers from 60,000 THB – 150,000 THB (£1,475 – £3,700 / \$1,900 – \$4,800) per month. Hourly teaching rates are usually around 250 – 400 THB (£6 – £10 / \$8 – \$13).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is a visa requirement

Term times: May – October and October – March

Currency: Baht (THB)

Language: Thai

Teaching programmes: The English Program in Thai Schools, University, Language Institutes, International Schools, Private Tutoring, Volunteering, Summer Camp

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not essential



The TEFL industry in Thailand has grown in recent years, particularly in the sphere of teaching children, as the government has introduced an English Program within Thai schools. Regulations have also tightened, ensuring that positions are filled by professionally qualified individuals rather than tourists looking to make a bit of money under the table. Thais are fun, friendly students and it's not just the children who enjoy playing classroom games. Expect your lessons to have a focus on spoken fluency rather than accuracy, apart from Business English lessons and university roles. Despite the fun and laid-back nature of many TEFL classrooms, don't be sloppy – you'll be expected to dress neatly, and might be surprised to find that even at university students have to wear a uniform. Make sure you have clothing that is both smart and suited to the temperatures. As well as positions teaching children, there is also good scope for teaching to adults in the tourism industry, particularly corporate lessons at big hotels.

Positions vary greatly, and so do the salaries. A newly-qualified TEFL teacher can easily find work, but will primarily be looking at language institutes rather than higher paying positions. For those with good qualifications (a master's degree or PGCE is sometimes necessary) and several years of experience, there will be a range of international or bilingual schools you can apply to, as well as the more lucrative language school positions. If you have experience with CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), make sure to point this out, especially at international and bilingual schools where they're keen to hire English teachers who can also teach something like art, math, or science in their native language.

LIVING COSTS

While not as cheap as it once was, Thailand is still in the cheaper half of Asian countries, making it a popular backpacker destination as well as a top location for newbie TEFL teachers. Top tourist destinations (which include the idyllic, off-the-beaten-track rural locations and picturesque islands as well as major cities) are more expensive than the places where few visitors venture. Wherever you go, living like a local is the cheapest way to save money and have a good time. Local cuisine is great value for money, whereas Western imports have quite a different price tag. Places offering great deals might, on reflection, be tourist traps – see who the clientele are and ask for local recommendations rather than just heading somewhere with an easy-to-read menu. Great bargains can be found at night markets too, so don't just head to the flashy shopping centres.

Even on a modest wage, most TEFL teachers in Thailand can save a percentage of their wages for the future, with some managing to put aside as much as 50% of their earnings. While the TEFL industry is still going strong in Thailand, wages haven't increased as they have done in other Asian countries. However, the cost of living is still low and an experienced teacher will be able to find a well-paid position. Newer teachers might have to settle for a lower paying position and take on private students if they want to earn extra. For up-to-date information on the cost of living and testimonials from teachers on the ground, check out this page on the Ajarn website. Some schools offer accommodation or a housing allowance, but most teachers have to sort it out themselves.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £597 – 974 / \$778 – \$1,271

Utilities: £56 / \$74

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £23 / \$29

Monthly transport pass: £26 / \$34

Basic dinner out for two: £16 / \$20

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.95 / \$3.85

A beer in a pub: £2.61 / \$3.41

1 litre of milk: £1.24 / \$1.62

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.93 / \$1.22

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THAILAND

TEFL jobs can be found throughout the country and at all times of the year, although, for public schools, peak recruitment times are in the months before the terms begin. Many teachers can find a job in April to start with the new term in May. Most work in Thailand involves teaching children, either in government schools or bilingual and international schools. Private schools offer more lucrative salaries than government schools and teachers are able to supplement their salaries by tutoring. While online job adverts and job boards have grown more popular, many teachers still find that getting work once they're in the country is easy to do, particularly for university positions and private colleges, which like to hire locally. Jobs can have a preference for female teachers, but the vast majority of foreign teachers in Thailand are male, and they tend to stay for longer, too. Some positions will require you to apply for a full teaching licence rather than a provisional teaching permit.

EMPLOYERS IN THAILAND

[Ajarn](#) lists TEFL jobs in Thailand.

[Bright Future International Training & Services](#) hires over 100 teachers.

[ECC](#) is the largest private language school in Thailand.

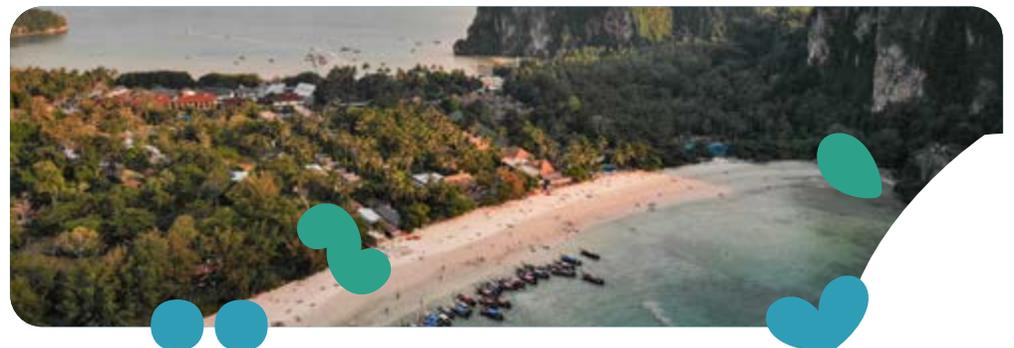
[Echo English](#) is a teacher recruitment and management agency.

The [International Schools Association of Thailand](#) is a good place to find information about International Schools and any hiring opportunities.

[Karen Hill Tribes Trust](#) is a voluntary organisation teaching English across Thailand.

[Teaching Thailand](#) is a jobs board for expats in Thailand.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) to see listings of current TEFL jobs in Thailand.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

Thailand is one of the most beautiful countries with such a rich culture. Thailand is known as 'The land of smiles' as this is evident especially the further you travel from the tourist tracks with Thai people always going out of their way to help you. Living and working in Thailand has allowed me to travel and see all the things I had dreamed of in England.

I have been teaching in Thailand now for nearly 4 months and have just renewed my contract to stay at this school for the rest of the year. This has been one of the most amazing, exciting and fun experiences of my life. This qualification means that I can travel the world, not just taking what I can from a country but actually giving something back. Working as TEFL teacher has allowed me to really make an impact to student's lives and enhance mine.

James, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Vietnam

The TEFL market is booming in Vietnam, where more students than ever are signing up for language lessons.

Young professionals hoping for a career in tourism or banking are brushing up on their English skills, and the expanding middle class form a vital part of the student body. Primary school children are also receiving English lessons in higher numbers than before, making Vietnam a great place to look for work whether you'd like to teach kids or adults.

Vietnam has a diverse landscape where you can discover bustling cities, sandy beaches along its 3,260km stretch of coastline, and truly jaw-dropping mountain scenery. Expats love the street food culture and incredible culinary experiences on offer in Vietnam. The national dish, Pho, is a popular staple. The wonderful scenery and delectable cuisine, combined with a huge English education market and low living costs, make Vietnam an understandably alluring destination for many EFL teachers. Due to the demand for teachers it's particularly popular with those who have just gained their TEFL qualification, with plenty of entry-level positions to be found across the country. Wages are good, enabling teachers to afford a good standard of life without working overtime.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£920 – £1,500 (\$1,200 – \$2,000)	Yes	August	No	No	Yes	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Da Nang, Hai Phong, Can Tho, Bien Hoa

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 27,700,000 VND – 46,171,000 VND (£920 – £1,500/\$1,200 to \$2,000 USD) per month. Hourly rates range from 390,000 VND – 740,000 VND (£13 – £25 / \$17 – \$32) per hour. Pay is often quoted in American \$.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is a visa requirement

Term times: August to June

Currency: Vietnamese Dong (VND)

Language: Vietnamese

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, Private Schools, International Schools, Business English, Language Schools, Volunteering

Age restrictions: Maximum 60

Previous teaching experience: Not essential



With a growing TEFL market in Vietnam, employers have also grown more savvy when it comes to hiring teachers. Being a fluent English speaker with a degree used to be enough to find work, but now teachers will also need a TEFL qualification, preferably one that is at least 120-hours. On the whole, TEFL institutes in Vietnam are professionally run and will treat teachers well – it's a highly respected job and wages reflect that – but do try to speak to current staff at a school before accepting a position to get a feel for what it's really like, and if their wages are commensurate with other local schools. A common complaint amongst teachers at language schools in Vietnam is that the materials they're provided with for their lessons aren't up to scratch. If you're asked to teach with unsuitable materials or course books, you'll have to think on your feet to adapt them for your students as schools are unlikely to splash out on replacing them.

Peak hiring season is August and December for public schools. Language schools hire year-round, and it's easy to find work within a couple of weeks of arrival if you're in a major city. The face-to-face approach works much better than looking online if you're already in the country, and employers will be used to teachers turning up with a CV. Full-time employment is easier to find now than it was in the past, but there are still those who prefer a medley of part-time roles to add variety and negotiate a higher income.

LIVING COSTS

Due to its low cost of living, EFL teachers in Vietnam can live comfortably and still be able to save money for the future. Even a modest salary for a TEFL teacher will still be far greater than what local people earn. If you live like a local by dining on street food and avoiding tourist traps, you can have a great experience without breaking the bank. Accommodation isn't typically included with teaching jobs but it's not hard to find somewhere to rent, and while modern condominiums are popular with expats, you can get a great deal by renting in a local neighbourhood where you'll also get a more immersive experience. Health insurance may not be included in your contract either, so it's very important to take out appropriate coverage while you're in the country.

Travel in Vietnam is inexpensive so teachers can spend their time off exploring the country. Public transport is cheap, but many expats choose to rent a motorbike (around \$50 a month) which enables them to get around easily both for work and leisure.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £415 – £650 / \$543 – 850

Utilities: £59 / \$77

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £27 / \$36

Monthly transport pass: £7 / \$9

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$20

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.45 / \$3.20

A beer in a pub: £2.14 / \$2.80

1 litre of milk: £1.12 / \$1.46

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.61 / \$0.80



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN VIETNAM

There's an abundance of work for English teachers in Vietnam. Teachers can find work year-round in language centres teaching a range of ages as well as in private and public schools. It's possible to secure a job before arriving in the country, but it's easier to do so in person as face-to-face interviews are preferred by many employers. Contracts don't typically include perks such as accommodation and flight reimbursement offered in countries such as China and South Korea, but salaries in comparison to the cost of living are very good. In order to work legally in Vietnam you need a BA degree, a TEFL certificate, a criminal background check, and a passport from the US, UK, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia or South Africa. You can convert a tourist visa into a work visa if you have found work while in the country, which is a popular route into working in Vietnam. There are also plenty of voluntary opportunities in the country which can be a great way to get a taste for it and see if Vietnam is for you.

EMPLOYERS IN VIETNAM

Highly qualified teachers can apply to the [Asian Institute of Technology in Vietnam](#).

[Aston](#) has 6 branches in Vietnam.

[The British Council](#) hires both teachers and teacher trainers in Vietnam.

[ETA4](#) is a voluntary teaching organisation in Vietnam.

[Fisher's Super Kids](#) is based in Danang City.

Native speakers with a degree and TEFL can apply to [LLA](#).

[Language Link](#) has over 40 schools.

British/Canadian applicants preferred for [Shelton](#), which has around 30 branches.

Voluntary positions for US applicants with [Teachers for Vietnam](#).

Apply to the [Universal Education Center](#) if you have a TEFL and a degree.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.

Teach with [Travel Bud](#) and earn \$1,200 – \$2,000 per month.

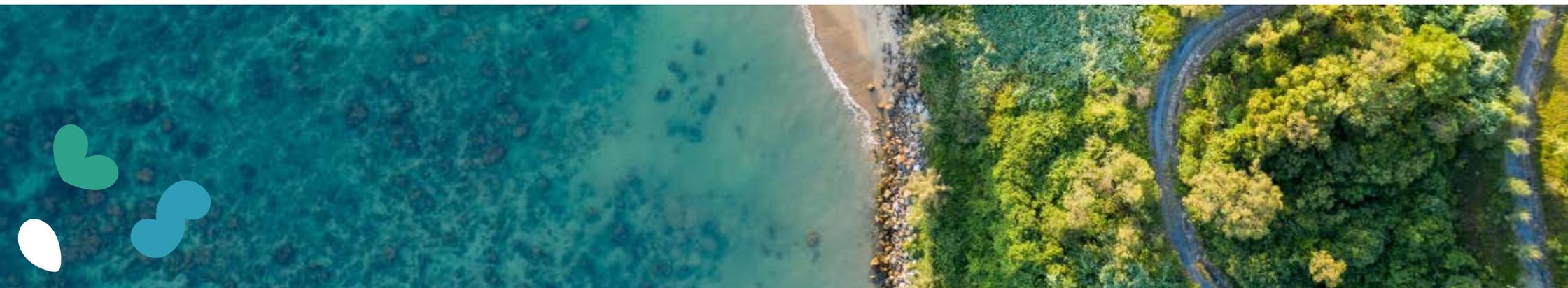
[Vietnam Teaching Jobs](#) is a jobs board with current TEFL listings.

TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

Hey! I'm Frances! I moved to Vietnam in 2016 to start my TEFL career and haven't looked back. I had few expectations of Vietnam before I moved to Saigon but it is safe to say that I am head-over-heels in love with life here. While I've worked in the public school system, the majority of my experience in Vietnam has been in a language centre. I'd like to share some of the knowledge I've accumulated to help you with your move to Vietnam to teach English!

Maybe I'm a little biased as I'm lowkey obsessed with Vietnam, but life here is so vibrant! Between the abundance of epic street eats, friendly locals, mountain scenes to awe at, and unreal travel experiences on your doorstep, it's hard to not see the appeal of living and working in Vietnam. Not to mention students are driven and have a great balance between studying and fun. As a bonus, average wages are high enough to save money while still living a comfortable lifestyle.

Frances, TEFL Org graduate





LATIN AMERICA

Teach English in Argentina

Argentina is a popular destination for TEFL teachers, particularly with those who are fresh off their TEFL course and looking for their first adventure.

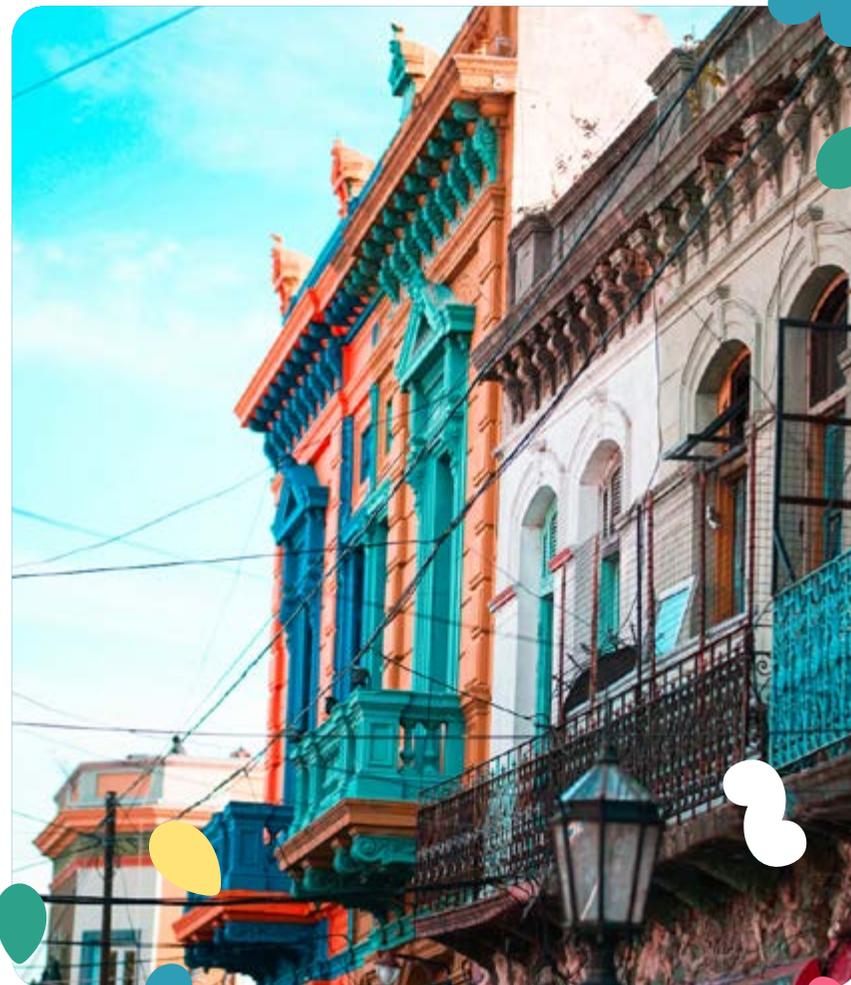
Top draws that the country has to offer include the amazing cuisine, as well as world-famous wine that is both cheap and delicious. From wetlands to jungles, deserts to mountains, the natural landscape of Argentina makes it a top location for inspiring wanderlust. And if you like hot weather, you won't be disappointed with the temperature in Argentina, where it rarely falls below 5 degrees. Friendly locals and plenty of teaching opportunities make this a great TEFL destination.

Wages aren't high in Argentina, but neither is the cost of living, so while you might not save a bundle as a TEFL teacher you can certainly earn enough to get by. The TEFL industry in Argentina has a high turnover and a casual way of doing business, with part-time and freelance work just as much a viable option as getting something full-time. There are also plenty of voluntary opportunities too, which are great if you'd like to get a flavour for the country and check it out before seeking permanent employment.

The TEFL market in Argentina is buoyant but not booming, owing to a recession which started in 2016. Many schools can only offer part-time hours to their teachers, and so some expats have to piece together a schedule with hours at different institutes, alongside some freelance work. If you're experienced and have a TEFL qualification, particularly a CELTA or higher qualification, it will be much easier to find a full-time position.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£465 – £930 (\$600 – \$1,200)	Yes	March	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Buenos Aires, Salta, Rosario, Córdoba, Mendoza, and Bariloche

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 45,000 pesos to 90,000 pesos (£465 – £930 / \$600 – \$1,200) per month. Most jobs pay by the hour at around 45 to 120 pesos (£0.50 – £1.25 / \$0.60 – \$1.60) an hour. 70 pesos per hour is usual (£0.70 / \$0.90).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions require teachers to have a BA degree

Term times: The school year starts in March

Currency: Peso (ARS)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Freelance, Bilingual Schools, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Prior experience is helpful for some positions but not always necessary



Be prepared for the casual nature of hiring and teaching in Argentina. With many schools (and rental accommodations) offering 6-month contracts, turnover of TEFL teachers is high. As such, an employer won't spend ages reaching a decision about your job – the interview will be short, and if they like you, you'll be offered the position on the spot. A kiss on the cheek is more common than a handshake, even in the office, and while many schools will look for a minimum standard (perhaps having a BA degree, a TEFL certificate, or teaching experience) much more will ride on how you come across and if they find you affable.

Teaching as a freelancer in Argentina can often be far more lucrative than at a language school, but as your one-to-one lessons don't offer the same stability, it's best to hedge your bets and build up a portfolio of different gigs, including some language school work alongside your freelance ventures. It's not hard to find students, with some teachers putting up notices or handing out flyers to attract clients.

LIVING COSTS

Life in Argentina can be cheap as chips if you embrace the local lifestyle, but if you pine for imported goods, you'll quickly burn through your cash. Fashionable brands, imported foods, and even foreign electrical goods will set you back far more than if you learn to live with what is produced locally. However, view the challenge of getting a good deal from your spending as an adventure rather than a chore, and enjoy local highlights such as cheap wine, inexpensive dining, and cheap public transport. Saying that, even if you embrace the local lifestyle, Argentina isn't a place where you'll be able to save huge amount of money unless you take on extra work. If you have a standard 30-hour working week, you'll find that you break even at the end of the month and don't have much cash leftover. If you're looking for a more luxuriant lifestyle or want to put some money aside for the future, you'll need to consider taking on private students in your free time.

Argentina is becoming increasingly popular with expats who love the cosmopolitan vibe of the big cities and the benefits on offer. Argentina has a good healthcare system and while quality is good when you seek public health services, private healthcare is also highly affordable and popular with expats.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £223 – £328 / \$285 – \$420

Utilities: £42 / \$53

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £11 / \$14

Monthly transport pass: £15 / \$19

Basic dinner out for two: £12 / \$15

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.47 / \$1.88

A beer in a pub: £1.38 / \$1.77

1 litre of milk: £0.63 / \$0.81

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.32 / \$1.69

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ARGENTINA

Many expats say it's easier to find a job once you're already in Argentina, and as the 90-day tourist visa can easily be extended, this isn't tricky to do. If you're a young person from participating countries, you can also apply for a working holiday visa. Note that if you have a strong Australian accent, you might struggle to find work as this is an accent that the Argentinians particularly struggle with. Employers in Argentina like to interview face-to-face and will hire on the spot if they like you, so try to arrange your interviews close together if you want to choose between several positions. It's common to have several different part-time jobs and take on one to one students in your free time.

EMPLOYERS IN ARGENTINA

To teach at [ACM Business English](#) you need a TEFL or equivalent and experience teaching to adults.

[Belgrano Day School](#) teachers from kindergarten up.

[Bilingual Highway](#) offers a four-week training course to native speakers.

[CIL Teach Argentina](#) is an all-inclusive voluntary programme for 3-12 months for students/graduates aged 20-26. Teaching 25 hours per week.

[CIL](#) offers 9-month contracts, 45 pesos an hour.

[Connecting Worlds](#) offers internships and voluntary experiences in Argentina.

[Craigslist](#) is a great community noticeboard to find information about TEFL jobs in Buenos Aires, as well as apartment rental information.

[Further English](#) prefers British applicants with a degree and TEFL/CELTA.

[Interaction Language Studio](#) looks for British or American teachers with a TEFL.

Teach with [Tuprofedeingles](#) in Buenos Aires for a minimum of 15 hours per week.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



Teach English in Bolivia

As the economy in Bolivia is doing pretty well (in recent years, the minimum wage doubled within a decade and poverty has been significantly reduced) there is a bigger market than ever before for teaching TEFL.

However, Bolivia is still a poor country, and much of the population has little interest in learning English since, if their mother tongue is an indigenous language, they're probably focussing on learning Spanish. Voluntary positions for TEFL teachers are common, but it's also possible to find paid work. Your students will come from the urban middle classes who live in more affluent cities. As many young people aspire to live somewhere more prosperous or study abroad, there is certainly an active market for TEFL teaching in Bolivia.

While you won't earn a lot of money working in Bolivia, this is a country rich in experiences for you to enjoy. The low cost of living means that even on a meagre wage you can make the most of what the country has to offer. Gorgeous natural surroundings, friendly locals, indigenous cultures to learn about and stunning wildlife are all reasons why you might want to head to Bolivia. As this isn't a top tourist destination, or a popular place for TEFL teachers to head to, even newly-qualified and inexperienced teachers can find work here, where demand is higher than supply. If you're looking for a back-to-basics adventure, Bolivia is a great place to consider for your next TEFL move.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£330 – £1,000 (\$430 – \$1,400)	No	February	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: La Paz, Cochabamba, El Alto, Oruro, and Santa Cruz

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 3,000 – 6,200 BOB (£330 – £1,000 / \$430 – \$1,400 USD) per month. 27 – 76 BOB (£3 – £8 / \$4 – \$11) per hour, usually at the lower end of that scale.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required or preferred for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Some positions require you to have a BA

Term times: Feb–Sept, Sept–Dec

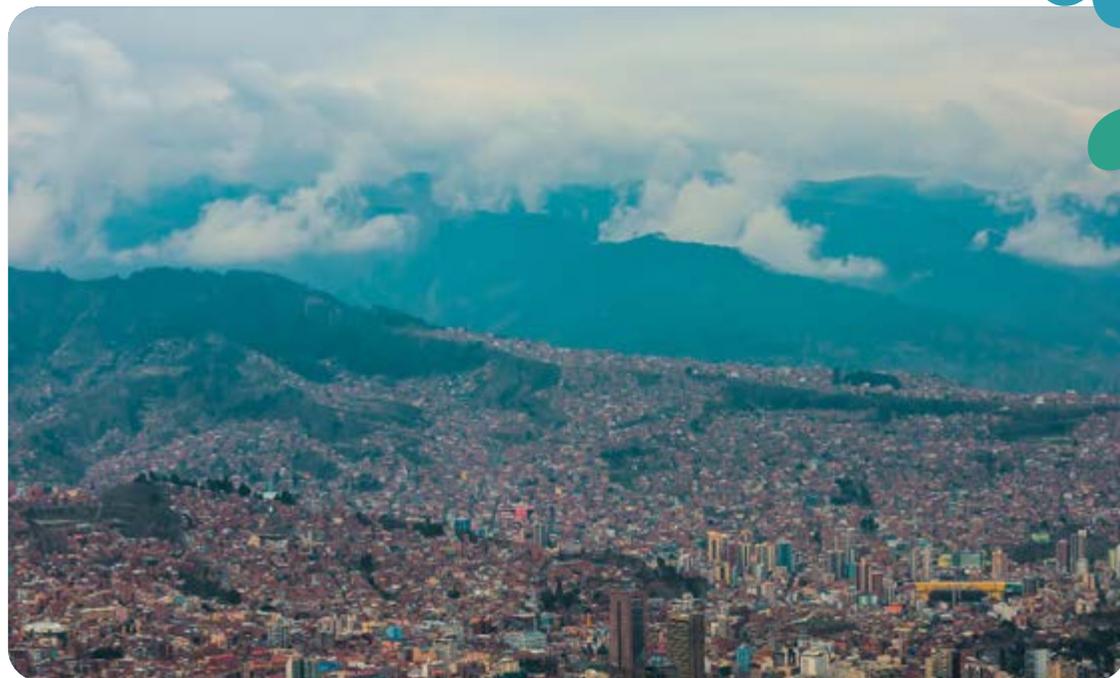
Currency: Boliviano (BOB)

Language: Spanish (and many other official languages)

Teaching programmes: Bilingual Schools, Private Language Schools, Freelance, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Necessary for the best paid jobs but many don't require prior experience



You might be able to make more money in Bolivia by taking on private clients, charging higher per class than you'd be making if you work for a language school, but of course without the stability of a guaranteed income. To get the most from your freelancing, advertise in affluent areas where students can afford to pay higher prices, and look for group classes where you can charge less but take home more overall. If you manage to rent somewhere with a good internet connection, you'd certainly make more money by teaching English online to students in other countries in your spare time – this can be a good way to supplement your modest earnings if you're finding it hard to get by on a local wage. However, do your research as Wi-Fi is patchy.

Volunteer teaching is readily available in Bolivia as many local people can't afford to pay for classes. If you want to get a taste of what Bolivia is like, a short stint of volunteering is a great way to see the country and get a feel for what it would be like to live there. While huge efforts have been made in recent decades to reform the education system in Bolivia, in rural areas illiteracy rates are high, and dropping out of school is commonplace – particularly for girls and children from the most rural areas. As such, if you take on a voluntary role, don't necessarily expect high-flying kids eager to learn or well-behaved children who are used to classroom etiquette.

LIVING COSTS

Bolivia is a very cheap country to live in, so if it seems like TEFL jobs pay little more than peanuts, remember that your outgoing costs will also be low. One of the cheapest countries in Latin America, Bolivia is also cheaper than 83% of countries around the world. As you might expect, foreign imports are vastly more expensive than living like a local. Getting a cappuccino costs about the same as eating a local meal. As eating out is so cheap, if you have to furnish an apartment on arrival, the cost of buying your own cooking equipment is probably a difficult choice to make over the cost and convenience of eating out.

The fact that Bolivia has preserved its traditional culture makes it a popular destination with expats who are looking for an authentic, immersive experience. This culturally fascinating destination has a colourful mix when it comes to the locals, with many types of indigenous languages, traditional outfits still widely worn, and much for the adventurous expat to explore. If you love the great outdoors, you'll enjoy visiting caves, archaeological sites, ruins, nature reserves and other places of interest. You're sure to find something interesting at the local markets, and while Bolivian cuisine isn't world-famous, there are certainly a number of dishes you'll fall in love with. Favourites with many expats are papas rellenas, which are stuffed potato balls, salteñas (a bit like a spicy Cornish pasty), tucumanas (another type of spicy pasty), buñuelos (a snack which can be sweet or savoury), quinoa dishes, and Bolivian chocolate.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £371 – 465 / \$477 – \$598

Utilities: £36 / \$46

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £22 / \$29

Monthly transport pass: £16 / \$21

Basic dinner out for two: £7 / \$9

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.70 / \$3.47

A beer in a pub: £1.98 / \$2.55

1 litre of milk: £0.71 / \$0.92

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.19 / \$1.53

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN BOLIVIA

Most teachers arrive on a three-month tourist visa and then apply for a one-year work visa once they've found work. However, by leaving the country you can renew your tourist visa, and there doesn't seem to be much red tape regarding working as a tourist. Some positions offer a generous end-of-year bonus in line with government regulations. Many jobs offer two-year contracts, offering a great opportunity to those who want to really get stuck into a foreign culture and brush up on their Spanish. Few positions offer accommodation – including voluntary positions – so be prepared to find your own apartment on arrival and do some research, although many schools can offer assistance with this. Some jobs list their salary in US \$ while others list in local BOB.

EMPLOYERS IN BOLIVIA

[Cambridge College](#) prefers British applicants with a CELTA or 3 years of teaching experience.

[Centro Boliviano Americano](#) prefers American/British applicants with experience and a TEFL certificate.

If you're working freelance, advertise your English lessons in the [El Diario](#) newspaper.

At [Fox Language Academy](#) you can volunteer teaching English to children and adults.

[IE](#) requires candidates with at least A-level education and a TEFL certificate, but having a degree is preferred, as is experience in teaching.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



Teach English in Brazil

The largest country in South America, the 2014 economic recession in Brazil had some experts predicting a downturn in the TEFL market. However, recovery from the recession started around 2016 and, until the 2020 coronavirus, the economic situation was continuing to improve.

What the post-coronavirus era will mean for the economy is yet to be seen. However, at present it's fair to say that the TEFL market in Brazil is doing okay, and that with many people wanting to learn English so that they can improve their chances of studying abroad or getting a good job, there are bound to be jobs in the market for years to come. However, jobs are often poorly paid, work visas are notoriously difficult to obtain, and many will be happy to hire you (illegally) on a tourist visa, and there are certainly risks with that.

Saying that, many TEFL teachers are drawn to the fun and friendly nature of the local people, the party atmosphere that comes with living in any garrulous culture, and of course the weather, which is tropical across most of the country. Younger expats in particular love the Brazilian lifestyle and are happy to take on work despite the sketchy visa situation. Brazil is certainly an adventure destination, and not usually somewhere that's favoured by experienced, well-qualified TEFL teachers looking for a long-term career move. With 6 month contracts (to fit in with the tourist visa length) Brazil is a great destination if you don't have a whole year to commit to a TEFL job and are looking for more of a gap year experience.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£400 – £650 (\$550 – \$920)	Preferred	February	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paulinia, Porto Alegre, Brasília, Recife, Belo Horizonte, Florianopolis, and Salvador

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 3,000 – 4,800 BRL (£400 – £650 / \$550 – \$920) per month. Hourly rates range from 50 BRL to 80 BRL per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is preferred but not always necessary

Term times: February to December

Currency: Real (R\$) (BRL)

Language: Portuguese

Teaching programmes: Private language schools, freelance

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not mandatory



Peak hiring months in Brazil are March – August, with a 2 to 4-week long winter break in July. Many schools use that as an opportunity for teachers to renew their tourist visas and work for 6-month contracts. A standard full-time contract will involve 20 to 25 teaching hours a week which, depending on your prep time, will leave you with enough free time to enjoy life in the country or to take on private students if you want to make more money. Many jobs can be found for 20 hours a week or fewer, so if you're looking for a gap year or travel experience with very little to do on the work frontier, it's possible to find positions to suit as well as seeking out your own private students.

If you take on freelance students, be sure to make your position as stable as possible. Brazilian students are well-known for not turning up to lessons, so if you don't ask for pay in advance you can find yourself out of pocket, and also try to arrange classes in a location that's convenient for you, so that you don't travel out of your way for nothing when a student doesn't show. Universities are a great place to advertise for private students, and freelance teaching can be far more lucrative than working for an institute.

LIVING COSTS

The 3rd cheapest country in Latin America, the cost of living in Brazil is cheaper than 85% of countries around the world. While statistics may indicate that the cost of living in Brazil is pretty low, many expats report that, compared to how much they earn, they actually find prices relatively high in Brazil. While you may earn enough to cover the necessities, you're unlikely to put away any savings unless you take on lucrative one-to-one lessons with private students in your free time. If you're happy to break even during your time in Brazil, you'll find that you don't need to work too hard to get by.

Few jobs provide accommodation, so one way to save money to is find somewhere to share with other expats, which will be much cheaper than renting an apartment by yourself. Rent is often the biggest expenditure for expats so make sure to shop around and find a good deal, and also consider living out of the big cities where rent is highest, but do bear in mind that shaky public transport can make a longer commute a real pain. The cost of living also means that you won't be eating out all the time as you might if you take up a TEFL positions somewhere like Cambodia or Vietnam. Grocery shopping is much cheaper than eating out, especially if you stick to local goods and stay away from expensive imports. Saying that, even on a basic salary you can afford to go out from time to time and enjoy everything that your locality has to offer.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £277 – £458 / \$359 – \$592

Utilities: £68 / \$88

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £33 / \$42

Monthly transport pass: £30 / \$39

Basic dinner out for two: £14 / \$18

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.51 / \$1.95

A beer in a pub: £1.56 / \$2.02

1 litre of milk: £0.51 / \$0.66

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.03 / \$1.33

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN BRAZIL

Work visas can be difficult to obtain with a lengthy and costly process, and so many (if not most) employers actually prefer for teachers to work on a tourist visa, and leave the country after 6 months to renew it. Of course, working on a tourist visa isn't legal, but it's a risk that many teachers seem happy to take. As these positions aren't above board, pay can be very low, as can the job stability. With a high number of well-qualified Brazilian English teachers, many schools can't justify the cost of hiring a native speaker, particularly if that teacher isn't yet in the country. As such, many TEFL teachers choose to travel to Brazil without employment and find work once they're on the ground, as schools are often much more willing to hire a teacher who is already in the country.

EMPLOYERS IN BRAZIL

[AEC Idiomas](#) offers lessons in a variety of languages.

[Brasas](#) has franchises in a variety of locations around Brazil, catering for kids, teens and adults.

[CalEnglish](#) caters for kids, teens and adults, with conversation classes and also VIP lessons. The prefer candidates from the USA or Canada.

[English Camp](#) looks for native speakers aged 18+ with experience as a camp counsellor. Minimum stay of 15 days up to 4 weeks.

[English Voice Idiomas](#) looks for applicants with a teaching certificate.

Part-time work with [Linguae](#), 35 to 45 BRL per hour.

[Maple Leaf English School](#) looks for candidates from the USA, Canada, Australia and the UK. You need a degree and some TEFL experience is desirable.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



Teach English in Chile

With a higher standard of living than some other locations in South America, Chile is an attractive choice for TEFL teachers wanting to work abroad.

A higher cost of living is matched by higher wages than you can expect in neighbouring countries, but this is a location where you're unlikely to make big savings unless you take on extra work in your free time. However, breaking even is good enough for many teachers who are happy to have an adventure rather than look for a long-term career, and with so much to see and do in this bustling, vibrant country, Chile is a great place for a short contract or even for your first time teaching abroad.

A beautiful country with stunning natural landscapes, many expats move to Chile for the views alone. The Andes are certainly a major draw, and if mountain climbing is one of your top hobbies, this is something you'll get to do plenty of in Chile. A diverse eco system makes it a great location for nature lovers, as well as football fans (they're mad on football games in Chile!), foodies (especially if you love avocado), and those who like living in a country with fun, friendly, good-humoured locals.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£427 – £625 (\$550 – \$800)	Yes	February	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Santiago, Valparaíso, Antofagasta, Concepción, Punta Arenas, La Serena, Ovalle, Arica, Iquique, Talca, Valdivia, Osorno, and Temuco

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 430,000 – 630,000 pesos (£427 – £625/ \$550 – \$800) per month. Hourly rates at a language school are around 6,000 – 8,000 pesos (£6 – £8 / \$7.60 to \$20) per hour, up to 15,000 pesos (£15 / \$20) per hour if you're teaching freelance.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is usually required for teaching in Chile

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions ask for a BA degree, sometimes in specific subjects

Term times: Semesters are from late February/early March to late June, and from August until mid-December. 6 or 9-month contracts are usual

Currency: Peso (CLP)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Freelance, Public Elementary or High Schools, Universities, Private Schools, Voluntary

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not always necessary



At private language schools, expect your students to be mostly adults wanting Business English lessons, but you're also likely to teach test prep classes to university students, for exams such as TOEFL, IELTS, GREs or GMATs. Other students might include adults who work in the tourism industry, as well as classes for teenagers and children. Classes teaching English to children had increased in Chile since the government introduced mandatory English classes starting with 5th graders rather than 7th graders, meaning that parents who want their kids to get ahead will send them to private classes. Many private language schools prohibit their staff from teaching one-to-one classes in their spare time, so if you're hoping to do some freelancing to make a bit more money, check their policies before advertising your lessons.

In Chilean culture it's common to be late for things – social gatherings more so than organised classes, but regardless, you'll need to get used to a laid-back attitude when it comes to your students' punctuality. If you're working freelance, make sure your students are aware of your cancellation policy so that you're not out of pocket if they don't turn up. Students are fun, gregarious, and though large classes can easily become boisterous they're also lively environments for confident teachers.

LIVING COSTS

Chile is one of the more expensive countries in Latin America, but compared to the rest of the world it is still considered a cheap place to live, being cheaper than 63% of other countries. Finding a shared apartment will be cheaper than renting on your own, and very few schools offer free accommodation, although many can offer help in finding somewhere to live. Craigslist is a good place to search online for local roommates and flat shares.

The city of Santiago is modern and cosmopolitan, and despite the economy doing quite well you will still come across poverty from time to time, as well as rowdy behaviour that you might find intimidating. However, Chile is a safe country to live in on the whole and even lone female expats are happy to spend time here. Expats cite the winter pollution as one of the major downsides of living in the big cities, but are generally pleased with the quality of life in Chile, where you might not be able to save a lot of money but can at least enjoy a nice lifestyle on a modest wage.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £467 – £719 / \$596 – \$919

Utilities: £61 / \$78

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £30 / \$38

Monthly transport pass: £40 / \$52

Basic dinner out for two: £19 / \$25

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.90 / \$3.71

A beer in a pub: £2.22 / \$2.83

1 litre of milk: £0.82 / \$1.04

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.52 / \$1.94

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN CHILE

The *sujeito a contrato visa* is tied into your work contract, so if you change jobs, you'll need to get a new visa and your work will need to be for a minimum salary of 100,000 pesos per month. Another option is the *visa de residencia temporaria*, which is more flexible but comes with extra paperwork. It's not legal to work on a tourist visa, so when you have an interview, check which kind of visa your employer will support – don't accept institutes that say it's fine to work on a tourist visa and renew every 90 days. Visa fees are more expensive for British people than Americans. Look for working holiday visa opportunities too, depending on where you're from. You'll find the most opportunities in Santiago, and while positions in smaller places are not as well paid, the cost of living will be lower, as will competition for positions. Most teachers coming to Chile are American, so some schools will pay a premium for British accents which are harder to find.

EMPLOYERS IN CHILE

The [Academia de Idiomas del Norte](#) looks for TEFL qualified teachers.

The [Association of British Schools in Chile](#) is a great place to seek out elite educational facilities that might be looking to hire.

[British Council](#) has positions for Assistant Language Teachers in Chile.

[ChilEnglish](#) hires TEFL qualified teachers with previous experience preferred.

[Executive English Solutions](#) hires TEFL qualified teachers with a degree and 1+ year of experience. Contracts for 6 to 12-months.

[EF English First](#) is a global company mainly in China, Indonesia, and Russia, but they also have schools in Chile.

[English Opens Doors Program](#) is a popular voluntary government-sponsored program in Chile, with placements across the country.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



Teach English in Colombia

Colombia used to be branded as a no-go area for TEFL teachers due to the dangers involved with travelling and living there. However, since a peace agreement in 2016, Colombia has started to shake off its previous reputation, and those wanting to teach English have been flocking there in ever greater numbers.

The fact that the locals are friendly, welcoming, and encourage the arrival of expats makes it all the more attractive. Colombia is an exciting destination with much to see and do, making it popular with adventurous TEFL teachers. Top tourist attractions that you can enjoy in Colombia include visiting the walled city of Cartagena, going to the Gold Museum, conquering Mount Monserrate, chilling out in the beautiful Parque Arqueológico, and marvelling at the Piedra del Peñol.

New teaching opportunities are easy to find in Colombia, where many jobs focus on business English, but there are also drives to promote bilingualism in the school system. There are opportunities for well-qualified and experienced teachers as well as entry-level positions for newly qualified TEFL teachers, and you can find volunteering gigs as well as paid jobs. Pay generally isn't high, particularly for work in the local language schools, but with a low cost of living it's easy to get by, even on a smaller salary. If you're looking to explore somewhere new where adventure waits at every corner, Colombia could be the teaching destination for you.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£300 – £400 (\$400 – \$520)	Preferred	Jan/Feb	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Bogota, Medellin, Bucaramanga, Barranquilla, and Cali

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1.5 million to 2 million pesos (£300 – £400/ \$400 – \$520) per month. Jobs for experienced teachers at IB schools can pay up to around 5 million (£1,000 / \$1,300) pesos per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions require a BA degree

Term times: Public school years start in January/February and end November with holidays in April, June and October. Private schools start in August/September and end in June

Currency: Peso (COP)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Public Schools, Voluntary, Government Program, Freelance

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not always required



You'll find that TEFL jobs in Colombia are predominantly Business English roles or immersion classes for adults. However, there has been a drive in recent years to provide language lessons for children in Colombia, as well as free programs for poor students. From voluntary and poorly paid work and roles for more experienced teachers, there are a variety of roles on offer in Colombia. Most jobs are happy to hire you in country and actually prefer for candidates to already be in Bogota, or at least in Colombia, but if you're applying for a government program such as TEC you should certainly look into it in advance. 1 year is standard for teaching contracts, but you can also find positions looking for as little as a month. Volunteer positions are usually for a minimum of 2 weeks, up to about 12 weeks.

Colombian students are friendly, laid-back, and often have a relaxed attitude to arriving to class on time. Expect students to call you by your first name, and you're unlikely to be required to wear a uniform or follow a strict dress code.

LIVING COSTS

Colombia is the second cheapest country in Latin America and cheaper than in 91% of countries in the World. While TEFL salaries aren't high, the cost of living means that you can get by on even the most modest wage. Voluntary teaching positions are common in Colombia and teachers still manage to have a nice time on their trip without earning a wage. Volunteer positions usually offer free accommodation and/or a monthly stipend, as well as domestic travel from Bogota.

Some expats can find life in Colombia a little rough and ready – don't expect things to run on time or be too efficient, but the locals are warm and welcoming, something that foreigners are quickly endeared to. You'll enjoy a wide variety of weather patterns (so pack appropriate clothing!) as well as sampling a mix of local delicacies when it comes to eating out.

While Colombia is shaking off its reputation as a dangerous place, you still need to take care when out and about. It's advised to call ahead and book a taxi rather than hailing one from the street, and always keep your belongings close by when on public transport or in crowded areas.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £303 – £508 / \$391 – \$656

Utilities: £45 / \$58

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £16 / \$20

Monthly transport pass: £25 / \$33

Basic dinner out for two: £7 / \$9

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.44 / \$1.85

A beer in a pub: £0.76 / \$0.98

1 litre of milk: £0.55 / \$0.70

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.82 / \$1.06

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN COLOMBIA

Although the TEFL industry is not quite as well developed as in other countries, you will still find a warm welcome and a high demand for native English and qualified TEFL teachers to teach here. The best time to find work is around February/March and July/August. You may want to time your arrival in the country with the start of the school term in order to give you the best chance at securing a TEFL job. You can apply for a work permit from within the country, but if you're arriving without a job you should at least arrange where you'll be staying before you arrive, as you'll need to give an address when you come through immigration.

EMPLOYERS IN COLOMBIA

[Berlitz](#) is a global TEFL employer which looks for TEFL qualified teachers with a BA.

[Bogota Business English](#) is located in the capital and looks for teachers with a TEFL certificate.

[Darlington English](#) prefers candidates who are already in Colombia and have TEFL experience. Contracts are for 2-years at one of their five branches.

The [English Teaching Fellowship Program](#) is founded by the Colombian National Ministry of Education. Receive a stipend of 1.5 million pesos per month.

[Footprints](#) is a TEFL recruiter that sometimes has positions in Colombia.

[Global Language Training](#) offers an internship teaching in Colombia for 5, 6, or 11-month contracts.

[International Volunteer HQ](#) is one of the most popular volunteer teaching programs in Colombia.

[Minga Teachers](#) features a variety of teaching jobs in Colombia.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.



Teach English in Costa Rica

Costa Rica, which translates as 'Rich Coast' in Spanish, lives up to its name as a beautiful country situated between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

With jungles, mountains, and lovely beaches, the scenery of this country will take your breath away. The rainy season lasts for a large part of the year (from April to December) so while the scenery is beautiful, the weather isn't always ideal. However, if this doesn't put you off then Costa Rica could be a great place for your next teaching adventure.

If you're picturing an idyllic lifestyle of hitting the beach every weekend in Costa Rica, take a good look at the map – most of the paid positions you'll be applying for are in San Jose, which is a good two-hour bus ride away from the nearest beach. Also, some expats say that San Jose is a polluted place to live and can be a dangerous place, so this can be a major consideration when choosing where to apply for jobs in Costa Rica. If San Jose doesn't sound like your cup of tea, many expats say that the city of Heredia is a better choice to get that balance between a good standard of living and somewhere with enough jobs on offer.

Costa Rica often features on lists of the happiest places in the world, as well as ranking as one of the greenest, so there are plenty of reasons to consider living there. Other perks of working in Costa Rica include great healthcare, and a variety of TEFL opportunities.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£300 – £700 (\$475 – \$1,000)	Preferred	March	Yes	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Heredia, Cartago, San Jose, Alajuela, Puntarenas, and Limon

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 300,000 – 615,000 colones (£300 – £700 / \$475 – \$1,000) per month. Positions are often advertised with their hourly wage, around 4,000 – 5,500 colones (£5 – £6 / \$7 – \$9) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: [A 120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term times: March 1st – December 1st

Currency: Colon

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Voluntary, Language Schools, Business English, and International Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Required for most positions



English is taught in primary schools as part of government policy, so standards have been improving in recent years. In the most recent EF English Proficiency Index, Costa Rica scored number 36 out of 100; since 2017 it's score has improved from 'low' to 'moderate'. While there is a large drive to learn English in Costa Rica, it can still be tricky to find paid positions, but for those who are happy to exchange voluntary teaching skills for a great experience abroad, there are rich opportunities to be found.

About 10% of the adult population speaks English as a second language. Expect to dress smartly for paid positions, though volunteer teachers will probably get away with a more relaxed attire. Students are typically well behaved, friendly, and eager to learn.

Many teachers start off in the capital as a way to get into the country, and then if they decide to stay in Costa Rica long term, move to another city with a better lifestyle on offer. Volunteer teachers will have far more choice when it comes to choosing a location, and with most positions offering free homestay to its volunteers, you don't need to worry too much about the cost of living.

LIVING COSTS

Costa Rica is the wealthiest country in Central America, but wages aren't typically high for TEFL teachers. Living in the capital can be expensive, but it's also where the highest wages are, so you'll have to look at all the facts and balance everything up. How you spend your free time in Costa Rica will depend a lot on the weather! In the rainy season, many expats enjoy indoor pursuits such as going to a museum, splashing out for a spa day, hanging out in cafes, visiting local breweries to sample craft beer, and of course, spotting the turtles which are easy to spot in the wet weather.

In good weather, most expats hit the beach and sample local delicacies such as gallo pinto (a dish of rice, beans, onions, red peppers, and cilantro), chifijo (rice and pork topped with avocado, pico de gallo, chimichurri, and lime), olla de carne (a slow cooked stew), and pipa fria (a cold coconut with a straw sticking out the top).

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £539 – £674 / \$757 – \$947

Utilities: £44 / \$62

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £54 / \$76

Monthly transport pass: £25 / \$34

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$22

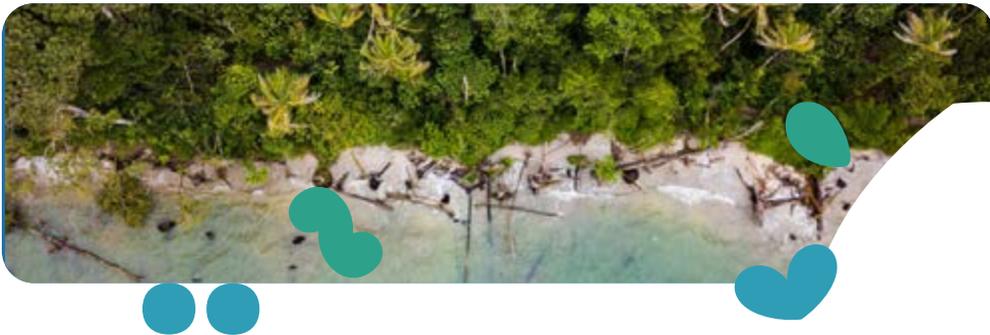
Cappuccino in expat area: £2.49 / \$3.49

A beer in a pub: £1.64 / \$2.30

1 litre of milk: £0.97 / \$1.37

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.80 / \$2.52

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN COSTA RICA

It's very difficult to get either a work visa or residency permit in Costa Rica. For immigration you'll need your birth certificate and background check to be notarized, then authenticated in Costa Rica. You'll also need to be fingerprinted. Schools typically aren't willing to help teachers sort all this out if they're just coming for a one-year stint because of the cost and time taken to get the paperwork sorted. Some schools encourage teachers to just renew their travel visa every 90 days, and make themselves scarce if the immigration officer turns up. Deportation does happen from time to time so make sure your school is clear on what their policy is.

EMPLOYERS IN COSTA RICA

[Centro Cultural](#) hires native speakers (or those with TOEIC 950 or above) and a minimum of one year experience.

[Costa Rica International Academy](#) requires teachers with a related degree, a criminal background check and two references.

[English 2 Go](#) serves predominantly business English clients.

[Intercultura Language and Cultural Center](#) looks for native speakers with a bachelor's degree and a TEFL/CELTA.

[Pro-Language](#) looks for native speakers with a TEFL or equivalent and at least 6 months' experience. Contracts are for a minimum of 4 months.

[Proyecto San Gerardo](#) looks for volunteers to teach conversational English in the local elementary schools and also to groups of adults.

[The Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center](#) looks for native English speakers to volunteer teaching English. You need a TEFL or similar, teaching experience, and an intermediate level of Spanish.

[The Swan English](#) requires applicants to have a TEFL or CELTA and experience. Positions are for a minimum of 4 months.

[Tico Times](#) is an English language online magazine that publishes classified jobs in Costa Rica.

[Universal Idiomas](#) looks for British or American native speakers with a TEFL/ TESOL, a university diploma and a couple of years of experience.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for latest positions.

Teach English in Dominican Republic

As one of the poorest countries in the Caribbean, most TEFL positions in the Dominican Republic are voluntary rather than paid roles.

While this isn't good news for those looking for long-term teaching positions, it makes the Dominican Republic a great place for newbie TEFL teachers who want to get some experience under their belt before committing to a longer contract. Also, travellers who want to do a bit of teaching while on a gap year or backpacking trip will be drawn to this destination, which is a popular tourist spot. In fact, it's the most visited destination in the Caribbean. The rising tourism industry in the Dominican Republic has led to increased demand for TEFL teachers, but wages remain modest. The low cost of living makes it easy to get by without earning much, and many voluntary positions will offer room and board in exchange for language skills.

Before the formation of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the island was jointly named Hispaniola. The oldest cathedral in the Americas, which dates back to 1540, is located in the Dominican Republic and is called the Catedral de Santa Maria La Menor. In the Bay of Samana you can catch a glimpse of humpback whales during mating season, or visit the sanctuary for injured animals. There is much to see and do in this idyllic setting; read on to find out how to get a teaching job in the Dominican Republic.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£350 – £570 (\$500 – \$800)	No	August	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Santo Domingo, San Juan de la Maguana and Santiago

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 28,530 – 45,650 DOP (£350 – £570 / \$500 – \$800 USD) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Not always required but certainly beneficial

Term times: The school year begins in mid-August

Currency: DOP (Peso)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Public School, Private Language Schools, Business English, International Schools, Private Tutoring, Online Teaching, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not required for most jobs



Locals aren't known for their punctuality, so don't be surprised if your students are often late for class. While there is a need for teachers to instruct school aged children, there are also plenty of adults who want to learn English to prepare them for university studies or to help them succeed in business. People are quite relaxed about their studies and their skill level can be variable.

In a warm location like the Dominican Republic, teachers will need to think carefully about their wardrobe before travelling – you don't need to be as modestly dressed as in other locations, but your teaching outfits should be cool to wear in warm weather but also look professional. Many teachers decide to use a scooter or motorbike to get around but be aware of what the roads are like. Motorbikes are popular because it makes it easy to get around, but accident rates are high. Something else to be aware of is that the Dominican Republic is one of the few countries in the world that has a complete ban on abortion. It's illegal both for women to seek an abortion and also for health professionals to provide it, with punishment of up to ten years in prison.

LIVING COSTS

One of the cheapest countries in Latin America, the cost of living in the Dominican Republic is cheaper than in 80% of countries in the world. When it comes to spending your free time in this destination, hitting the beach is the obvious choice. Apart from a moderate stormy season, temperatures and weather don't vary much throughout the year, and can be described as an 'endless summer' of warm, sunny weather. As well as beaches, there are swamps, tropical rainforests, and mountain ranges to explore. Golf is also highly popular in the Dominican Republic. Other popular activities include surfing, kayaking, swimming, kiteboarding, fishing, and horseback riding. If you'd rather spend your time visiting vibrant colonial cities and quaint villages, there will be plenty for you to do on your days off, not to mention the fascinating history and numerous museums there are to discover.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £606 – £813 / \$775 – \$1,040

Utilities: £47 / \$60

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £39 / \$50

Monthly transport pass: £18 / \$23

Basic dinner out for two: £21 / \$27

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.61 / \$4.62

A beer in a pub: £3.19 / \$4.08

1 litre of milk: £1.55 / \$1.99

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.87 / \$1.12

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Most teachers in the Dominican Republic teach on a tourist visa, but there are some schools who are willing to help their staff secure a work visa. British Citizens travelling to the Dominican Republic for tourism don't need a visa. On arrival you will normally be granted a 30-day stay. This can be extended to 120 days by paying for an extension when you leave the country. When it comes to finding a job, the easiest route is to contact schools in person once you're in the country. Private Language Schools will hire year-round (with the exception of a low period around Christmas) so you can pretty much just turn up and try to make some contacts. For more highly paid jobs at international schools that specify they want teachers with a degree and a TEFL, they might be willing to interview a teacher on Skype before they travel. While it isn't always necessary to have a degree to teach here, one thing that is useful is speaking a little bit of Spanish, so if you can brush up on your school Spanish classes, this will put you in good stead for making a good impression..

EMPLOYERS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[The Abraham Lincoln School](#) in La Romana is a bilingual school.

[Doulos Discovery School](#) is a Christian bilingual school in Jarabacoa.

[DR1](#) has a classified message board where you can ask the online community for help in finding a job or volunteering position in the Dominican Republic.

[The Instituto Cultural Dominicó-Americano](#) teaches students of all ages.

[Peace Villages](#) has a number of programs you can get involved in.

[Outreach 360](#) offers summer internships to teaching volunteers, and now also supports those who want to volunteer teaching English online.

[Santiago Christian School](#) looks for experienced teachers who will inspire their learners while pointing them to Jesus, and consider their position not just as a job, but as a calling.

[Supporting Guasa](#) is a grassroots NGO with a focus on sustainable education.

[UCNE](#) looks for English speaking teachers who are graduates in education related subjects or who have experience of working with children.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Puerto Rico.

Teach English in Ecuador

If you're a TEFL teacher looking to find adventure in South America, Ecuador is one destination you should be considering. Don't be put off by the low wages – while salaries aren't high, the cost of living is very low in this country.

While you can't save much of your pay packet, it's easy to get by when food and accommodation is so cheap. As such, Ecuador is becoming a popular destination for recently qualified TEFL teachers, who can live well on the salary and get a laid-back introduction to the teaching world. Many entry-level jobs have lower standards than other locations, enabling newer teachers to get a foot on the career ladder. As six-month contracts are standard, this is also a great opportunity for those just wanting to try out the TEFL life and not be tied down for a whole year.

Ecuador may be the second-smallest country in South America, but it has no shortage of exciting offerings. In a single day you could travel across glaciated Andean volcanoes, the Amazon Basin, and through tropical forests. There are plenty of outdoor pursuits available for the more adventurous, whether you fancy swimming, surfing, hiking, or horse-riding. For nature lovers, Ecuador will keep you captivated with its exotic birds and plants, unusual insects, and spectacular animals. With amazing landscapes, fascinating ecology, and great opportunities for exploring, variety is standard when it comes to this stunning country! When you arrive to teach English in Ecuador you will also encounter the warm and welcoming nature of the locals. All of these factors make Ecuador an exciting destination to teach English abroad.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£385 – £620 (\$500 – \$800)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Quito, Cuenca, Latacunga, Guayaquil, Quevedo

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region \$500 – \$800 (£385 – £620) per month, up to \$1,200 (£930) for more sought-after roles. \$3 – \$8 (£2 – £6) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is beneficial for most positions but not always required

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions prefer a BA degree but it's not always necessary

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: USD (\$)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, Private Language Schools, International Schools, Universities, Freelance, Volunteer

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Useful, not always required



If you have a TEFL qualification but no degree, there will probably be places willing to hire you. Ditto to if you have teaching experience but no qualifications whatsoever. Public schools are also an option if you don't have the qualifications to apply for better jobs, but these roles can be a challenge, with large class sizes, unmotivated students, and poor pay. If you're qualified and experienced, you're better searching for work at International Schools where the pay will be slightly better and the academic standards will be higher, too. For more qualified teachers, university positions are the best thing to aim for, as well as elite bilingual schools that offer programs such as the IB. Like any country, the better qualified/experienced you are, the better the jobs that will be open to you.

University students and the business community make up the majority of students wanting to learn English, but there are increasingly more opportunities to work with kids and teens, who you'll find to be fun and cheeky in class. Lessons might start early in the morning and continue until the evening, but with a break in the heat of the day. Standards are usually quite casual, and your employer might not provide you with a firm curriculum. Dress code is also likely to be casual, but female teachers are cautioned to dress modestly in this society.

LIVING COSTS

While wages are low in Ecuador, the cost of living is also very cheap. Few teaching positions come with any sort of accommodation, but if you can find another expat to share an apartment with, your outgoings will be minimal, even in the capital city. Just three or so hours of freelance teaching can earn you enough to cover a night in a hostel and an evening meal. Life in Ecuador can be fun and adventurous, making it a great opportunity for TEFL teachers looking for an exciting year, but also bear in mind that crime in this part of the world can be higher than other places, and so you have to be on your guard. Make sure you avoid any dodgy areas in town and don't show off expensive items in public.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £407 – £549 / \$526 – \$710

Utilities: £40 / \$51

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £29 / \$27

Monthly transport pass: £19 / \$25

Basic dinner out for two: £14 / \$19

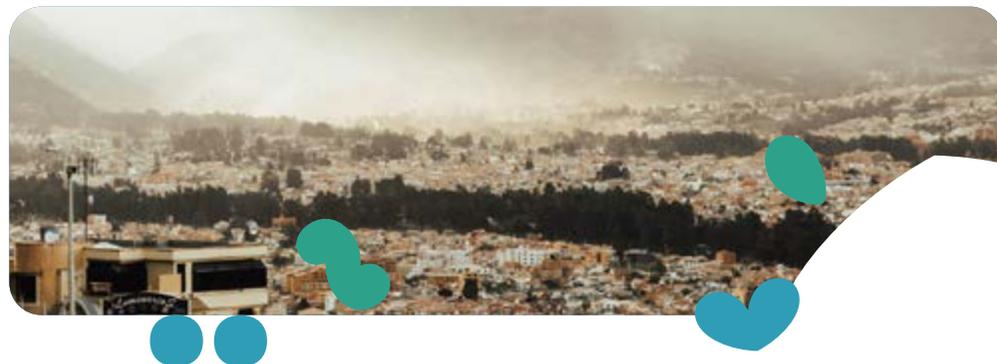
Cappuccino in expat area: £2.57 / \$3.32

A beer in a pub: £1.51 / \$1.95

1 litre of milk: £0.76 / \$0.99

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.49 / \$1.92

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ECUADOR

Top places to look for a job are Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca. Outside of these cities, legitimate TEFL opportunities can be hard to find, but you might be able to get some freelance work if you're just travelling through. Wages will also be extremely low in more rural destinations, but with a lower cost of living this mightn't be a problem for the travelling TEFL teacher. The best time to find a job is in February/March and July/August. While its possible to find work in advance by searching online, most teachers tend to look for positions once they're in the country. Working on a tourist visa is legal, but like in many South American countries, there isn't much official control over this. Visas you can look into are the Intercultural Visa (one-year validity) and the 12-IX visa (3 to 6-months validity). British and American tourists can stay for up to 90 days. Some schools might partially reimburse your visa fees, but are unlikely to offer other perks such as accommodation or flight reimbursement.

EMPLOYERS IN ECUADOR

The [British School](#) in Quito is an International School teaching kids aged 3 to 18.

To teach at [Cedei School](#) you need a BA degree, TEFL certificate, teaching experience, and to be a native speaker.

[Cedei Foundation](#) hires native speakers with a university degree in a relevant field and a TEFL certificate, as well as teaching experience.

[EF English First](#) is a global TEFL company with a branch in Quito. Contracts are for 6 months minimum up to two years, working 35 hours per week.

[InLingua](#) hires mostly part-time teachers who are native speakers with a TEFL qualification and experience (particularly Business English or TOEFL prep classes.)

[ISM](#) is an international school for middle and high school students in Quito.

[Teach English, Volunteer!](#) runs 3-month programs (up to six-months) between September and June for volunteer teachers.

[Vivientes](#) is a volunteering experience where you can try out a number of activities while teaching English. Fees vary.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.

Teach English in Guatemala

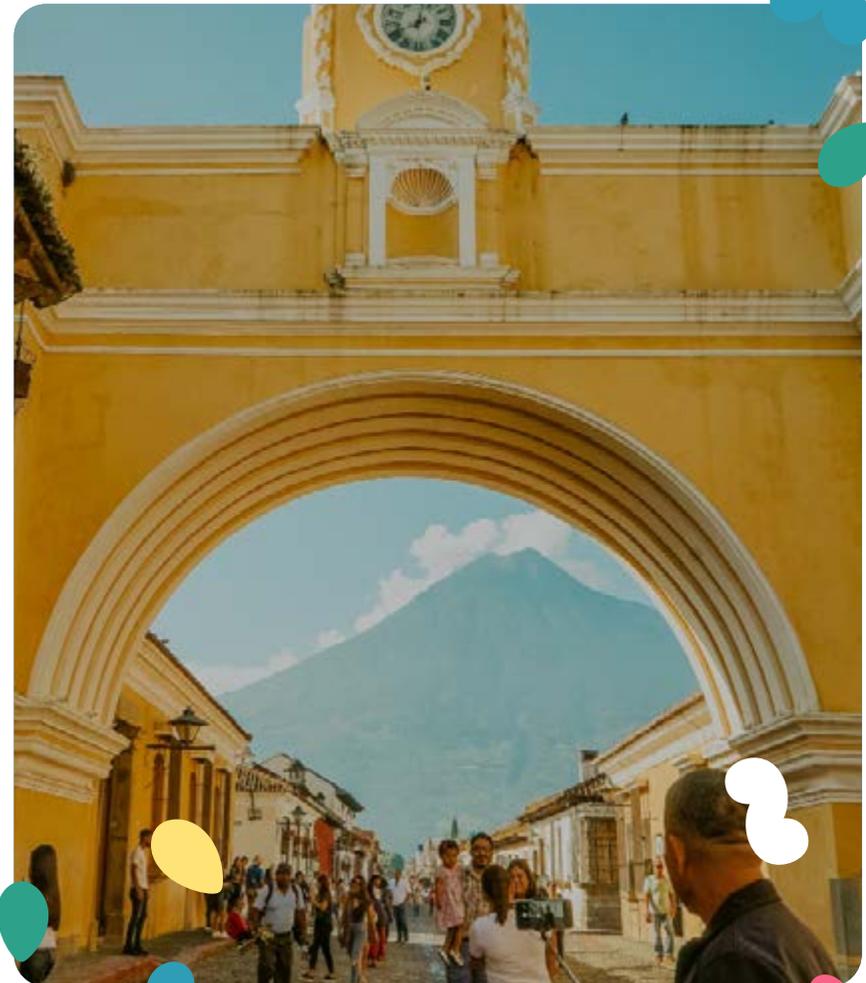
The central American country of Guatemala isn't a rich country, and without much disposable income to spend on English lessons, the TEFL industry isn't big business in Guatemala.

However, as is often the case in poorer countries, there are plenty of opportunities for those who wish to volunteer as an English teacher, making it a great destination for backpackers wishing to do something worthwhile as they travel, or for fledgling teachers wanting to gain a bit of experience.

Quetzaltenango, or Xela as it is more commonly known, is considered the "educational centre" of Guatemala, and recognized as a good place to search for work as a TEFL teacher, especially if you want to avoid Guatemala City, which is richer in teaching opportunities but has a bad reputation. Xela hosts a dramatic backdrop, surrounded by no less than 10 volcanoes! The rapid growth of the population fuels demand for education and English learning, although many roles are voluntary. There are five universities and numerous language schools dotted throughout the city. If you'd rather go somewhere off the beaten track, many volunteering opportunities focus on outreaching to more remote communities, such as in the villages around Lake Atitlan.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£350 – £590 (\$475 – \$800)	Preferred	Autumn	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Guatemala City, Xela, Antigua, San Pedro, Rio Dulce, and Lake Atitlan

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of \$475 – \$800 US (£350 – £590) per month. The hourly rate is \$2 US to \$5 US (£1.50 – £3.50) per hour in language schools; or up to \$8.00 US (£5.90) per hour for private lessons.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most paid positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for some paid positions

Term times: The school year starts in the autumn

Currency: Quetzal (GTQ)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Voluntary, Private Schools, Private Tutoring, Corporate

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Required for paid positions but not usually required for voluntary positions



Guatemala has the lowest literacy rate in Central America, so if you undertake a voluntary position teaching some of the poorest people in the country, have modest expectations when it comes to their linguistic abilities. However, middle and upper-class families who send their children to private schools will be better educated and have a more advanced ability in foreign languages. Recognising that learning English will help them have a brighter future, young people in Guatemala who have the opportunity to learn English will be eager to do so.

The main demand for English lessons in Guatemala comes from students just out of secondary school who need to show language proficiency in order to enter university or to improve their career options. Other Guatemalan people are simply interested in learning English because they like American culture and want to improve their English understanding, or perhaps to enable them to thrive in the tourist industry. While most tourists stick to Guatemala City, off the beaten track locations are gaining popularity and so local people want to capitalize on new tourism opportunities.

If you find a job at a private language school, expect long hours, which might not match your expectations when it comes to the salary. With a low cost of living, not earning much isn't a big problem in Guatemala, and so any type of paid work should be seen as a perk, especially as such roles are hard to come by. As well as private schools, you could inquire at universities or find out if there are students in the area who would be interested in private tutoring. Roles sometimes come up for corporate positions, such as teaching English to staff at the embassy, though these positions will have fierce competition.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Guatemala is cheaper than in 60% of countries in Latin America and cheaper than in 74% of countries in the world. As such a cheap destination, the fact that most positions are voluntary shouldn't put you off – most volunteering positions will provide food and accommodation, and some TEFL jobs in Guatemala include other benefits such as free Spanish lessons.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £435 – £618 / \$591 – \$840

Utilities: £44 / \$60

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £22 / \$30

Monthly transport pass: £9 / \$13

Basic dinner out for two: £14 / \$19

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.16 / \$4.30

A beer in a pub: £2.88 / \$3.91

1 litre of milk: £1.12 / \$1.52

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.40 / \$1.90

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN GUATEMALA

Check out regional expat magazines such as Que Pasa and La Cuadra for local news and job opportunities, as well as this website for opportunities in Xela. Most jobs can be found in Guatemala City, but there are also jobs to be found from time to time in Xela and also in the smaller villages. The best time to get hired is during the spring months for the term commencing in the autumn. If you don't want to commit to a long contract, find a short-term voluntary position or look for summer camp work. It's possible to work on a tourist visa, though not strictly allowed, and organisations will get around this by classing your salary as a 'living allowance' of a voluntary position. Visas are for 90 days, and can be renewed once for the same period before you need to leave the country to renew again. As Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua have formed an alliance with Guatemala, you'll have to go to a country beyond these ones to renew your visa..

EMPLOYERS IN GUATEMALA

The [American School of Guatemala](#) lists hiring opportunities on its website.

[Amigos de Santa Cruz](#) looks for both long term and short term (2-4 weeks) volunteers for their outreach program.

[Bilingual Education for Central America](#) looks for volunteer teachers for their summer school programs as well as long-term positions.

[Colegio Decroly Americano](#) provides lessons in English and Spanish.

[Cofradia Bilingual School](#) offers free accommodation to volunteer teachers.

[El Nahual](#) is a grassroots NGO Spanish school and community centre which looks for volunteer TEFL teachers.

[Helping Honduras Kids](#) is a charity looking for skilled volunteers to help out on various programs.

[La Union](#) organises volunteer work in various fields, including teaching, which you are free to participate in if enrolled in their Spanish classes.

If you have experience teaching IELTS, apply to the [Oxford Language Centre](#).

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.

Teach English in Mexico

The demand for TEFL teachers in Mexico remains high as more Mexicans want to learn English. English is the most commonly taught foreign language in Mexico, followed by French.

It's estimated that around 24 million people in the country study English in some way; however, only about 5% of the population have high proficiency in English. Mexico has a thriving tourism industry, and it's beginning to export more and more each year to English-speaking countries, such as the US and Canada. Not only that, but the popularity of moving to the USA for better job opportunities is so strong that many Mexicans still choose to enter illegally. For those who can gain top English skills that enable them to apply for good jobs, they can find employment that will allow them to enter the country legally.

For many Mexican citizens who wish to advance in the professional world of business, speaking English is an absolute requirement. Many Mexican companies conduct a certain amount of their business in English because of their close ties with the United States, and it's not uncommon for those wanting to get ahead to book English lessons during their lunch break, or to forgo their siesta for a language class. With the proximity to the USA, there is a slight preference for American English, although there is a high demand for English of any accent and if you're a qualified, experienced TEFL teacher, you won't struggle to find work. If you have experience as a business English teacher, this will put you in good stead when it comes to applying for jobs. However, there are also positions for those who'd prefer to teach children and young learners, with plenty of international schools across the country.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£300 – £730 (\$400 – \$1,000)	Preferred	August	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Mexico City, Monterrey, Nezahualcóyotl, Tijuana, Cancún, and Queretaro

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 8,000 – 20,000 pesos (£300 – £730/ \$400 – \$1,000) per month. For freelance or hourly work, usual pay is 45–120 pesos (£1.60 – £4 / \$2 – \$6) per hour up to 250 pesos (£9 / \$12) for private lessons in the city.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Not required, but employers often have a preference for one

Term times: The school year in Mexico starts in mid-August and ends in mid-July

Currency: Peso (MXN)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, Private Schools, Universities, Corporate Teaching, Private Lessons, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Experience isn't always necessary but will offer you more opportunities, particularly if you've taught business English



Mexico has a high literacy rate and many good schools, with some of its private business schools standing out in international rankings. The innovative National Autonomous University of Mexico is the best university in the country, known for its research projects. In Mexico, basic education is normally divided in three stages: primary school (primaria – grades 1–6) junior high school (secundaria – grades 7–9), and high school (preparatoria – grades 10–12). Mexico has more than 150 international schools where lessons are taught partly or wholly in English.

Teaching English in an elementary school in Mexico is a stable job, but positions are often poorly paid, particularly if you aren't experienced as a TEFL teacher. On the upside, the working day often ends at 2pm, so if you wanted to earn some extra income by taking on private students, you'd have free time to do that in the evenings after school. It's also increasingly popular to book private language lessons during the lunch break. Working in a private language centre is less likely to give you this freedom, as your shift could involve teaching in mornings, afternoons, or evenings, depending on the age of your students. Some language centres will pay by the hour rather than a fixed salary, so you could always work this in your favour to build up a portfolio of private students while earning a guaranteed wage.

While full-time positions are the norm, it's also possible to build up a host of different clients on a freelance basis while teaching in Mexico. Many teachers offer lessons to several different corporate clients as well as running private lessons. If you want to teach freelance on an informal basis, it's possible to exchange casual lessons for room and board, a popular option for backpackers through Mexico.

LIVING COSTS

While the typical salary for TEFL teachers in Mexico isn't great, the cost of living is low, meaning that even on a modest salary you can certainly get by. Full-time jobs are unlikely to offer accommodation but can help you find somewhere suitable to rent. Volunteer positions often come with free housing, and sometimes a modest monthly stipend is also provided. The cost of living in Mexico is cheaper than in 67% of countries in Latin America, and cheaper than in 79% of countries in the world. As such, even on a lower salary you can still enjoy an adventurous life in Mexico and spend your free time travelling and experiencing many of the most popular tourist attractions.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £371 – £694 / \$509 – \$952

Utilities: £38 / \$52

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £19 / \$26

Monthly transport pass: £19 / \$27

Basic dinner out for two: £11 / \$16

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.64 / \$3.62

A beer in a pub: £1.41 / \$1.94

1 litre of milk: £0.77 / \$1.05

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.09 / \$1.49

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN MEXICO

The best time to apply for teaching jobs in Mexico is August, for positions starting in September with the new academic year, but some sought-after roles will hire sooner. It's best not to apply in the weeks before a public holiday (such as Christmas time) because your application will be processed much more slowly. You're not supposed to work on a tourist visa (Brits and Americans can stay in Mexico for 180 days without a visa) but you're unlikely to be deported if you do get caught working as a tourist. For a full-time role you'll need an employment visa, but many private employers don't want the hassle of sorting out staff visas, and you'll be expected to provide the relevant documentation yourself.

EMPLOYERS IN MEXICO

[Ahpla](#) looks for those with a minimum of 6-months availability and can give assistance with working papers if you're going to be a long-term candidate.

Volunteer with the [Careyes Foundation](#) on their Children's English Program. The foundation supports classes for around 900 children.

[Cultural Relations](#) hires English teachers to teach kids, teens, and adults. Contracts usually start in August and last for 11 months.

[English 4 Life](#) is a business English school in Mexico City. You need to be TEFL certified to apply.

[Help! Heslington Language Program](#) has paid ESL positions as well as providing teaching opportunities for volunteers.

No teaching experience or TEFL qualification is needed to apply to [Interlingua](#), as long as you're a fluent speaker with good availability.

[Teachers Latin America](#) connects TEFL teachers with schools in Mexico (as well as several other locations).

[The Anglo Mexican Foundation](#) pays 16,000 pesos per month for teachers working a 45-hour week.

[University of the Sea](#) looks for native English speakers with a degree, TEFL certificate, and one year minimum of experience.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions.

TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“ Life in Mexico is also wonderful. I live in a beautifully colourful and relaxed city, close to the beach and surrounded by cenotes (clear water sink holes created by the meteor which killed the dinosaurs) and ancient Mayan ruins. Perhaps the best bit is it's just a few hours drive from the Caribbean. Every day it's warm and sunny and lovely and I have met some of the most amazing people in this surprisingly safe and friendly area of Mexico.

Everything that I've learned over the past couple of years has helped me to become more confident, knowledgeable and also more relaxed as an English teacher. There are more countries on my list to visit and in which I'd like to teach English. So I'm nowhere near ready to go back to the UK yet. TEFL really did open up doors for me and change my world and right now I couldn't see myself doing anything else.

Harriet, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Peru

Peru is best known for its Inca ruins, which are a major tourist attraction, but there is so much more to see in this varied and vibrant country than just Machu Picchu.

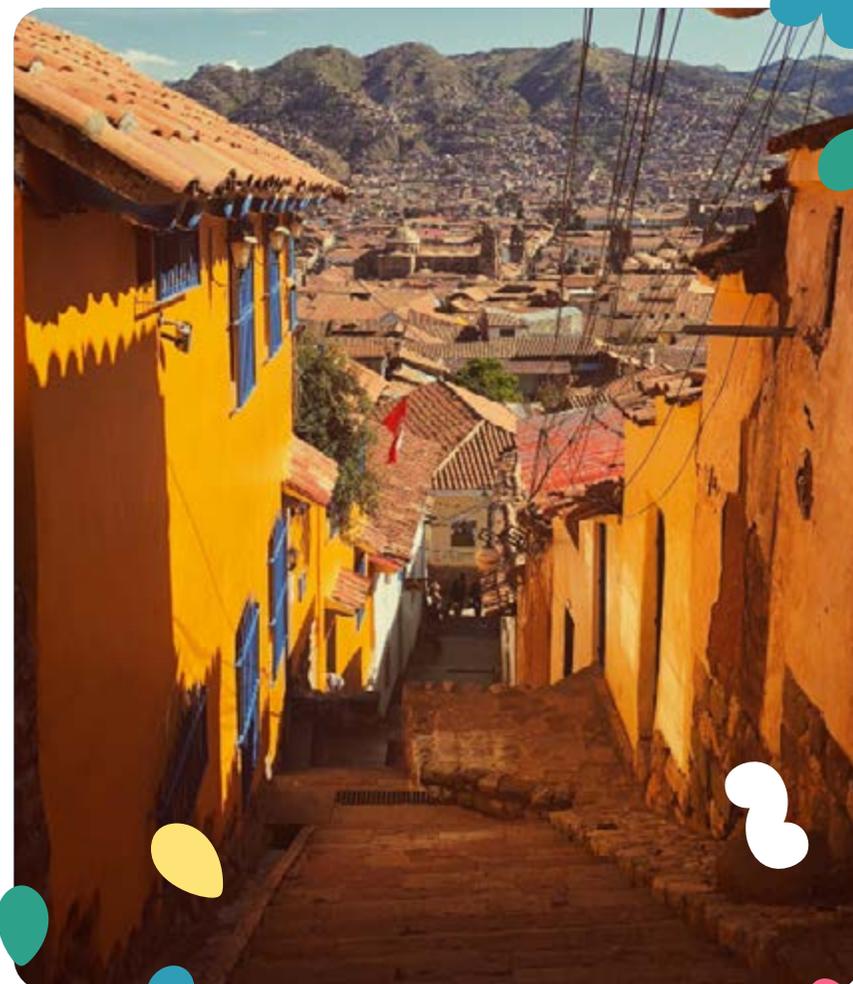
Traditional Peruvian culture remains important to this day, and while a modern lifestyle has been embraced, the country has woven together the old and new to create a unique and immersive experience for foreign travellers.

While in Peru you'll find activity and culture aplenty, whether you want to sample fine cuisine in the cities or feed macaws from a rainforest riverboat. Climb the peaks of the Andes, then cool off with a swim in the Pacific. Or you can just get caught up in some of the citywide festivals, many of which last for days. No matter your preference, life in Peru will offer a great deal, and the income from a TEFL position will be plenty to satisfy your needs and your curiosity.

Demand for TEFL has risen in recent years, as Peru has experienced sustained economic growth since 1993. If you want to teach kids, there are plenty of International Schools to apply to that are on the lookout for experienced TEFL teachers, and TEFL newbies can look to voluntary positions in the rural mountains. Business English is growing in popularity, and the tourist industry means that many Peruvians want to brush up on their language skills. In addition to global businesses and exports of natural resources, TEFL in Peru has also been on the rise due to the increasing presence of conservation efforts keen to preserve the remaining expanses of rainforests. In total, the atmosphere has proven to be very open to new TEFL instructors, making Peru an excellent place to begin your TEFL career.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£360 – £500 (\$500 – \$700)	Preferred	March	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Lima, Cusco, Sullana, Arequipa, Trujillo

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,890 – 2,640 Sol (£360 – £500 / \$500 – \$700) per month. Freelance teaching can earn you around 18 – 75 Sol (\$5 – \$20 / £3 – £15) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Having a degree is preferred but not required for all jobs

Term times: March – December

Currency: Sol (PEN)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Freelance, Voluntary, International Schools, Business English, Private Language Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not usually required



With tourism being a major industry in Peru and countless visitors flocking to Machu Picchu every year, many of your TEFL students will be adults hoping to improve their English for work. You'll find your students warm and friendly, with great emphasis being placed on community and the family unit. Peruvian dress is modest, especially in the rural communities where you'll find people more reserved. Students in Peru who are keen to learn English can sometimes find it difficult to respect boundaries and will blur the line between teacher and friend – it isn't recommended that you give your personal mobile number to your students, otherwise you might be plagued with grammar questions at all hours of the day. While Peruvians are hardworking, they can often be quite relaxed when it comes to timekeeping! However, as a teacher you should always be on time.

Teaching freelance in Peru can be lucrative but doesn't offer the stability of a full-time paid position. For those who are in Peru on a backpacking holiday or have free accommodation, acquiring a few freelance students can be a great way to make a little extra money as they travel. If you want to make more of a career of freelancing, you'd be wise to offer students a discount to buy lessons in bulk, and make sure to include a clause about cancellation fees – as a freelancer, you lose out when students cancel if they didn't pay in advance.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Peru is cheaper than in 75% of countries in Latin America, and cheaper than in 83% of countries in the world, making it a top destination for TEFL newbies travelling on a budget. Many teaching positions in this beautiful country are voluntary, and while you'll be provided with food and somewhere to stay, you might not have much in the way of disposable income to spend in your free time. However, there are plenty of things to do that don't cost a penny. If you love a party, in Peru there is no shortage of festivals for you to enjoy with newfound friends. The rich history and culture of this country makes it a great place to visit museums and archaeological sites. Peru is known for its beautiful beaches, and surfers flock to the Pacific coastline for its epic waves. You don't need to stick to the 'Gringo Trail' when it comes to seeing the sights – seek out the unbeaten track to discover amazing views and breath-taking experiences.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £342 – £512 / \$470 – \$703

Utilities: £37 / \$51

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £14 / \$20

Monthly transport pass: £21 / \$29

Basic dinner out for two: £7 / \$9

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.66 / \$3.65

A beer in a pub: £1.42 / \$1.95

1 litre of milk: £0.83 / \$1.14

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.42 / \$1.95

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN PERU

Most TEFL teachers say that it's easier to find work once you're in Peru rather than trying to organise work from outside of the country – the only exception to this is if you're applying for top roles with bilingual schools who will be much stricter about who they hire. These jobs are usually for 2-year contracts, as opposed to the 6–12-month contracts usual in language schools. If you're looking for an official international school job, apply no later than November – schools close from December to March for the summer holiday, and so hiring for the new academic term will be done well in advance.

Most TEFL teachers find that the best way to secure a job is to get to Peru first, and then pound the pavements with your CV once you've made some connections. While Lima has the most opportunities, don't restrict yourself to the capital as you can also find work in smaller cities as well as more rural areas around Peru. Trujillo is a good location to consider if you want to work with university students, while both Arequipa and Cusco have large expat communities.

Getting a work visa is quite rare in Peru and most people will teach on a tourist visa. Travellers from the US, EU, Britain, and Ireland don't need a visa and can stay for up to 90 days, as long as they have an onward ticket for the end of the trip. There's more good news on the visa frontier – if Peru turns out to be somewhere you're proud to call home, after three years of living there you can apply for permanent residence or local citizenship. More important than visas are taxes – if you have an official job, you need to make sure the tax office receives 15% of your earnings. If you're looking for voluntary work, contacting schools directly will be cheaper than going with a large company that charges fees.

EMPLOYERS IN PERU

[Brittany English Group](#) prefer British teachers with a TESOL, TEFL, or CELTA.

[Bumeran](#) is a website with classified ads featuring some teaching jobs in Peru.

[Business Links](#) teaches business English classes both in-person and online.

If you're looking for an International School in Peru, check out [this list](#) which details a large number of international schools across the country.

[Sayariy Resurgiendo](#) is a Peruvian non-profit NGO with a number of voluntary projects, including an education program that looks for English teachers.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Peru.

[Vive Peru](#) offers various enrichment programs in English teaching (and other volunteering opportunities).

Teach English in Puerto Rico

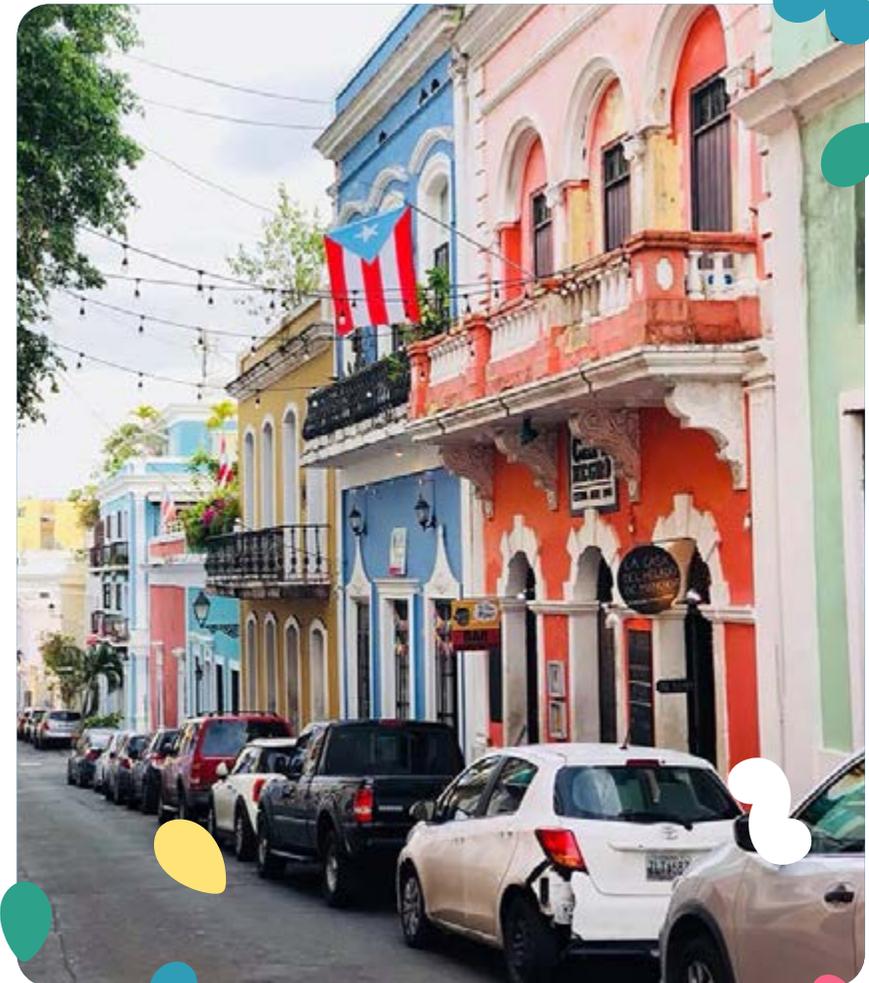
Puerto Rico may sound like more of a holiday destination than somewhere that you can find work teaching English, but this is a location with much to offer whether you're just travelling through or looking for a more long-term job.

While English is one of the official languages of this Caribbean island (along with French), it actually isn't spoken that widely and so there are ample opportunities for teaching it as a second language. The vibrant tourist industry means that locals are keen to learn English to help their businesses thrive. Locals are also keen to learn English to improve their chances of getting work abroad.

While there is a good demand for TEFL teachers in Puerto Rico, there's also a fair amount of competition, and when you look at the weather, it's easy to see why. A tropical rainforest climate with temperatures ranging from warm to hot throughout the year, you'll probably be wearing the same sort of outfit all year long. Daily temperatures don't change much from one month to the next, and you can expect it to be 85 °F (29 °C) in the lower elevations and more like 70 °F (21 °C) in the mountains. The great weather (9 hours of sunshine a day!) makes it easy to enjoy the stunning natural beauty on offer in Puerto Rico, as well as the other smaller islands, some of which are often uninhabited, making them a true paradise. From mountains and forests to manmade lakes and gorgeous beaches, Puerto Rico is a photographer's paradise. Do bear in mind that Puerto Rico sits at the boundary between the Caribbean and North American plates, making it prone to seismic activity such as tsunamis and earthquakes.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
\$700 – £1,400 (\$1,000 – \$2,000)	Yes	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: San Juan, Bayamón, Dorado and Ponce

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 700 – £1,400 (\$1,000 – \$2,000) per month. For master's qualified teachers in international schools, positions may pay upwards of \$3,000 (£2,125) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term Time: Term starts in September

Currency: USD \$

Language: Spanish and English

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, International Schools, Private Language Schools, Tutoring

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not always required but will be beneficial



While both English and Spanish are the official languages of Puerto Rico, locals will use Spanish at home, at work and at school (barring bilingual schools). At university level, some courses are taught in English, but Spanish is basically the predominant language. Teachers with an American or Canadian accent are often preferred for TEFL roles, but don't rule it out if you come from elsewhere.

The Department of Education in Puerto Rico is putting more emphasis on the importance of learning English, and as such, it's possible to get work teaching English in public schools, not just private schools. Of course, private international schools are also a good option for teachers who want to work in a multilingual environment, but you'll likely need better qualifications and more experience to work in this sort of school. Universities are also an option for well-qualified teachers. There are private language schools which will be easy to find in big cities, and there are increasing numbers of EFL schools in rural locations too. Teaching contracts are typically for 1-year but sometimes you can find contracts for 6-months.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Puerto Rico has rocketed in the last decade, and so the country now finds itself ranking as one of the most expensive places in the region. In particular, rent and bills are fairly high, so if you can find a job that provides accommodation, this would be a big bonus. With a relatively high cost of living, how you spend your spare time will depend on how much disposable income you have. It doesn't cost much to enjoy the natural beauty of this stunning country, and while it can be nice to just chill out on the beach, other activities you can get involved in include snorkelling, scuba diving, surfing, and spearfishing. Hiking is a great way to appreciate the flora and fauna in this diverse landscape. You'll also enjoy sampling local delicacies such as mofongo (which are plantains stuffed with either seafood, pork or vegetables), asopao soup (made from chicken, vegetables and rice) or lechon (a pig roasted on a spit – popular for parties).

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £512 – £1,038 / \$728 – \$1,474

Utilities: £120 / \$171

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £29 / \$41

Monthly transport pass: £23 / \$33

Basic dinner out for two: £29 / \$42

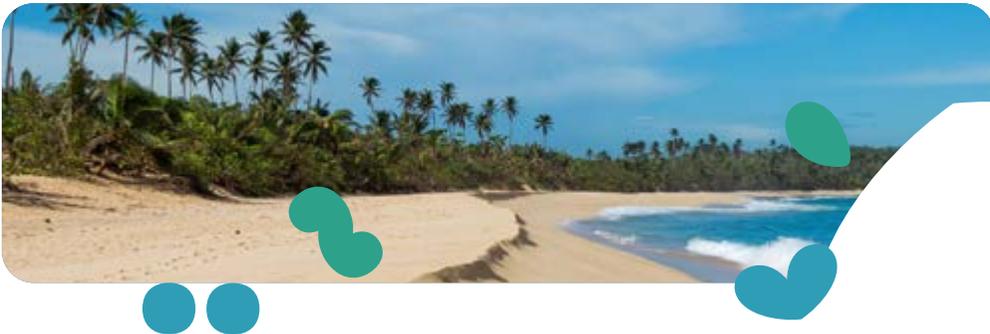
Cappuccino in expat area: £2.32 / \$3.29

A beer in a pub: £1.98 / \$2.81

1 litre of milk: £1.34 / \$1.90

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.99 / \$1.41

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN PUERTO RICO

You'll need a work visa to teach in Puerto Rico if you aren't from the US. The benefits that come with TEFL jobs in Puerto Rico vary widely from school to school. Some will offer free accommodation, return airfare, insurance, and contract completion bonuses, whereas other positions won't. When weighing up your options, take these benefits into consideration as well as the salary on offer. While salaries are fairly good for full-time teaching roles, remember that the cost of living can be high too.

EMPLOYERS IN PUERTO RICO

[The Baldwin School of Puerto Rico](#) is an IB school located in Bayamón. Current teaching positions can be found listed on their website.

The [Caribbean School](#) is located in Ponce and looks for fluent English speakers.

[The Commonwealth-Parkville School](#) is an elementary, middle and high school in San Juan. Inquiries from prospective teachers are welcome throughout the year but the best time to inquire for the following school year is between March and April. Applicants should be experienced, professional and dedicated to lifelong learning.

[Dorado Academy](#) is an independent, non-profit English language college preparatory school offering services from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade.

[inlingua](#) Language School is known for its fun, lively lessons involving plenty of role play to give a 'real life' experience of using English in context.

[Robinson School](#) is an IB school who prefer candidates with experience of teaching the IB.

[Saint John's School](#) hires English speaking teachers for both their primary and secondary pupils.

[The TASIS School](#) in Dorado has summer program vacancies as well as hiring for full-time teaching positions.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Puerto Rico.

Teach English in Uruguay

When you think of Latin America, the first places that spring to mind are big, vibrant locations such as Brazil and Argentina, but underdogs like Uruguay are well worth consideration.

South America's second smallest country is finally emerging as a popular destination for both tourists and expats. Uruguay is a sophisticated country with a heady mix of metropolitan chic and rural wilderness. The stable economic growth and progressive cultural attitudes make it a great place for English teachers to find work in Latin America. Uruguay is also a popular choice compared to other Latin American countries as it is one of the most stable countries in the region and it has a low crime rate.

The capital, Montevideo, balances the country's colonial past with a progressive present, and schools in the region are keen to find new TEFL teachers. Wages aren't high, but neither is the cost of living, and there are plenty of voluntary opportunities, too.

Uruguay is a favourite backpacker destination due to the easy visa process, idyllic views and unblemished natural wonders you can see there, but it's just as lush a location for those wanting to spend a longer stint with a glorious backdrop. Experience miles of unspoilt sandy beaches or seek out secluded coastal spots where surfing is king. If you'd rather head inland, take a bus ride inland for rolling plains that stretch to the horizon, or go trekking along meandering rivers. If you prefer city breaks, head to the towns and villages that boast cobblestoned streets and local specialities that you won't find in the buzzing restaurants of Montevideo. Whether it's sun, sand, wine, or food you're after, Uruguay has it all to hand.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£100 – £172 (\$140 – \$235)	Preferred	March	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Montevideo

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 6,230 – 10,435 UYU (£100 – £172 / \$140 – \$235) per month. Full-time roles in bilingual or international schools will have much higher wages, around 33,000 UYU (£545 / \$745) per month

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most paid positions, and helpful for volunteering roles

Prerequisite university degree: Usually required for paid positions, not always for volunteering roles

Term times: March to December

Currency: Uruguayan peso (UYU)

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: Volunteering, Private tutoring, Universities, Bilingual Kindergartens, Private Language Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Useful for paid positions



Uruguay has a high quality education system, with compulsory education up to the age of 18 and free university, with increasing numbers in higher education studies. It has one of the highest literacy rates in Latin America, and is part of a project called One Laptop per Child, where every primary school student in the country is provided with a laptop for educational purposes. The teacher/student ratio in Uruguay classrooms is one of the lowest in the world, which is another contributing factor in their great literacy rate and success in getting students to attend their compulsory schooling.

On the EF English Proficiency Index in 2020, Uruguay ranked as 51 out of 100 countries. It doesn't sound like a great score, but it's close to transitioning into the 'moderate' skill list rather than the 'low' list, and actually scored better in both 2019 and 2018. Uruguay ranks around the middle of the list compared to other Latin American countries.

TEFL teachers in Uruguay say that their students are friendly and welcoming. Locals in Uruguay are keen to improve their English, so if your regular job doesn't cover your living costs, it shouldn't be too hard to find some private students to tutor in your free time. Many TEFL teachers in Uruguay choose to earn a little extra by teaching online, which can earn you better wages than teaching locally and is also a great choice because Uruguay has some of the fastest internet speeds (for the lowest cost) in South America.

LIVING COSTS

As the fourth most expensive country in Latin America, Uruguay isn't the cheapest place to live in South America, but you'll enjoy a premium standard of living, and the income for TEFL teachers in the city will be more than adequate to live comfortably. If you like cycling, head to the rambla in Montevideo – a 14-mile long waterfront stretch of cycle paths and walking routes, dotted with restaurants. If you want other ideas of how to enjoy yourself for cheap in Uruguay, look out for open air music performances and dance squares where people gather on a regular basis. The weather in Uruguay is mild, though it can get quite windy along the coast. Traditional dishes you'll want to try in Uruguay include asado barbeque, rice pudding served with dulce de leche, fried bread, capeletis a la caruso (stuffed pasta/dumplings), and the best sharing option of Revuelto Gramajo, which is a plate of French fries combined with sautéed onions, eggs, ham, and green peas.

Uruguay has a public healthcare system, but most expats choose to become members of the mutualista, which is like health insurance but is attached to a specific clinic or hospital.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £389 – £604 / \$537 – \$836

Utilities: £87 / \$120

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £31 / \$42

Monthly transport pass: £33 / \$45

Basic dinner out for two: £16 / \$22

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.02 / \$4.18

A beer in a pub: £2.88 / \$3.99

1 litre of milk: £0.58 / \$0.80

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.78 / \$2.46

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN URUGUAY

More than 40% of the population live in the capital, Montevideo, so this is a clearly the place where you'll find the most job opportunities. Voluntary roles will often come with accommodation, but you'll have to provide your own food. Paid roles are tricky to find, and if you want a chance of getting an interview you'll need to be experienced and have at least a 120-hour TEFL qualification. Having a TEFL qualification is usually more important than having a BA degree. Most teachers find that it's easier to find a job once they're in Uruguay and can attend an interview in person. Work contracts are usually for either 6 or 12 months, and you'd be best to apply for a work visa once you have a job lined up. Peak hiring season in Uruguay is from March to August, and jobs sometimes include perks such as free Spanish lessons.

EMPLOYERS IN URUGUAY

[Anglo](#) has a number of TEFL schools in Uruguay and specialises in IELTS and Cambridge exam preparation classes.

[English Language School](#) is based in Lagomar.

As well as English courses, [Dickens](#) also offers Portuguese language courses and teacher training courses through Cambridge and Trinity.

[ESLstarter](#) has 6 and 12 month contracts for qualified TEFL teachers. Housing allowance and round airfare ticket included. The pay is 33,000 UYU per month.

[International House](#) has TEFL positions all over the world. Get in touch with them about current opportunities in Montevideo.

[La Herradura](#) looks for volunteers to teach English in Montevideo.

[The English Institute](#) has courses for both juniors and adults

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings of current teaching positions in Uruguay.



A young woman with long brown hair and bangs is smiling broadly, wearing sunglasses and a bright yellow off-the-shoulder top with a floral pattern. She is standing in front of a large, ornate Gothic cathedral with a colorful tiled roof and a tall spire. The scene is overlaid with a light blue tint. The word "EUROPE" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

EUROPE

Teach English in Austria

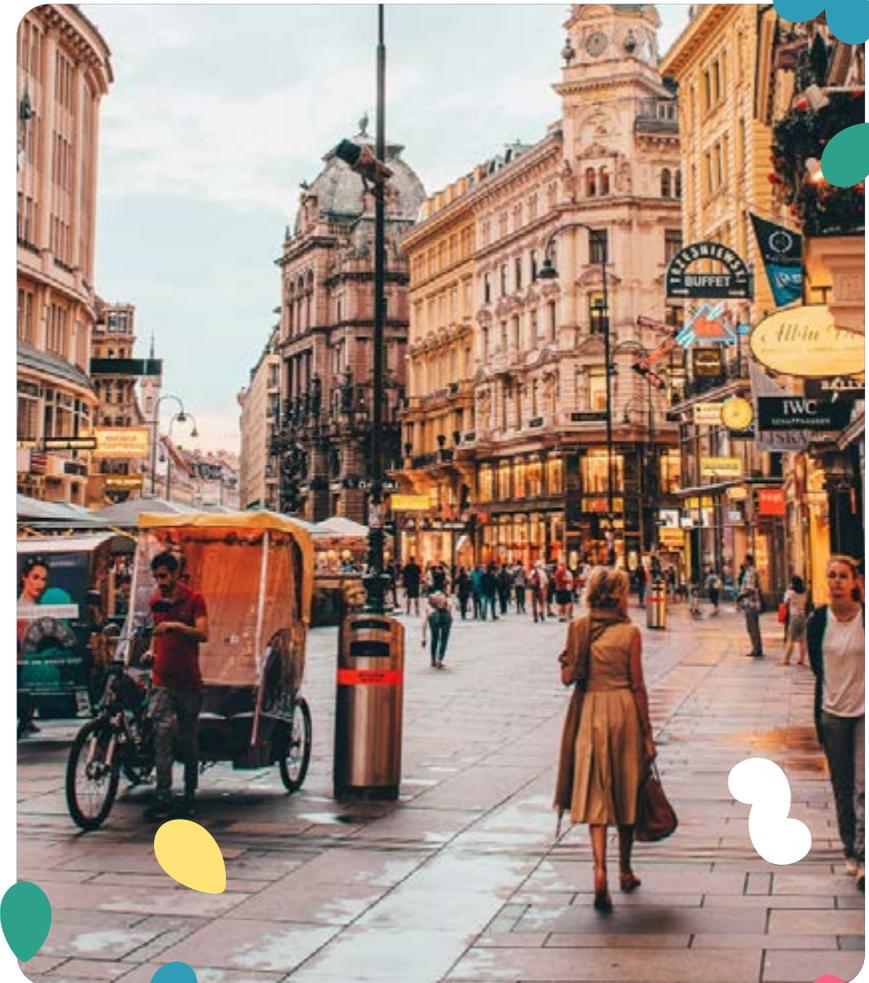
The land of Wiener Schnitzel, The Sound of Music, ski resorts, Apfelstrudel, amazing churches, the birthplace of classical music and the likes of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Strauss: Austria is a German-speaking country with a fascinating history and rich culture.

If you've got experience in teaching Business English, you'll be ahead of the game when it comes to finding employment in Austria. English for business purposes dominates the market in this country, so if you've done this before and have a great rapport with adult students, you'll find it easier to get work than those who have only worked with young learners. However, there is strong employment opportunity for teaching young people during the summer months at popular holiday camps, as well as opportunities at language schools and high-paying international schools.

The market for TEFL teachers is tricky in Austria at the moment. 90% of TEFL teachers there are freelance, which means that full-time TEFL contracts are hard to come by and there will be tough competition. Most teachers have a number of part-time contracts which they weave together to make a full wage, and they organise and pay tax as a self-employed person. If you've never done this before, read up on it before embarking on a freelance career as it's important that you get it right to keep your work above board. Most employers prefer to hire someone already living locally, so like a lot of places in Europe your best chance of success is to get into the country and search for employment once you're there. It's almost impossible for non-EU citizens to find work and get visa sponsorship, but there are a few specialist programs that can set up work for Americans and Canadians.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£700 - £2,600 (\$850 - \$3,200)	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Vienna, Salzburg, Graz, Innsbruck, Eisenstadt, Klagenfurt, and Linz.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The average salary for teaching in Austria is €775 – €2,900 per month (£700 – £2,600/\$850 – \$3,200). Most positions are freelance with rates per class or per hour, around €18 – €20 (£16 – £18/\$19 – \$21) per 45-minute lesson or €20 – €35 for an hour (£18 – £31/\$21 – \$38).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for most jobs.

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions require a degree, and jobs in international schools require teachers with QTS.

Term times: September to June, some courses run October to May.

Currency: Euro (€)

Language: German

Teaching programmes: International schools, language schools, private schools, public schools, kindergarten, freelance, summer camps, adult education centres, university teaching, English-speaking nanny or babysitter.

Age restrictions: Some summer school positions have a minimum age limit of 20 – 23. Some working holiday positions or other placements have limits such as 18–30 or a preference for those under 35.

Previous teaching experience: Experience teaching business English is the most useful, but for positions working with young people you're usually expected to have worked with kids before.



With the majority of TEFL teachers in Austria working freelance, it can be tricky to cobble together enough work to make ends meet. While the pay isn't always amazing for freelance hours, the cost of living is reasonable, so it's certainly doable. In the beginning, you'd be best to cast a wide net and try to secure at least two freelance positions. Many positions will have you working at a number of different schools, perhaps even visiting a different school each day of the week. Bearing this in mind, while you might start off testing the waters with 3 or 4 part-time positions, don't stretch yourself too thinly, and instead focus on the jobs with the best prospects once you have a feel for the company.

When applying for jobs, always check whether the salary quoted is gross or net. Also ask about other costs involved, particularly with jobs where you need to travel between schools for class, as your travel costs may not be reimbursed. Also make sure to ask when you get paid, as some schools will pay you at the end of a course rather than monthly.

Austrians expect teachers to be smartly dressed, polite and professional. Except a formal interview and try to greet your interviewer in German to be polite and respectful. While the Austrians enjoy a nice quality of life, they're also hard workers and expect a good performance from their TEFL teachers.

LIVING COSTS

Despite having a reputation as an expensive place to live, the cost of living in Austria is cheaper than in 79% of countries in Western Europe. This means that you can afford a good quality of life even if your wages aren't the highest. Often placing in a top 5 position on quality of life destination lists, Austria achieves this through a low crime rate, low pollution and good green initiatives, a good public transport system, good social equality and an enviable public healthcare system.

At the crossroads of eastern and western Europe, you're perfectly placed for enjoying a variety of foreign travel during your time off. If you like skiing, you'll find plenty of opportunities to hit the slopes.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £747 – £1,045 / \$904 – \$1,264

Utilities: £138 / \$167

Health insurance: You can use the European Health Insurance Card in Austria. Cost of typical visit to a GP: £91 / \$111

Monthly transport pass: £46 / \$55

Basic dinner out for two: £26 / \$32

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.78 / \$3.36

A beer in a pub: £3.50 / \$4.24

1 litre of milk: £1.03 / \$1.24

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.88 / \$2.27

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN AUSTRIA

If you're looking at teaching TEFL in Austria for the long haul, consider joining [TEA](#), a non-profit for Teachers of English in Austria. They can't help you with job searching, but hold workshops, events and conferences as well as publishing a TEFL magazine. Jobs for non-EU citizens are almost impossible, but there are a few specialist employers listed below for those from the USA or Canada. For most jobs, employers prefer candidates who are already in the country. For some jobs, you might need proficiency in German. Language assistant positions are good for newbie TEFL teachers without much experience.

EMPLOYERS IN AUSTRIA

[Berlitz](#) has 10 language centres in Austria, and they also run language camps for kids and teens.

[Biku](#) is an unusual mix of travel agent, language summer camp provider, project weeks, day care and other language lessons.

[British Council](#) hires language assistants for four- or eight-month contracts.

[Camps for Friends](#) hires native English (and Italian) tutors for their summer camps.

Similar to the BC position, if you're from the USA look at [Fullbright Commission](#).

[KIDSCO](#) hires around 30 native speakers to deliver classes to young learners.

[Sidas School](#) is a Slovakian company that runs Summer Day Camps and other programs in Austria.

[VHS](#) is the Vienna Adult Education Centre.

[The Yellow Pages](#) can be used to find TEFL work in Austria, just search 'Sprachschulen u-unterricht' for over 200 language school listings.

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in Belgium

One of the smaller European countries (similar in size to the Netherlands), Belgium nonetheless only just misses out on featuring in the top ten European countries when it comes to population size.

Belgium, officially known as the Kingdom of Belgium, has three official languages as well as minority languages and dialects. The majority of the population belong to the Flemish community and speak Dutch, with another large percentage speaking French, and the third language is German. There's a lot of crossover here with a multilingual population – for example, 39% speak French as their first language, and 49% speak it as a second language. More than one third of the population speak English as a second language. It's not uncommon for those under the age of forty to speak three or more languages, so you'll likely come across a few polyglots during your time in Belgium.

With such a linguistically varied nation, there is obviously a large demand for language teachers. At the same time, with a linguistically talented population, many bilingual locals take on work as language teachers. This means that while there certainly is demand in Belgium, competition can be tough and positions are reserved for well-qualified, experienced TEFL teachers. Native teachers are still sought after because many language tutors in Belgium will only speak English as a second language, and precision work such as translation will also be available.

So while it can be tricky to get your foot in the door (especially if you don't speak French or Dutch because of the endless paperwork you'll encounter in Belgium) for those determined individuals it's a great location to check out. For experienced and well-qualified teachers, you can find high-paying jobs, enjoy a good quality of life and be well-placed in Europe for some epic travels during your time off.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,455 – £1,780 (\$1,800 – \$2,200)	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Tervuren and Waterloo.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of \$1,670 to \$2,000 (£1,455 to £1,780/\$1,800 to \$2,200) per month. Hourly or per-class rates vary, with rates around \$15 (£13/\$16) for a 40-minute class (with Berlitz), and \$22.10 – \$27.50 (£19.35 – £24/\$23.85 – \$29.65) per hour (with CLL). Summer positions may pay around \$1,000 (£875/\$1,078) but also offer accommodation and food

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most jobs as a minimum.

Prerequisite university degree: Many jobs require a degree, but check they recognise your qualification. Some jobs (like teaching in a state secondary school) will require a specific degree, like a BA or MA in English.

Term times: The school year starts in early September.

Currency: Euro

Language: Dutch, French and German

Teaching programmes: Business English, Corporate English, Online Classes, Freelance, Summer Schools, Language Schools.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Some usually required, the best positions require several years of experience.



Corporate work can be a good gig for TEFL teachers as there are many large companies in Belgium, featuring everything from insurance and banking to pharmaceutical and food retail. If you have experience teaching business English, have a degree in a relevant topic, or perhaps have previous work experience in one of these sectors, these will all work in your favour towards getting corporate work.

For any job in Belgium, speaking a foreign language yourself will boost your job prospects. This is especially true if you can speak Dutch or French – whichever is prevalent in the region you're working in. Some multilingual language schools will teach other foreign languages, so check that out if you are fluent in something else. To work in a state school or university you'll have to have at least a B1 proficiency in Dutch or French, although it's generally tricky to hire non-Belgium's in this sector.

Pay is good in Belgium, with one of the highest minimum wages in Europe. On the other hand, it has one of the highest tax rates, which is on a sliding scale between 25% and 50%, depending on how much you earn. It's important to take this into consideration when working out the cost of living in Belgium up against your salary.

LIVING COSTS

Given the high wages in Belgium, the cost of living is affordable, but remember that your salary is significantly reduced by the high tax you pay. Locals and expats enjoy a good quality of life in Belgium, and you'll no doubt soon be indulging in some popular Belgium beer, a plate of Belgian fries or some of their world-famous chocolate. Around a tenth of the population are expats, so you'll find no shortage of other foreigners to connect with as well as locals. Foreigners often describe their life in Belgium as living in a small city that has a big city feel – if you live in one of the more popular locations, you'll find it cosmopolitan and vibrant.

The weather isn't great in Belgium, with long winters, plenty of rain and grey days. However, it's well-placed for easy access to other European countries, making it possible to travel to warmer climates when you get some time off. Regional travel is good, but expect frequent train delays – usually only for 10 minutes or so, but this can add up if you're commuting.

Dining out is high quality in Belgium and attractions are varied and affordable. If you're into art and culture, you'll find plenty to see and do in this small country. With a largely Christian population, you'll find plenty of churches to visit around towns and cities. Going to the cinema, fishing trips, forest hiking, visiting bars and clubs, and heading to the beach are all popular pastimes in Belgium.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £534 – £808 / \$661 – \$999

Utilities: £91 / \$113

Health insurance: European Health Insurance Card system. Once you're paying social security, you can sign up for a state sponsored health insurance scheme. Cost of typical visit to a GP: £22 / \$27

Monthly transport pass: £44 / \$54

Basic dinner out for two: £38 / \$47

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.03 / \$3.74

A beer in a pub: £3.96 / \$4.90

1 litre of milk: £0.82 / \$1.02

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.04 / \$2.53

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN BELGIUM

Look out for the bi-annual Newcomer magazine, which is invaluable for recently arrived TEFL teachers looking for language school jobs. It can be tricky to start out as a TEFL teacher in Belgium, particularly if you don't have much experience or are recently qualified. If this is the case, test the waters by applying for work in a summer school, where you'll be providing pastoral duties and entertainment to the children as well as their English instruction. As is the case with summer schools anywhere in the world, quality varies and the focus is often more on having fun than academic excellent, but if you take it for what it is, it can be a good way in.

EMPLOYERS IN BELGIUM

Freelance positions at [Call International](#), recruits throughout the year, you might need a car to travel between classes.

[Ceran](#) is a good company for summer schools,

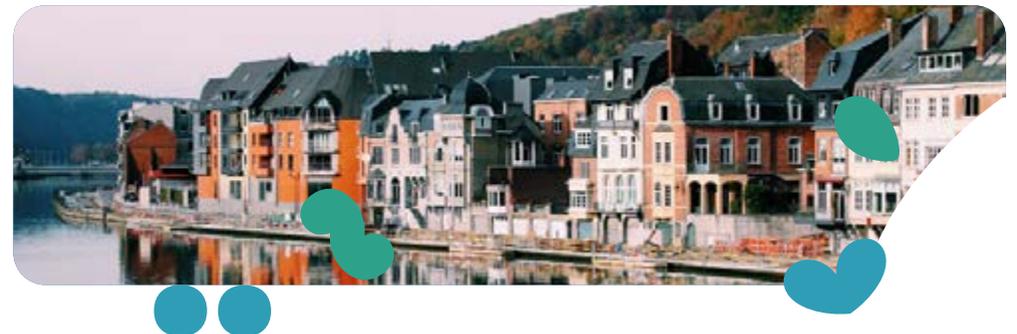
[CLL Centre de Langues](#) hire freelance instructors for their adult/teen/kid classes.

Search for 'language schools' on the [Golden Pages](#), entering a location or leave blank to get over 100 listings.

[Let's Speak Good English](#) is a small team, offering full-time contracts.

To teach telephone or online lessons, look at [Phone Languages](#).

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in The Czech Republic

One of the most popular TEFL destinations in Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic is a country rich in cultural character and history.

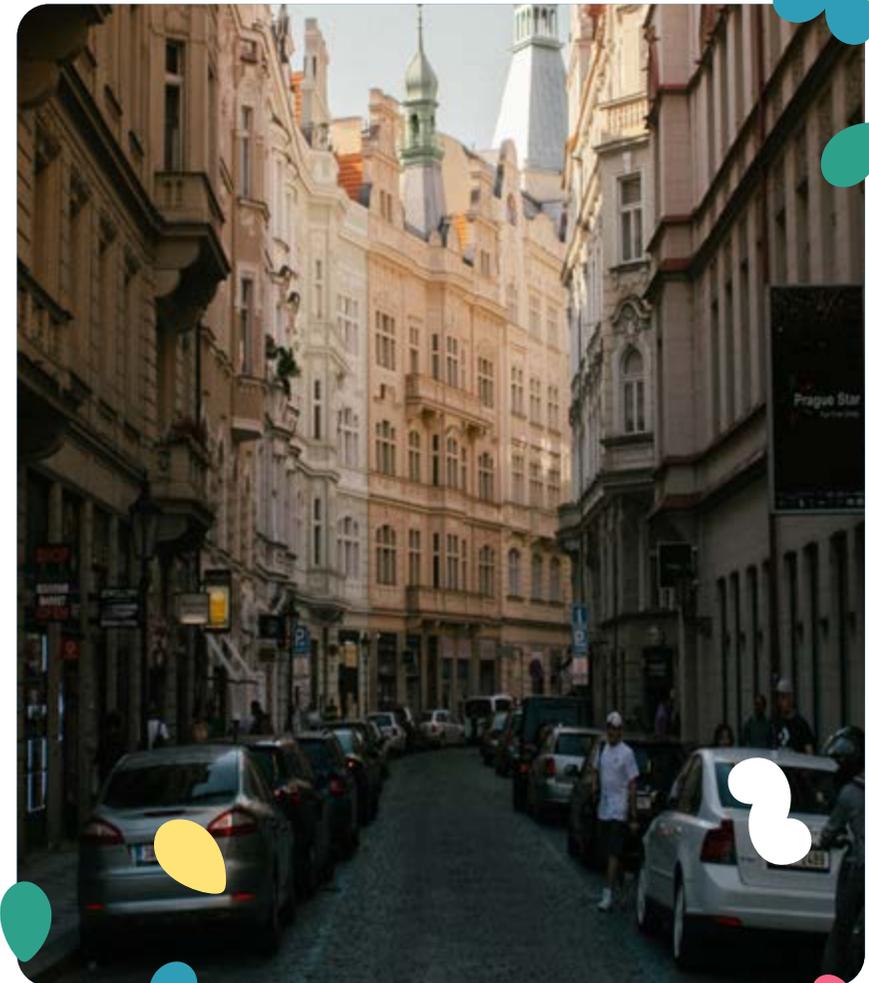
The vibrant capital of Prague is home to a cosmopolitan atmosphere and captivating architecture. Cheap public transport makes it possible to explore the rest of the country at ease, so it's easy to get out of the city and visit the scenic spots in the countryside where you can enjoy hiking or skiing. From spectacular mountain ranges to colourful bohemian markets, there is so much to experience and discover in the Czech Republic.

Prague is undoubtedly the most sought-after TEFL location in the country. While there are plenty of opportunities to live in the country's capital, competition can be tough for the better jobs. However, don't overlook living in smaller cities or towns where you can enjoy an immersive experience in the country and live like a local, all while still enjoying visits to the capital in your free time. The best paid jobs aren't necessarily found in the capital, either. At the heart of central Europe, you'll also be perfectly placed for visiting other countries either in the east or west side of the continent on your longer holidays.

With opportunities for both seasoned and newly-qualified teachers, a degree in English can be required for some jobs, which might put off teachers with majors in other subjects. However, if you have experience teaching Business English then you shouldn't have difficulty finding employment.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£500 – £1,285 \$600 – \$1,450	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Prague, Brno, Chomutov, Liberec, Hradec Kralove, Ceske Bud Jovice, and Olomouc.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 14,870 –36,000 Krone (£500 – £1,285 / \$600 – \$1,450) per month. Hourly rates are around 200 to 350 Krone (£7 – £12 /\$8 – \$14).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for most jobs, and positions in the capital might need more advanced qualifications – in Prague in particular, an online TEFL course often won't be enough, so incorporating [classroom training](#) into your studies would be beneficial.

Prerequisite university degree: A degree is usually required, some positions ask for degrees in English or a related subject.

Term times: September to June.

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK)

Language: Czech

Teaching programmes: Public schools, Private schools, Language schools, Freelance, Summer camps.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Experience preferred, sometimes 2–3 years.



There are plenty of teaching positions in the Czech Republic, particularly if you're not fussy about which location you go to. Some of the easiest jobs to get are in the language schools that offer after-school lessons for kids and evening classes for adults. The TEFL market in this country is quite focused on adult learners who want to improve for business or tourism, but there is a growing market to further support children and teenagers who are learning the language at school. If you want to teach in a public school, positions are more likely to be found in small towns than in Prague where competition can be fierce.

Accommodation is often arranged by the school for full-time positions, available to the teacher for free or at a low cost. Apartments are often quite basic. Wages aren't the highest in the Czech Republic, but as teachers generally work around 25 hours per week, there is plenty of scope to take up private or online students in your own time to make extra money. Freelance teaching can be the most lucrative, particularly if you pitch lower prices and teach in small groups rather than one to one. Salaries for full-time positions are usually based on your qualifications and experience. Teachers are expected to be smartly dressed and reasonably formal in manner. Apply in April for positions in the next academic year. Lessons are often conversation based, and some teachers find that it can be tricky to encourage students to talk, and also hard to correct mistakes without putting them off.

LIVING COSTS

In Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic is about midway when it comes to the cost of living, with similar prices to Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary. Since the country joined the EU, there has been an influx of foreigners resulting in a booming real estate market. When it comes to capital cities, Prague is one of the best values for money and makes it possible to live in the city even if you don't have a top earning job. When looking for somewhere to live, try to get a local or native Czech speaker to help you – estate agents geared towards foreigners will list more expensive properties than those easily available to local people. However, it's not uncommon for teachers to find positions with paid accommodation and will get assistance in finding their apartment, or have hostel accommodation provided while they house hunt.

The prevalence of foreign expats means that the country has a diverse social scene with plenty of cosmopolitan restaurants and bars, particularly in the capital. Crime rates are quite low even in the capital, just be more wary of crowded tourist spots as you would in any major city, as pickpocketing is on the rise. Public transport is cheap and efficient, so where possible take the bus, subway or tram to avoid using local taxis, which sometimes try to scam foreigners. It can be really tricky to get a driving licence in the Czech Republic, especially for non-EU citizens, so avoid this if possible. Petrol is also really expensive here. The healthcare system is both good and cheap, but don't expect exemplary manners from the doctor as they tend to be quite brusque.

Popular outdoor pursuits in the Czech Republic include hiking, skiing and cycling. Salaries for expats in the country are often higher than what locals receive, and so foreigners can afford to take up new hobbies and enjoy a good quality of life.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £624 – £921 / \$765 – \$1,128

Utilities: £105 / \$129

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £25 / \$31

Monthly transport pass: £18 / \$22

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$19

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.10 / \$2.57

A beer in a pub: £1.20 / \$1.47

1 litre of milk: £0.67 / \$0.82

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.06 / \$1.29

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Hiring preference is given to those who are already resident, but if you're well-qualified and experienced don't hesitate to send speculative emails from home. This is particularly true of more competitive roles where the company will be casting a wider net, such as a university or private school position. If you aren't experienced or qualified finding a TEFL job in the Czech Republic will require some perseverance and your chances are greatly increased if applying on the ground.

Low-paid summer camp jobs can be a good way in if you aren't experienced and give you a taste for the country. To teach freelance, you must apply for a business licence (zivnostensky). Salaries in Prague are sometimes lower than other cities despite a higher cost of living, so it can be worth considering locations elsewhere in the country. Full-time contracts often run for 10 months, leaving you free to work at a summer school or enjoy travel before your next position.

EMPLOYERS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

[CloverLeaf](#) will accept applications from non-native English speakers (CEFR level C1 or above), 2–3 years of experience required.

[International House](#) offer 10- or 12-month contracts.

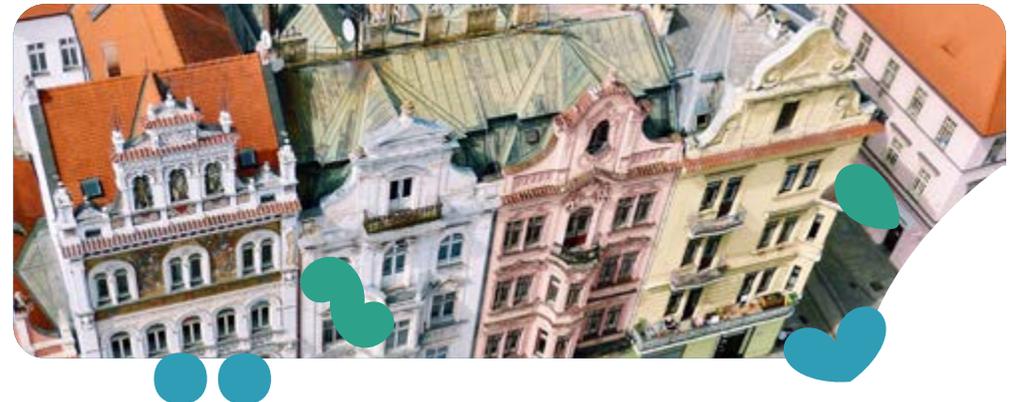
[Lexis](#) accepts CV applications by email.

[Spevacek](#) hires TEFL qualified teachers for 10-month contracts.

Check out the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for teaching position.

[Watts English](#) is a British company that runs summer camps in several locations.

On the [Yellow Pages](#) search for 'jazykove skoly' plus the city you're interested in for TEFL school listings.



Teach English in Denmark

Speak Danish? Have experience teaching Business English? Already live in Denmark? From the EU? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then keep reading.

If you answered 'no' to two or more, we'll stop you right there – getting work in Denmark is tricky at the best of times. If you're non-European, haven't taught Business English, don't speak Danish, or don't live in Denmark, then your chances of getting work are slim.

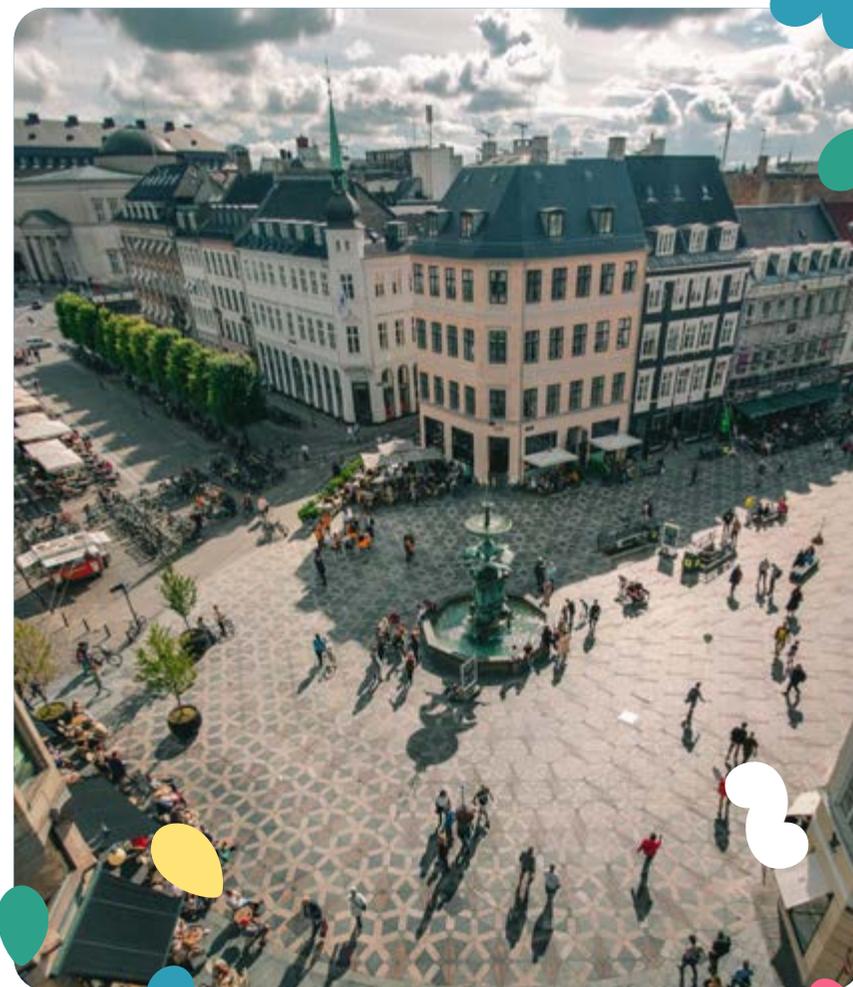
TEFL teachers will also be expected to speak Danish, a skill which precludes the vast majority of potential applicants. Even if you are fluent in Danish, getting a foot in the door can be tricky. English language teaching positions usually offer good pay and favourable working conditions, meaning that the usual revolving door of TEFL teachers you find in many institutes across the world just doesn't happen here – when teachers find a good job, they stay put.

If you're dead set on teaching in Denmark, there can be ways to go about it. Voluntary organisations that run evening classes can use the skills of a TEFL teacher, and some paid jobs might be found on a part-time basis, particularly in areas where the numbers of qualified EFL teachers are lower.

So what makes it worth the bother? You probably know that the Danes are some of the happiest people in the world, which is a pretty good selling-point for any country. In 2016 they ranked as number one on the Forbes list of happiest countries, and though by 2018 they'd slid to third place, they're still a top-ranking country when it comes to keeping their inhabitants satisfied. Despite not needing many foreigners to teach them English, the Danes are keen on integrating expats by offering free Danish lessons to new arrivals. Their homes are typical of sleek Scandi design that you'll recognise from Ikea catalogues, dark winters are spiced up with a spot of hygge, and their penchant for bicycles means that getting around is cheap and healthy. Plenty of reasons to make Denmark your home if you satisfy the requirements for teaching English there.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£2,900 – £3,900 (\$3,600–\$4,800)	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Fredericia, Glostrup, Hellerup and Odense.

Average salary for EFL teachers: Wages for teachers are set by law. The minimum, which most teachers start on, is DKK170 (£20/\$25) per hour, rising to DKK220 (£26/\$32) per hour. The basic annual salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of DKK296,000 to DKK400,000 (£35,000 – £47,000/\$43,000 – \$58,000).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required as a minimum.

Prerequisite university degree: A degree is usually required, some jobs might specify certain subjects to study such as a degree in education.

Term times: The schools year starts in September.

Currency: Danish Krone (DKK)

Language: Danish

Teaching programmes: Language Schools, International Schools, Voluntary Teaching, Business English, Advanced English.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Usually required, particularly for teaching Business English.



Public school teachers in Denmark work around 40 hours per week, 19 hours of which will be lesson time, and have long summer holidays like the rest of Europe, as well as more time off over Christmas and Easter. International schools will be similar – there are more than 20 such schools across the country, which primarily cater for the children of expats. These positions are highly sought-after, and you may find that applicant requirements are stricter than for international schools in other countries.

If you have a non-Danish teaching qualification and are looking for a teaching job in the primary or secondary school system, you'll need to apply to the Danish Agency for Higher Education and request that your qualification be formally recognised in order to apply. Details about what qualifications are acceptable should be listed on the job advert, and you might also need to undergo further training.

LIVING COSTS

Denmark is one of the most expensive places to live in Western Europe, and is pretty much in the top 10% of the most expensive places to live in the world. As with most expensive countries, wages are high, and so these things can balance out if you're careful with your money. Bear in mind that when tax is high, it means you get excellent public services for your money.

As some of the happiest people in the world, it's no surprise that residents enjoy a good quality of life in Denmark. The cold, dark winters can be gloomy, but locals get around it by embracing hygge – a way of life more so than an activity, where you seek cosiness, wellbeing and contentment from simple pleasures; think of a good book read by a fireside glow, hot chocolate and sweet treats with friends, and getting in touch with nature.

Smørrebrød translates as buttered bread or sandwich, which may sound quite plain but you'll learn to love Danish open-topped sandwiches, garnished with delicious local favourites like pickled herring, raw beef and eggs, fried fish or potatoes. You might expect to eat a lot of Danish pastries, but in Denmark they're actually known as Vienna Bread – wienerbrød. Dense rye bread is a favourite, and the Danes love porridge to warm them up on those cold winter mornings. It's not all savoury stuff in Denmark – they love sweets, particularly liquorice which comes in a variety of textures and flavours.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,282 – £1,796 / \$1,590 – \$2,282

Utilities: £181 / \$224

Health insurance: Health Insurance is covered by your CPR Card, which is the civil registration number you're required to apply for if staying for over 3 months. Your CPR Card is also your access to a bank account, library card and more. Cost of typical visit to a GP: £44 / \$54

Monthly transport pass: £54 / \$67

Basic dinner out for two: £47 / \$58

Cappuccino in expat area: £5.01 / \$6

A beer in a pub: £4.82 / \$5.98

1 litre of milk: £1.17 / \$1.46

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.50 / \$3.10

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN DENMARK

If you satisfy all the requirements of working in Denmark, it still won't be easy to get a job. Do your research and try to make connections before moving there, bearing in mind that it's much easier to get hired once you're actually in country and have a CPR Card. Word of mouth is one of the best ways in, or going with one of the few, larger organisations that can offer more opportunities. Online teaching could tide you over while you look for local work, but be realistic about whether Denmark is really the best place for your skills.

EMPLOYERS IN DENMARK

[Cambridge Institute](#) is the largest EFL company operating in Denmark. You might be able to find out current job information on their [LinkedIn](#) page.

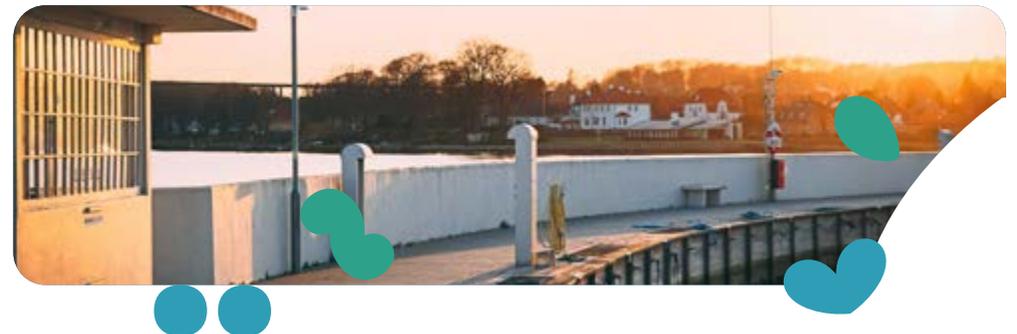
Search on [AOF \(Arbejdernes Oplysnings Forbund\)](#) to find evening classes teaching languages around Denmark, and use their contact page to inquire about teaching a course.

[Local Job Centres](#) are a good way to search if you're already living in an area of Denmark. Also, check out local international schools in your area and contact them directly.

It's not paid, but the weekly [Language Exchange Meetup organised by Mundo Lingo](#) could be a great place to meet potential students or to network with other English teachers like yourself – or just a place to make friends and chat in your own language.

[Work in Denmark](#) is a database of jobs around the country – search 'English Teacher' to see any current positions.

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for listings.



TEFL ORG TEACHER STORY

“What I liked most about living in Denmark was the work – life balance. Nobody in Denmark works long hours and everyone accepts that people may need time off for family requirements, personal appointments...etc They take a very relaxed and healthy approach to work.

Coming from Scotland and growing up seeing my family members go to work despite being really ill with the flu or absolutely choked with the cold, it was refreshing to be in a country where people fully accept that you just can't work well if you are ill and you should take the time off to recover. Denmark has a very impressive welfare system and employees know their rights, people there do not live in fear that they will lose their jobs if they have had to take some time off work.”

Donna, EFL teacher



Teach English in Estonia

Filled with medieval towns, folklore, folk songs, and picturesque forests, going to Estonia can be like stepping back in time.

However, there's nothing medieval about working in Estonia, which is a developed country and can offer a great quality of life. While tourism is relatively low in this Northern European country, lucky English teachers can find employment alongside having an adventure in this varied country, which has been influenced by Baltic, Finnic, Slavic, and Germanic cultures, and less than 70% of the population are actually Estonian. Employment opportunities aren't high in Estonia for TEFL teachers, despite the willingness of students to learn English. However, if you have the right credentials and are blessed with good timing, positions might come up that could set you on your Estonian journey

Almost 50% of Estonia is covered with forest, making hiking and camping popular pastimes in the summer months. There are also many lakes and rivers, and Estonians love sports such as canoeing and swimming, as well as skiing in the winter. As such, Estonia is a wonderland for outdoor types, but those who like living in bustling metropolises will probably be disappointed. Estonian cities leave much to be desired compared with other cosmopolitan hubs across Europe, despite the mix of nationalities you can find there. Entertainment is in short supply, with few theatres, galleries, events, and museums to choose from. You might find some aspects of modern life are a bit outdated, such as older models of public transport systems. However, if you're looking for the quiet life and can find sound employment, Estonia could be the place you soon call home.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£720 - £900 (\$920 - \$1,150)	Preferred	September	Preferred	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Tallinn, Tartu and Narva.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €800 – €1,000 (£720 – £900/\$920 – \$1,150) per month. Higher salaries are around €1,500 (£1,350 / \$1,725) per month. Freelance or part-time rates are around €9 to €13 (£8 – £12 / \$10 – \$15) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most full-time positions, but not summer camps or voluntary positions.

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require a degree.

Term times: September to June.

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Language: Estonian

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Universities, Public Primary and Secondary Schools, International Schools, Freelance, Summer Camps.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Necessary for some positions (such as university and international schools).



Estonian people are often quiet and might seem shy or reserved on a first meeting. The same is true in the TEFL classroom, where you might struggle to encourage lively conversations with your students, especially before you've been able to get to know them. However, while the students are quiet, they're certainly willing to learn and you'll find them receptive in class. Just don't try to push them too hard with speaking exercises until you're familiar with their confidence. You might be interested to know that Estonia has one of the highest literacy rates in the world!

Expect to work 25 – 35 hours per week in your full-time job – plenty of time leftover if you want to pick up some private tutoring work in the evenings, or you could use your free time to explore the place where you live. Some schools hire throughout the year, but the best time to look for a job that starts with the academic year is often between September and January, when hiring is for the following September.

While it seems like there are a variety of teaching programmes that TEFL teachers can apply to in Estonia, the truth is that there isn't a lot of demand for job applicants. While Estonians are keen to learn English, it's a small country and so there aren't a huge number of positions available. Many language schools already have a database of teachers who have expressed an interest in working for them, and as such don't need to advertise very often. Many schools hire predominantly local teachers. One good way to get into the country might be to do a stint at a summer camp, where you can get to know Estonia, perhaps learn a little of the local language, and inquire in person about schools that you can't find details for online.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Northern Europe is typically high, and while Estonia is cheaper than nearby Sweden and Finland, it's more expensive than the likes of Latvia and Lithuania. Though saying that, the cost of living in Estonia can still be considered cheap, and as many TEFL positions come with free or cheap accommodation, it's easy for teachers to enjoy a good quality of life. Even if you need to find your own rental accommodation, the school can usually help you find somewhere affordable. Public transport isn't expensive, so whether you want to see a local beauty spot during the weekend or travel further afield during school holidays, you'll be able to make the most of your time in the country. As Estonia is a small country, it's also easy for teachers to travel to other nearby countries during their holidays. Jump on a ferry to Sweden, Finland, or catch a bus to Germany or Russia.

Your quality of life in Estonia depends very much on how you like to spend your free time and how you adapt to the Estonian culture. As mentioned above, if you love the great outdoors and spending time in nature, Estonia could be a dream come true. However, if you're put off by the winters – which can be long, dark and cold – and would prefer to be somewhere with more impressive temperatures in the summer, Estonia isn't a great choice. If you're a party person who likes bustling social events, again you might find Estonia a bit on the drab side. Entertainment is lacking even in the big cities, and the Estonian people can be quiet and reserved, finding no awkwardness in long silences in social situations, and preferring to talk infrequently and genuinely rather than making small talk. However, if you consider yourself more of an introvert and could adapt to the peace and quiet in Estonia, it could be ideal!

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £538 – £968 / \$676 – \$1,216

Utilities: £197 / \$247

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £45 / \$57

Monthly transport pass: £24 / \$30

Basic dinner out for two: £25 / \$32

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.97 / \$3.73

A beer in a pub: £3.49 / \$4.38

1 litre of milk: £0.93 / \$1.17

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.76 / \$2.21

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ESTONIA

If you don't have EU citizenship, it can be hard to find a job in Estonia that will sponsor your visa for you to work there. Positions in Estonia are few and far between, and some schools don't accept prospective applications. Consider doing a summer camp contract or some volunteering as a way into the country to get word of mouth recommendations about where to apply.

EMPLOYERS IN ESTONIA

[Bellnor Summer Camps](#) are held at the sandy beach location of Kloogaranna, 30 km from Tallinn.

[Exceptional English](#) is a private language school in Tallinn.

[International Language Services](#) hires teachers for 80 to 130 academic hours per month.

[The International School of Estonia](#) hires natives or English speakers of C1/C2 level, with a minimum of 2 years of experience, and you must be IB trained and experienced.

[Language School In Down Town](#) holds 45-minute lessons for adults and children, as well as summer camps for kids and teens.

[The Tallinn International Kindergarten](#) caters for children aged 2 – 7.

[Tartu International School](#) caters for kids from 1.5 years to 15 years.

If you want to teach at a university in Estonia, [here is a list](#) of universities in the country.

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for listings.



Teach English in Finland

While many Scandinavian countries have had a declining market for the TEFL industry in recent years, Finland has remained a location that offers good opportunities for TEFL teachers.

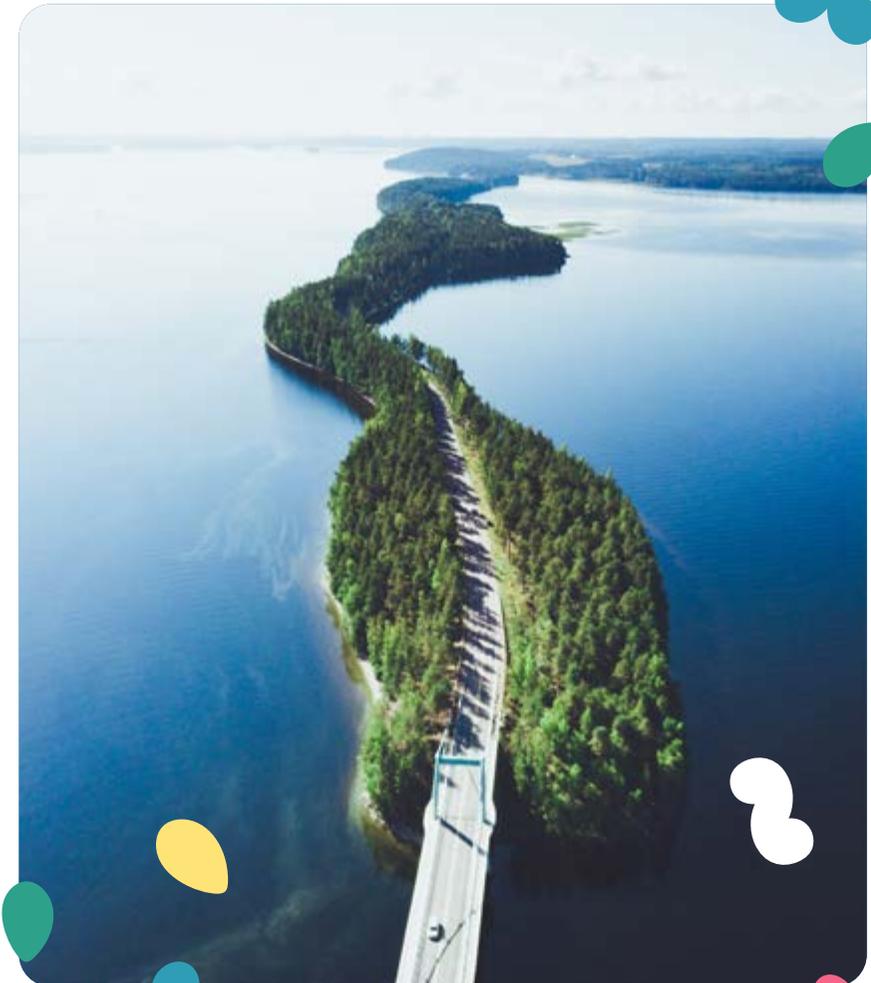
More than 90% of Finnish people speak another language, with the majority of those speaking Swedish as their second language. There are coastal regions (particularly in the South and the West) where people speak Swedish as their first language, and in the North, the Sámi languages are mother tongue. With bilingual people often finding it easier to pick up multiple languages, it's easy to see why the Finnish people are open to learning English.

Opportunities to teach English in Finland are varied and offer choices to all sorts of teachers. Whether you'd like to specialise in young learners, have a background in Business English or fancy teaching in commercial colleges, Finns learn English at every stage of life. Finland also offers a unique opportunity in that you don't need to be experienced up to the eyeballs to grab a great position – even without a degree or experience you can still find jobs to apply for. When applying for positions in Finland, the best asset is flexibility and friendliness. Rather than offering general conversational classes, many English language courses will be quite specific, such as 'English for presentation skills'. Be prepared to think on the spot, to market yourself in your niche specialisations, and teach a wide variety of topics with flair and confidence.

The Finns are fun-loving people with a great program of cultural events throughout the year, particularly seasonal events in this country that lives in near complete darkness throughout the winter, followed by eternal sunshine in the summer. It's not difficult to make friends in Finland as the locals often speak English and have a great sense of community. You'll soon see why they're often labelled as some of the happiest people in the world. The Land of a Thousand Lakes, Finland is the perfect place to embrace the great outdoors and get healthy with plenty of exercise, just be aware of the typical temperatures for different times of year.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£720 – £900 (\$920 – \$1,150)	Preferred	September	Preferred	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Helsinki, Turku, Jyvaskyla, Oulu, Espoo, Rovaniemi and Tampere

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time position is likely to be in the wide range of €800 – €3,400 (£718 – £3,050 / \$900 – \$3,850)per month. For a full-time annual salary, you're looking at €32,000 – €41,000 (£28,700 – £36,770 / \$36,250 – \$46,500). Hourly rates are in the region of €15 – €40 (£13.50 – £36 / \$17 – \$45). Summer job positions pay around €400 – €500 per week (£360 – £450 / \$450 – \$565) but also include accommodation and meals.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL certificate](#) is a good minimum to improve your chances of getting hired

Prerequisite university degree: Not always required but will improve your job prospects.

Term times: Mid-August/September to June.

Currency: Euro

Language: Finnish and Swedish

Teaching programmes: Summer Schools, Private Language Schools, Public Schools, International Schools, Kindergarten, Freelance, Business English, English for specific purposes.

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not always required but certainly beneficial.



In Finland, TEFL lessons usually run for 45-minutes, and teaching schedules often differ to other countries – while evening classes are the norm elsewhere, in Finland your classes are more likely to be in daylight hours. However, some schools compress the working week into four days, giving you longer weekends. Freelance work is more popular these days than traditional contracts, and taxes will be your own responsibility – they're high, so make sure you prepare properly. Teaching is a highly respected role in Finland, and while local teachers will be highly qualified (even for kindergarten roles), they're more flexible when hiring someone with a fluency in English. Top international schools are likely to be pickier when it comes to selecting TEFL teachers.

Your working day in a full-time position might consist of about five hours of teaching per day, with time for planning and personal development extra to those hours. Many schools will provide private medical insurance, and might cover costs such as your initial airfare and will put you up while you look for somewhere to rent. As Finland isn't traditionally a popular TEFL destination, those who venture there can find good quality jobs in easy supply, with choices even for those without experience.

LIVING COSTS

In general, people in Finland have a high standard of living and don't mind shelling out for luxuries such as private English lessons. Language classes are a way to keep boredom at bay in the long, dark winters, and with little to do outdoors at that time of year, teachers can put away some extra savings to enjoy their time in the summer months.

When the weather gets warmer, you'll certainly be making the most of the great outdoors. With majestic backdrops and beautifully clean air, inexpensive activities such as hiking, cycling, swimming and rowing will become your weekend staples. There are round 200,000 lakes to explore across the country, as well as picturesque forests. In the snowy season, get in the Christmas spirit by visiting Finnish Lapland (and meeting Santa Claus) or chill out watching the Northern Lights. In cold weather, warm up in the popular saunas – naked snow bathing optional.

If you live in a big city like Helsinki, you can spend your free time visiting the cultural highlights such as museums and art galleries. The fact that English is widely spoken in Finland will make it easy for you to communicate with locals, as well as make friends and get by in day-to-day life. Finnish is more difficult to learn than other Scandinavian languages, but as language learning is such a big business in Finland, you'll find no shortage of classes if you do want to pick it up, although be aware that many Finnish classes will be conducted with a Swedish mother tongue.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,061 – £1,629 / \$1,323 – \$2,031

Utilities: £83 / \$103

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £75 / \$94

Monthly transport pass: £50 / \$62

Basic dinner out for two: £40 / \$50

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.02 / \$5.01

A beer in a pub: £5.28 / \$7

1 litre of milk: £0.97 / \$1.20

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.39 / \$2.97

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN FINLAND

Getting work as a non-EU citizen in Finland is almost impossible, unless you apply through special organisations like the American-Scandinavian Foundation. For many jobs, while a TEFL qualification, degree and experience are helpful, they're not strictly necessary – if you're a native speaker with an outgoing personality, you could land a good job without the usual credentials, particularly if it's a summer position.

EMPLOYERS IN FINLAND

[AACLocal](#) is a growing business that hires across 7 offices.

American students and recent graduates can apply to the [American-Scandinavian Foundation](#) for help with temporary work permits for internships in Finland.

[Berlitz](#) is a major TEFL company that hires in Finland.

If you want to work freelance, the [Federation of Finnish-British Societies](#) promotes language courses and tutors on its website.

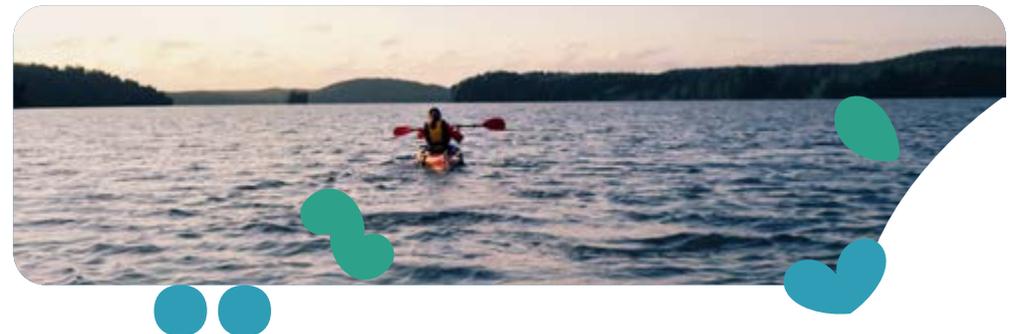
To work at [Mark Richard's Business English school](#), you'll need a degree plus TEFL qualification or PGCE. Freelance positions paying from €22 – €28 per 45-minute class.

[The Nordic School](#) provides English lessons to Russian children aged 7-18 at summer camps in Finland.

For Business English teachers, contact [Richard Lewis Communications](#) which offers cross-cultural training.

[RiversDown](#) has an online application form for freelance teachers, TEFL qualification and degree preferred.

Check out the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings.



TEFL ORG TEACHER STORY

“ I have been teaching at a Finnish summer camp now for two weeks and I am halfway through my experience. I cannot begin to explain how much I love this job: I live right by a huge lake, I can go rowing, swimming, and cycling (all for free) whenever I like. My days start at 8.45am and finish at 1.30pm.

My office is a jetty and I plan my lessons with the other English teachers down at the lake, watching the sunset. It doesn't get dark here very much so at first it was hard to adjust, but now, I already feel like this is a home away from home and I will be sad to leave.

This is the only job I have ever truly loved! I was extremely nervous when I first arrived here as the idea of standing in front of a group of children terrified me. It has only been two weeks but now I cannot wait to get back into the classroom each day.

Emma, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in France

The French, and Parisians in particular, are patriotic and extremely proud of both their country and their language.

In the past, the French were reluctant to learn English and other foreign languages, resulting in the impression that French people are snooty. However, things have changed in recent decades and the English language has been embraced as a stepping stone that connects France in the world of business.

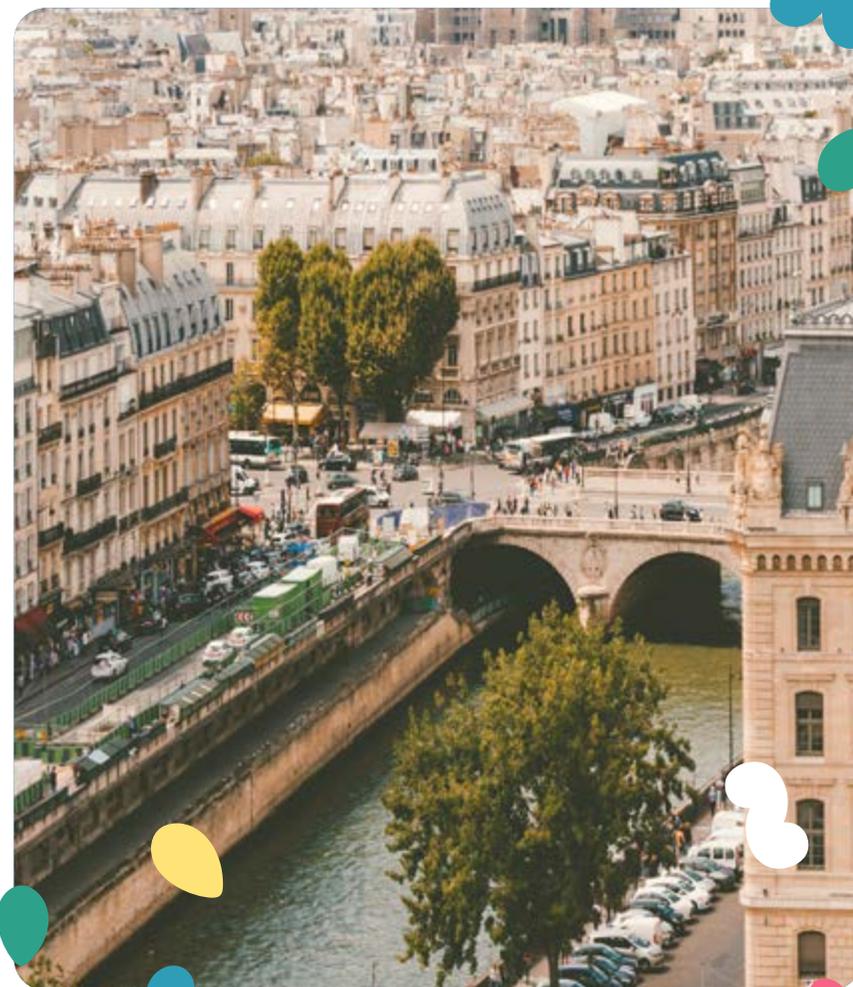
As such, there has been a steady rise in the popularity of learning English in France, which is particularly good news for British expats who make up a large percentage of those choosing to relocate there. While Business English has been a major source of employment for TEFL teachers in France, there has also been a rise in community classes put on through town councils. Teaching young learners has risen in popularity, with further surges in toddler and child classes projected for the coming years.

With a variety of teaching opportunities for different ages, abilities and specialist subjects, if you have a TEFL certificate, a degree and a bit of experience, it shouldn't be hard for you to find work. However, hiring can be tricky in France with some schools giving preference to younger, fresher teachers over those with decades of experience. Having extra qualifications (such as a PGCE or DELTA) won't necessarily make you more employable than someone with just a TEFL certificate.

Bag a position teaching English in France and you'll be the envy of your TEFL friends. With good weather, world-famous cuisine, sophisticated culture and fashion, reliable transport systems, endless cultural attractions, relaxing scenery and bustling cities, there are certainly worst places to be. Move to France for your TEFL career and it won't take you long to realise why this is one of the most visited countries in the world.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£926 – £1,852 (\$1,082 – \$2,164)	Yes	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Paris, Nice, Lyon, Toulouse

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €1,000 – €2,000 (£926 – £1,852/\$1,082 – \$2,164) per month. An assistantship with The Centre International D'études Pédagogiques pays about €965 (£890/\$1,048) per month. A summer position with American Village Camps pays €1170 (£1,081/\$1,266) per month, or a higher rate for returning teachers. Live-in or live-out English babysitting or tutoring roles can earn you €10 – €13 (£9.25 – £12/\$10.83 – \$14) per hour for childcare positions, or up to €20 (£18.50/\$21.66) per hour for tutoring older students. Private tutoring rates are around €15 – €25 per hour (£13.88 – £23.13/\$16.24 – \$27).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL certificate](#) is a minimum, and it will be almost impossible to find work without some sort of TEFL certificate.

Prerequisite university degree: A degree in often required, in any subject, alongside a TEFL certificate.

Term times: The school year typically runs from September to June/July.

Currency: Euro

Language: French

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Kindergarten Schools, Private Lessons/Tutoring, Summer Camps, Government Schools, University Positions, Corporate gigs for businesses.

Age restrictions: Job dependant, younger teachers sometimes preferred.

Previous teaching experience: A bit of experience is usually required.



EU nationals have an automatic legal right to live and work in France, making it a popular destination for TEFL teachers from the UK and Ireland. While your qualifications are important, in France the decision to hire is much more nuanced than looking at your CV. Aside from having a minimum amount of experience and some sort of TEFL certificate, French employers are also looking for smart, well-turned-out candidates who come across as enthusiastic and adaptable. They ideally like applicants to speak at least a little bit of French, and they're unlikely to seal a deal until they've met you in person. One of the best ways to get started is by teaching in an assistant position, at a summer school, or a live-in position teaching children in a family, enabling to you interview in-person once you're ready to move on to another role. Live-in positions are also a great way to dodge expensive rental rates while you establish your career in France.

While freelancing and flitting between private or part-time positions may be commonplace for many TEFL teachers in France, it can be hard work in the beginning. Getting enough students to make ends meet in a saturated market is hard, especially if you don't have experience marketing yourself. One of the best roads to success is to slowly build a client base while in another position that keeps you afloat, such as assistant language teaching. The best paid positions are at universities and public schools, but are hard to come by and very tricky if you're not proficient in French. If you want a good chance at getting hired, don't head straight for Paris. Smaller cities are less over-run with applicants and your chances of employment are better.

LIVING COSTS

When it comes to checking out your bank balance in France, it'll be more a case of 'ooh-er' than 'ooh la la'. Not only is France one of the more expensive countries to live in in Western Europe, it's also home to some of the most expensive cities in the world. Paris is by far the most expensive city, followed by other urban hotspots such as Lyon, Nice, Marseille, and Montpellier. The high prices in cities are matched by an extravagant lifestyle. Travelling out to smaller, countryside locations will see a sharp decrease in prices, but also a reduction in job opportunities, entertainment, amenities and transport links. While transport can be a large cost in France, the service is efficient and envied by much of Europe. You get what you pay for.

One of the greatest costs of living in France is the accommodation, which can easily eat up from one third to half of your monthly salary. For cheaper options, look for listings of chamber de bonne (the maid's quarters) which are small, top-floor studios that can be half the price of regular apartments. Shared accommodation is a great way to live somewhere nice for cheaper, or renting a room in a family home.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £865 – £1,208 / \$992 – \$1,386

Utilities: £99 / \$113 per month

Health insurance: All residents in France must have health insurance, either private or PUMA (the public universal insurance). If you're working in France, social contributions (including health care) work out at about 8% of your salary. More details here. GP Visit £23 / \$26.

Monthly transport pass: £66 / \$76

Basic dinner out for two: £36 / \$41

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.07 / \$4.67

A beer in a pub: £5.62 / \$6

1 litre of milk: £1.07 / \$1.23

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.88 / \$2.15

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN FRANCE

France's proximity to the UK means that a large number of TEFL teachers employed there are of the British English variety. In some small circles in France there is a preference for North American English accents, and so American applicants can seek out work through those niche placements. As France is a popular TEFL destination, many schools are flooded with applications, making competition fierce. For the most part, schools prefer to hire teachers who are already living locally. With such a wide pool of teachers nearby, there's no need to import teachers from other locations when someone just as skilled can be found nearby.

EMPLOYERS IN FRANCE

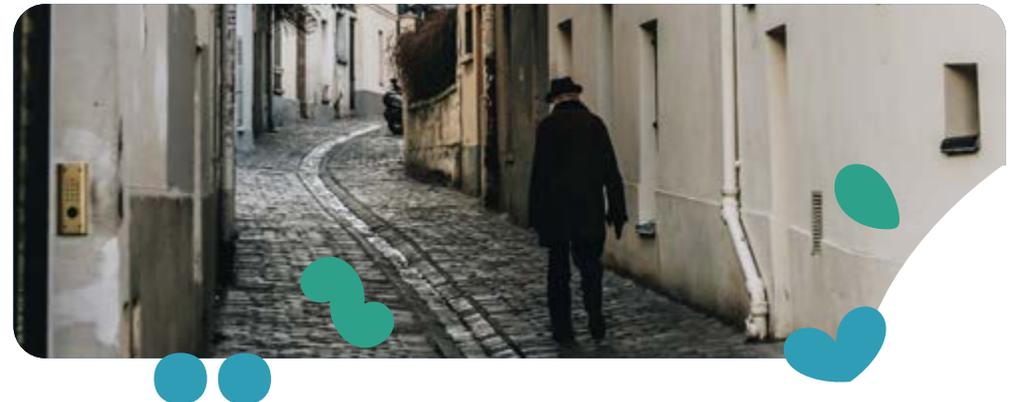
A great way to get into the country is through an assistantship programme. The [Centre International D'études Pédagogiques](#) has thousands of assistant teacher roles for under-graduates or graduates (ages 20 to 35).

If you know which city you want to work in, search online for 'Écoles de Langues' along with the name of your city to find TEFL positions in that locality.

The best place to find information about French language schools is the Yellow Pages ([Pages Jaune](#)).

For those seeking professional, full-time and higher-level positions rather than freelance opportunities, a membership to [TESOL-France](#) is invaluable.

We regularly have openings for positions in France on The [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#). [American Village Camps](#) is a popular provider of camps for children in France. ESL classes take place alongside fun activities and pastoral duties.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

In the academic year 2014–2015, I seized the opportunity to refresh my rusty French by becoming an English Language Assistant in France. In my first year, I lived in the small town of Coutances in Normandy, working alongside local teachers at two technical high schools for pupils aged 14–18. The size of the town and my students' low level of English came as quite a shock originally, but I soon adapted to both and grew to love them.

My classes were particularly fun because I revelled in the challenge and privilege of boosting my students' confidence and making them see that they were more than capable of learning English. What's more, I was able to show them how much fun it can be! In my second year, I went on to work in the east of the country. Some of the best bits of my experience in France were visiting the Christmas markets in Strasbourg and Colmar, Coutances' "Jazz sous les pommiers" festival, Granville's carnival, my jazz dance classes, exploring important D-Day sites with a Canadian friend and eating at crêperies (you typically choose a savoury "main course" crêpe and then a sweet one for "dessert").

Then there was watching the horse races on the beach at Jullouville, witnessing people who are far more daring than me bungee-jump at the Viaduc de la Souleuvre, going to see friends' plays and celebrating Thanksgiving with other assistants from around the world. I won't ever forget all the inside jokes involving cows, donkeys, tractors and brooms, or my valiant attempts to milk a cow on a friend's farm, either! Eastern France's proximity to Switzerland also permitted me to visit friends there in the holidays and go hiking in stunning snowy mountains with them.

Fiona, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Germany

A diverse landscape, bustling cities full of endless entertainment, efficient public transport and high wages make Germany a popular place for TEFL teachers.

In the heart of Europe, you're ideally placed for travel during your public holidays, and free time within Germany can be spent in a variety of ways – hiking, skiing, cycling, sunbathing and adventure sports are popular pursuits, and Germany has a great culture for gaming and hobbies, making it easy to find friends and connect with locals. If you're an experienced teacher with the right skills under your belt, a job in Germany will be a dream come true.

Unlike many countries where TEFL is a big business, the majority of native English speakers who work for commercial institutes will be freelancers rather than contracted. Honorarvertrag (freelance) teachers work up to about twenty hours a week, often working for several different schools. Even if you're not experienced in Business English, if you can teach in any field-specific subject with authority (such as English for pilots, teachers, IT), you'll have more opportunities. Freelance teachers are responsible for their own health insurance, pension and tax.

REQUIREMENTS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£800–£1,600 \$1,000–\$2,000	Preferred	August	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Berlin, Munich, Freiburg, Frankfurt

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €1,200 to €2,000 (£1,123–£1,872/\$1,297–\$2,162) gross, but full-time positions are very rare. Most teachers are freelance and get a rate per lesson. For a 45-minute lesson, €12–€16 (£11–£15/\$13–17) for an inexperienced teacher, rising to €18–€30+ (£17–£28/\$19–\$32) for experienced teachers. You can earn €800 (£749/\$865) a month for 12 hours a week as a secondary school classroom assistant.

TEFL qualification requirements: If you have experience, many schools aren't fussy about what sort of TEFL qualification you have, but a [120-hour course](#) is a good minimum.

Prerequisite university degree: Not all positions require a degree, but they certainly boost your chances, particularly if you studied German or business

Term times: Courses often start in September or April, but positions can be found year-round.

Currency: Euro (€).

Language: German.

Teaching programmes: Adult language schools, summer schools, classroom assistants and freelance teachers.

Age restrictions: For an English-language classroom assistant in secondary schools (who has studied German) applications are welcome from those under 30. For more positions, experience is necessary and so very young teachers will struggle to find good positions. Germans expect knowledgeable, intelligent and formal teachers, and as such may prefer older teachers to young ones.

Previous teaching experience: Many teachers in Germany will tell you that experience (preferably in business English) is often seen as more important than your level of qualification. If you speak a little German, even better.



Germany has an excellent state education system, giving most students a firm grounding in foreign languages from a young age. As such, opportunities for teaching English to beginners in Germany are hard to come by – far more prevalent are adult classes, specifically Business English. Volkshochschulen are adult education centres where courses are offered on a variety of subjects, and many German adults choose to perfect their English through these classes. Many secondary schools in Germany hire native English speakers to assist in classroom learning.

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin wall, there is still a divide between East and West Germany. Eastern Germans are likely to be less proficient in their English language, and jobs in the former East Germany are less popular with EFL teachers. However, this provides rich opportunities for teachers who aren't bothered about going to the most popular cities. Across the country, the demand for English lessons is stable and top positions are some of the highest paid in Europe. If you've specialised in teaching Business English, Germany would be a choice location for your teaching career.

EU citizens are able to work in Germany without a visa, but must be registered with the relevant district authority within one week of finding their permanent accommodation. Non-EU citizens must obtain a residence permit (Aufenthalstiel) to stay in Germany long-term, and applications must be made prior to travel. Depending on your embassy, the process will take between about two and five months (the longest is for Americans), so make your application well in advance. You'll need a passport, a letter of an employment offer from your employer, and your projected income along with the application form. Working as a freelance teacher in Germany is only really possible for those from the EU. As such, the rare full-time positions (which typically have one-year contracts with a three-month probation) are highly competitive."

LIVING COSTS

While the cost of living in Germany is more expensive than 73% of other countries in the world, compared to other countries in Western Europe, Germany is one of the cheaper options. The standard of life is high in Germany, making it a popular place for expats – one in ten people in Germany are not German, and it's the most populous country in the European Union. To find accommodation, the first port of call will be www.wg-gesucht.de where you can rent whole apartments or, more commonly, shared apartments known as *wohngemeinschaft*.

Nearly all TEFL work in language schools and companies across Germany is either on a freelance or self-employed basis, and while the wages might look attractive, remember that these rates don't factor in the roughly 40% deduction for tax and other contributions. It sounds like a high rate, but in exchange you get health cover, a pension and excellent social support. Health insurance charges vary depending on your age and gender, and women often pay far more than men for their contribution. Many TEFL teachers in Germany find that they don't have a lot of disposable income, yet still enjoy a good quality of life with an enviable work-life balance.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £638 – £995 / \$768 – \$1,221 for your own apartment, though many teachers rent a room in shared accommodation.

Health insurance: The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is used in Germany. Health insurance is not regularly offered by employers and must be arranged by the citizen.

Utilities: £119 / \$228

GP Visit: £54 / \$66

Monthly transport pass: £70 / \$86

Basic dinner out for two: £30 / \$37

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.92 / \$3.59

A beer in a pub: £3.41 / \$4.19

1 litre of milk: £0.87 / \$1.07

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.61 / \$1.98

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN GERMANY

For EU citizens, many TEFL teachers travel to Germany and pound the pavement once they arrive there – turning up at a school smartly dressed with your CV in hand can be one way to get into a job, as can word of mouth. For Non-EU citizens, you'll need to arrange employment before you arrive for the visa.

While opportunities for teaching English to children are limited in Germany, they are one of the best ways into the country as a new TEFL teacher if you can get a role at a summer camp. Networking with other teachers at camp can open employment opportunities, and some camp providers run schools all year round. As well as English studies at summer camp, students partake in other activities such as sport and music.

EMPLOYERS IN GERMANY

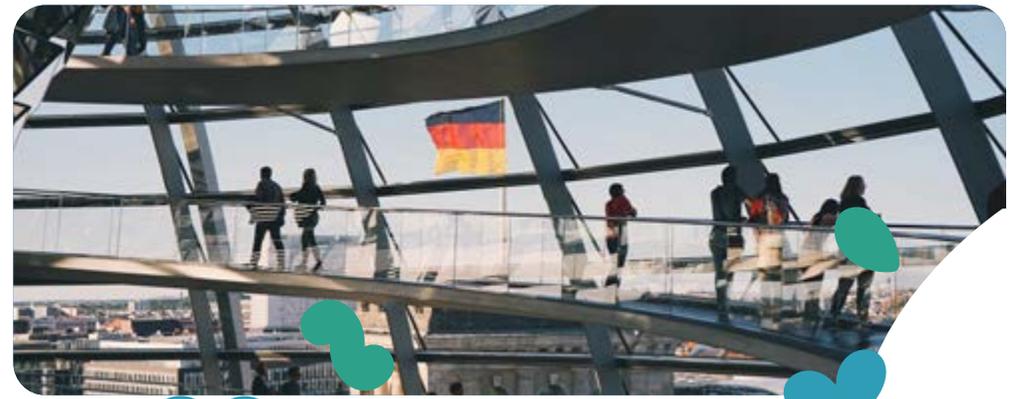
Popular camps in Germany: [Berlitz Kids](#), [Camp Adventure](#), [LEOingo Sprachcamps](#), [Penguin Camp](#), and [Sphairos](#).

See our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for TEFL jobs in Germany and around the world.

The best place to find information about German language schools is the [Gelbe Seiten](#) (Yellow Pages).

For a role in one of the country's 2,000 Volkshochschulen (adult education centers), visit www.vhs.de

[ELTABB English Language Teacher's Association Berlin-Brandenburg](#) is great place to network and find jobs in the area, membership is €40 a year.

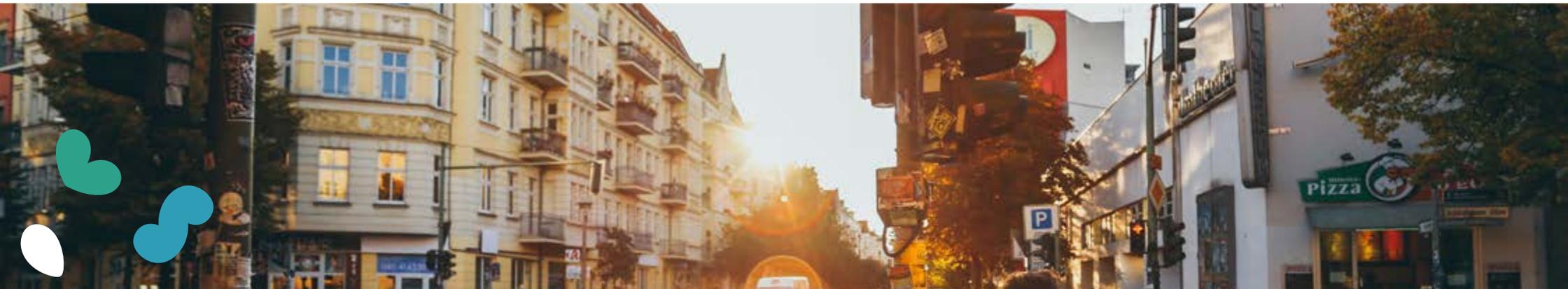


TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

I'm working at a secondary school at the foot of northern Germany's highest mountain, the Brocken. I have hiked up the Brocken once, and, a few months ago, I got to go there again on the Harry Potter-esque steam train to watch the rock opera of Goethe's "Faust". Additionally, I often walk or cycle to and from school, as there is a bike path which stretches most of the way, and the scenery is gorgeous! In December, I got into the Christmas spirit by visiting Christmas markets in five different towns and cities, where I discovered that I am partial to Kartoffelpuffer (potato pancakes with apple sauce) and Schmalzkuchen (little doughnuts). Yum!

I have great neighbours: der Nikolaus (German Santa) left me chocolate on 6th December, and I now spend almost as much time in my neighbours' flat as I do my own, playing games and working on ambitious and sometimes slightly mad craft projects! My zumba and ballet classes always make my week, as everyone is so friendly and happy to chat to me. My zumba teacher has also been absolutely amazing, lending me a costume for carnival and even going out and buying a Skype headset which she then immediately lent to me for interviews!

Fiona, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Greece

With prices still low after the economic crisis of a decade ago, Greece is a popular tourist destination and so it's easy to see why TEFL teachers might be enticed by the low cost of living.

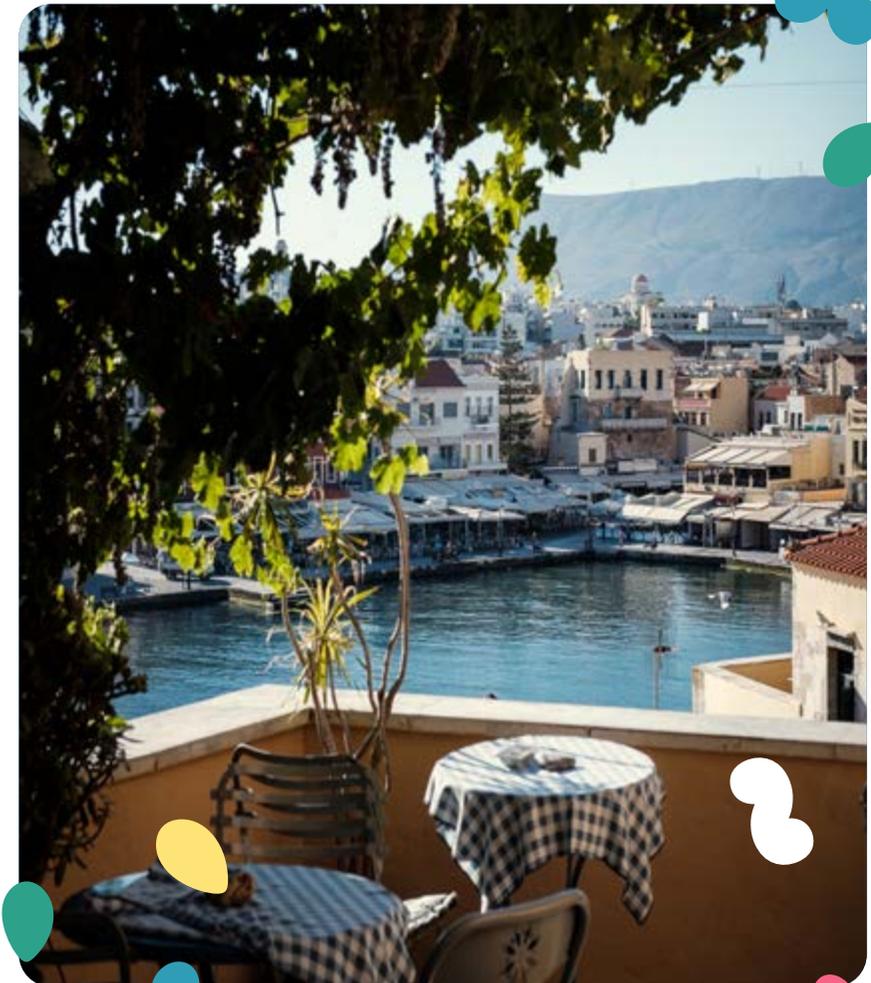
However, local unemployment is still high in Greece and as such, the TEFL industry has suffered – people can't always afford luxuries such as language classes. On the other hand, the unemployed youth of Greece understand the benefit of learning English, and the opportunities for foreign employment it provides, and so anyone who can attend English lessons will certainly be willing.

There are fewer jobs around than there used to be in Greece, and competition is mixed. Some experienced TEFL teachers have been able to seek more lucrative work elsewhere, leaving more positions for newbie teachers. However, those who are keen to stay in Greece are accepting work that is below their usual paygrade, so in big cities it can be a struggle to get work. Large chain companies are often easier to get work with because of certain restrictions on hiring, but it's also recommended to look off the beaten track to face less competition at smaller schools.

With beautiful scenery, a delicious local cuisine, and fabulous weather, there are enough plus points to encourage a move to Greece, even if the work can be poorly paid. The locals are friendly and eager to learn, and if a teacher isn't too fussy about where they work or making big savings, a nice quality of life can be enjoyed in Greece.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£630 – £900 (\$790 – \$1,100)	Yes	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Athens, Heraklion, Katerini, Thessaloniki, Rhodes, Mykonos, Santorini, Corfu, and Crete.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €700 – €1,000 (£630 – £900 / \$790 – \$1,100) per month. An hourly rate of €25 – €30 (£22.50 – £27 / \$28 – \$34) from professional organisations in big cities, freelancers will charge around €15 (£13.50 / \$17) per hour, or €10 (£9 / \$11) for group lessons.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL certificate](#) is a minimum requirement for nearly all jobs, and the better qualified you are, the better your chances.

Prerequisite university degree: Required for all state-teaching jobs, beneficial for most positions.

Term times: September to June.

Currency: Euro

Language: Greek

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, Private Language Schools, Freelance.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Not as important as being qualified, but still likely to help you get work if you have got a few years of experience.



At the height of the economic crisis, private schools in Greece that employed TEFL teacher were forced to tighten their budgets or close altogether. The private teaching sector suffered, and the number of TEFL jobs in Greece shrank dramatically. These days, it's still tricky to find a job, especially in certain areas. TEFL teachers are likely to find work in the more affluent areas and cities, such as Athens, Rhodes, Mykonos, Santorini, Corfu, and Crete. However, the cost of living in the idyllic Greek islands and the big cities is much higher than rural countryside locations, so if you can find work in a smaller area, you might find it easier to save money. Smaller areas to investigate are Edessa, Larissa, and Preveza.

While some schools have stayed open, competition is rife – with so many school closures, there are a number of experienced TEFL teachers in Greece who are looking for work, making it tough for those who are new to the country or inexperienced. Many out-of-work teachers take up private tutoring, dropping their prices so low that parents consider it better value to hire a private language teacher for their child than to send them to a language school.

The tricky work situation in Greece can make it an uncomfortable place for foreigners – with so many locals (especially younger people) out of work in Greece, there can be animosity towards foreigners that are able to acquire work in their country. Also bear in mind that the government enforces a ratio of 1 foreigner per 10 Greek employees within a company, so smaller businesses are just not permitted to hire non-locals. Full-time positions will be around 25 – 30 hours per week, but many schools have reduced to around 12 – 18 hours per week (and lower wages), so freelance work will likely be required to boost your income.

LIVING COSTS

Greece saw a huge financial and economic crisis in 2007–2008, an event which they have slowly been recovering from. In recent years, prices have started to climb in Greece now that the situation has stabilised, but it remains a cheap destination for both tourists and expats. Locally, unemployment was at around 30% of the population in 2013, and although the situation has improved to around 15%, youth unemployment is still a major concern, having dropped from 60% to nearer 30% in 2020. The continued struggle in Greece is a double-edged sword for TEFL teachers – the low cost of living makes it easy to get by in the country, but the lack of disposable income means that locals are often unable to afford luxuries such as language lessons. Young people can't afford to splash out on learning another language, but they also know that learning English will enable them to travel and work abroad, gaining work opportunities that they can't find at home. So it's a mixed bag.

VAT is high in Greece, so expect to pay a lot for products that have been imported. With a delicious and famously healthy national cuisine, embracing Greek food will be friendly both on your wallet and your waistline. The price to go out for a beer or coffee might be fairly similar to other European countries, but in Greece you'll notice how much cheaper accommodation is – renting is cheap and affordable, and even in more affluent areas you can live somewhere decent. Many schools provide accommodation for teachers, making up somewhat for the low wages.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £407 – £674 / \$502 – \$833

Utilities: £103 / \$128

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £34 / \$42

Monthly transport pass: £27 / \$34

Basic dinner out for two: £26 / \$32

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.49 / \$4.31

A beer in a pub: £3.84 / \$4.74

1 litre of milk: £1.12 / \$1.38

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.74 / \$2.15

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN GREECE

It's worthwhile checking your contract carefully in Greece – make sure you're not agreeing to pay compensation if you leave the position early, and you should have written confirmation of any verbal promises you've been made. Make sure you agree in advance on specifics such as pay, holidays, working schedules and other details – don't rush anything contractual in Greece.

Applying well in advance is worthwhile for full-time positions, particularly in more academic roles such as public schools or international schools. However, much work can be found by word-of-mouth, and Greece is a location where you can hand in a CV in person and reasonably expect to gain interviews if anywhere is hiring.

EMPLOYERS IN GREECE

[Betsis Language Schools](#) prefer British/Irish applicants and offer 8-month contracts for up to 24 hours per week. €9,000 – €10,000 per contract.

[The Fullbright English Teaching Assistant Program](#) arranges for U.S graduates to become young ambassadors in Greece.

It's tough find work as an American, but if you're from the US, see if the [Hellenic American Union](#) has any openings.

At [Lambraki](#) they teach kids and adults, preferring British applicants who have a degree and TEFL.

[Nordic School](#) is Russian, but runs summer camps in Greece.

[Pagosmio](#) accepts applications from those with a teaching licence and a degree

[QLS](#) (Quality in Languages Services) lists more than 30 language schools that they partner with, with links to the schools where you might be able to find work.

See our [jobs centre](#) for listings in Greece.



TEFL ORG FOUNDER STORY

My TEFL journey began while at university with the dawning realisation, in my final year, that I wasn't going to achieve my ambition of joining the Diplomatic Service straight from there. But I knew, without a doubt, that I wanted to experience living and working abroad, not just travelling. So I investigated how I could gain the right kind of experience that would enable me to achieve my goal of working abroad.

I did my TEFL course in June; went home, worked all the hours I could, saved money, applied for every job I saw going in Spain, got offered one in a small mountain town in Greece and decided 'what the heck, I come from a small town in the mountains of Scotland, how different can it be?'

I never did join the Diplomatic Service, instead I found my dream job teaching in a small school in a mountain town in Greece (one hour by moped to the beaches in the summer, half an hour to the ski slopes in the winter – what wasn't to like?).

This was the first step in my TEFL journey that took me from the Highlands of Scotland and around Europe. To this day it offers me opportunities to travel to amazing and fascinating places around the world. Now, my goal is to give this opportunity to others; from the best courses, to the right advice, to the most awesome jobs, The TEFL Org strives to deliver the greatest opportunities!

Jennifer MacKenzie, TEFL Org Managing Director and co-founder



Teach English in Hungary

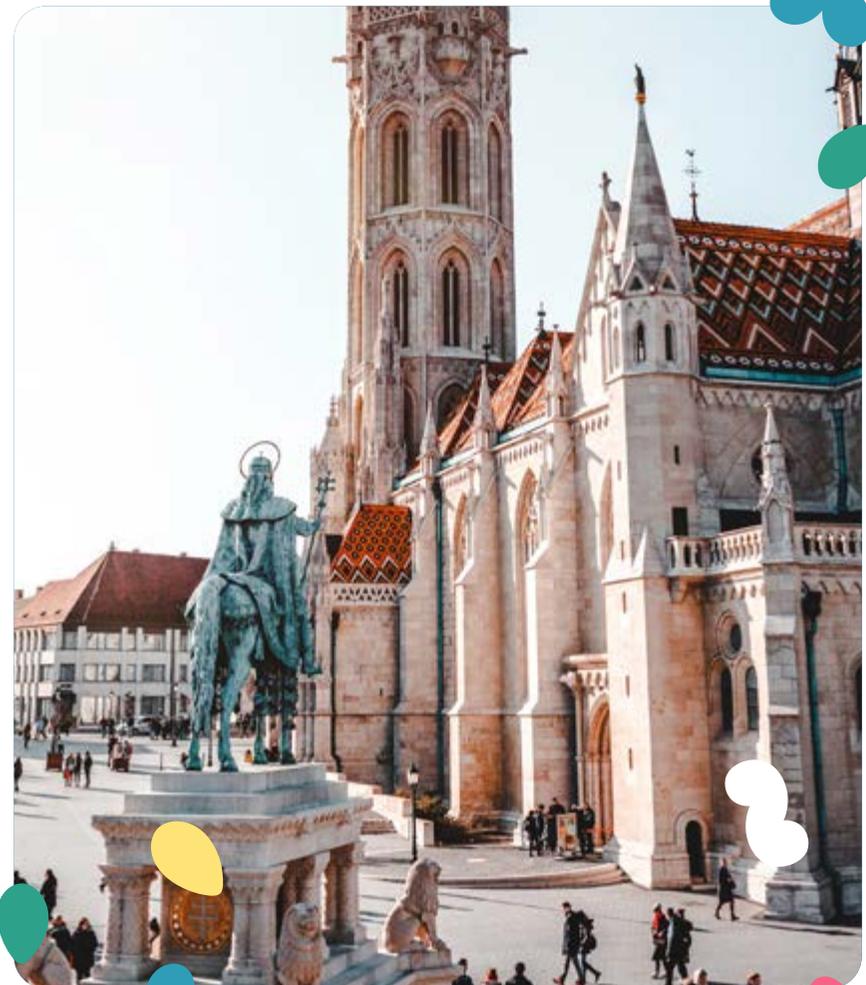
With a good demand for English lessons for students at all levels and of all ages, Hungary offers a wide range of opportunities to qualified TEFL teachers.

While most jobs require some experience as well as a degree, there are a few roles for those native speakers who are at the beginning of their teaching journey. While there are plenty of jobs, especially at the private language schools and bilingual schools that seem to pop up all over the place, wages are typically pretty low in Hungary. The cost of living isn't extortionate, but rent can be quite high, and if accommodation isn't included with a job, it can be tricky to make ends meet.

Hungarians are frugal and have a great sense of community, and so as long as expats on lower wages adopt a truly Hungarian lifestyle, their salary should stretch to their daily living costs. TEFL wages are often higher than those that local teachers earn. Strong family ties and a desire to look after each other has built solid communities in Hungary, particularly in rural areas where salaries are lower and life is less cosmopolitan. While Budapest is the most popular TEFL destination in Hungary, by choosing somewhere out of the way you'll be provided with an immersive experience in Hungarian language and culture, and might find it easier to make local friends.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£390 – £650 (\$500 – \$830)	Preferred	August/ September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Budapest, Veszprém, Szeged, Pécs, Miskolc.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 150,000 HUF to 250,000 HUF (£390 – £650 / \$500 – \$830) per month. In a private language school, you'll earn around 2,500 HUF to 4,000 HUF per hour (£6.50 – £10 / \$8 – \$13), but as a freelancer without a middle man to pay, you could earn up to 6,750 HUF (£17.50 / \$22) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A minimum of a [120-hour TEFL certificate](#) will be required for almost all jobs in Hungary.

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require you to hold a degree.

Term times: September to June.

Currency: Forint (HUF)

Language: Hungarian

Teaching programmes: Private Schools, State Schools, Bilingual Schools, Business English, Freelance.

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Most jobs require some prior teaching experience.



Since joining the EU in 2004, Hungary has had a growing demand for TEFL teachers, and as English is now part of the school curriculum, there are opportunities to teach students of all ages across the country. Students hoping to attend college or university must have a decent English ability, and so it's possible to find jobs tutoring teens to perfect their ability, or even roles at the numerous bilingual schools which operate at both elementary and secondary school levels. Bilingual schools (gimnázia) are legally required to hire a native English speaker.

Despite the emphasis on excellence in the education system, teachers are poorly paid in Hungary. While a TEFL teacher will likely be paid more than their Hungarian co-workers, it can be a struggle to live on one full-time wage alone. As rent is particularly high in big cities, some schools offer free or subsidised accommodation for teaching staff, which are often a bit old-fashioned but comfortable enough. Taxes are also high and include a lot of tricky paperwork, so make sure you find out whether the quoted salary is gross or net. Some schools offer insurance, so it's worth checking if this or any other perks are included. Many teachers in full-time positions can supplement their income by getting part-time positions at private language schools, providing lessons to kids and teens whose parents want them to get ahead, or in the lucrative Business English market. There are several organisations that promote profiles of teachers, or help to link teachers with prospective students, for those who want to get freelance work away from a private language school.

The experience of teaching Hungarians can be up and down depending on where you are. In rural locations, English levels will be poorer but you might encounter more enthusiastic learners, particularly teenagers who are keen to improve their future job prospects. In a city, where the cost of living is high and it can be tricky to improve on their future outlook, teens might be more demotivated and challenging to teach.

LIVING COSTS

Across Eastern and Central Europe, Hungary is in the middle when it comes to comparing the costs of living, similar to the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Poland. Your experience of life in Hungary will vary greatly depending on where you live. Choose Budapest and you'll be part of a big expat community, with the locals often speaking enough English these days that you hardly need to learn Hungarian. In smaller locations, however, foreigners are rare and seen as celebrity figures, with daily life being a bit of a struggle if you don't learn the language. Whether you're placed in a cosmopolitan or rural area, you'll get the most out of your stay by embracing local festivals and cultural events.

Budapest is considered one of the world's most beautiful cities and is full of culture and history as well as being well known for its dynamic arts and music scene. Outside the city, there is just as much to do with numerous hot springs across the country. Visiting the thermal baths is a popular pastime for locals and tourists alike. Spend your weekends visiting gorgeous rustic towns and Lake Balaton, Europe's largest and warmest lake. Send home unique presents at Christmas bought at popular seasonal markets, and try the local delicacies.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £531 – £756 / \$674 – \$959

Utilities: £119 / \$701

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £49 / \$62

Monthly transport pass: £25 / \$32

Basic dinner out for two: £17 / \$21

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.71 / \$2.17

A beer in a pub: £1.40 / \$1.78

1 litre of milk: £0.67 / \$0.85

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.18 / \$1.50

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN HUNGARY

While there are often jobs available in several teaching sectors, it can be tricky for TEFL teachers in Hungary to find work. State schools and other similar positions aren't often advertised or easy to get wind of, with schools sourcing teachers through other organisations. It's often easier to find work on the private market, with roles in private language schools teaching Business English or offering extra lessons to children with keen parents. While roles are available across the country, teaching positions in Budapest are most numerous and easy to find. If you're keen to get to Hungary, don't hold out for the perfect job – get what you can and then you'll have a better idea of where to go and how to find out about jobs once you're in the country and have the advantage of interviewing in person.

EMPLOYERS IN HUNGARY

[The American International School of Budapest](#) hires in November/December.

[Angol Intézet](#) hires freelance and contracted teachers/

Advertise your freelance teaching availability on [Angol Tanarok](#) for a small fee.

[Bilingual](#) hires teachers and assistants for their classes, teaching kindergarten to teen aged students in partnership with local schools.

[Budapest Jobs](#) allows you to upload your CV or search current listings.

Apply with your CV to [Budapest Afterschool](#), which predominantly teaches kindergarten, primary and secondary school children, and some adult classes.

[Converzum](#) hires TEFL teachers with a degree.

[Funside Summer Camps](#) hire TEFL qualified native teachers.

[Open Mind Education Center](#) hires those with a degree and a passion for teaching on 1-2 year contracts, 35 hours per week.

Check the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

"I work at Sárospataki Református Gimnázium (Sárospatak's Reformed High School) in north-east Hungary. I was taking over the job from a friend who taught at this school for two years. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and knew I would too.

A typical day is waking up around 6.30am and getting ready for school. The school day starts at 7.50am so it's much earlier than UK schools. Arriving at school I then gather all my materials together and start teaching classes. My timetable varies from only three lessons on a Monday and a Friday, to eight lessons in a row on Thursdays! I teach students different topics and at the end I get them to prepare a speaking presentation, so I can see how well they have learned the topic and how well they are able to speak English."

Rachel, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Italy

Viva Italia! Plentiful pizza, great weather, centuries of culture... what more could you want in a TEFL location?

It's no wonder that Italy is a popular destination for TEFL teachers, and private English lessons are more popular than ever. While Italians learn English in school, standards are typically poor and so the market for private language schools and freelance teachers is booming.

You'll need a thick skin and a good sense of humour to teach English in Italy. Jobs are plentiful, and if you have experience and qualifications then you'll have no trouble securing a bit of work, especially if you speak Italian. However, full-time roles are a rarity. Teachers have to put in a lot of legwork to secure enough different employment options to make ends meet. Many teachers work freelance for a number of different language schools as well as teaching their own private classes. Also, pay varies and can be a bit of a kick in the teeth if you're used to earning more. Some schools try to get away with paying less than you deserve, but if you aren't experienced or able to acquire your own students, you just have to grin and bear it in the beginning.

The good news is that the cost of living is low. Even if you aren't making megabucks from the off, you can still afford a nice quality of life in Italy. With the freelance nature of the work, many teachers just plan to stay in Italy for a year or two rather than becoming a long-term expat, so it's the perfect place for backpacking TEFL teachers wanting to put down roots for a year.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,054 – £1,229 (\$1,312 – \$1,531)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Sicily, Calabria and Puglia are top TEFL spots, as well as popular locations like Rome, Milan, Venice, Florence, Naples, Bologna, Sardinia, Adriatic Coast, Sardinia

Average salary for EFL teachers: Salaries vary greatly depending on the type of school, location etc. However, a typical salary for a full-time position is around €1,200 to €1,400 (£1,054 – £1,229 / \$1,312 – \$1,531) per month. Salaries tend to be higher in northern Italy than in the south. Teaching Business English can be very lucrative and private tutoring is a great way to make extra money. Hourly wages vary, and some schools may try to pay you less than what you deserve. €12 (£10.54 / \$13.13) hour is common but in some places you can expect more like €25 (£21.95 / \$27.34) per hour. Summer school positions will pay around €250 (£220 / \$273) per week.

TEFL qualification requirements: [A 120-hour TEFL certificate](#) is a minimum requirement.

Prerequisite university degree: Many jobs have a preference for degree-holders.

Term times: The academic year in Italy is made up of two semesters. The first semester starts in September and ends in February. The second semester starts in February and ends in June.

Currency: Euro

Language: Italian

Teaching programmes: International Language Schools, Government Schools, Private Schools, Private Tutoring, Summer Camps.

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Most jobs require some experience, and elite jobs will ask for several years of teaching experience.



Students in Italy learn English in school, but the education system is known for being a bit behind the times and so their language lessons can leave much to be desired. Native teachers are sometimes employed in schools, but curricula and teaching materials vary, so many students may have poor levels of fluency despite studying for several years. As such, taking English lessons in the private sector is popular for children and teenagers wanting to excel in their language skills, and business English classes are popular with professionals who want to get ahead at work.

Work permits are difficult for non-EU citizens to acquire. The market can also be difficult to break into because of the recent move towards freelance, part-time staff rather than full-time teaching positions. It's tricky to get a long-term job in Italy, and many teachers will work freelance for several private language schools and also offer their own private lessons in their free time. British-run recruitment agencies are sometimes able to offer full-time positions.

When a company hires a permanent member of staff, the costly extras (like social security contributions and job perks) make it far more likely you'll be offered a short contract of nine or ten months, running from October to May. Some teachers spend their free months between contracts doing summer school placements and travelling around Europe.

LIVING COSTS

Think of a holiday in Venice or Rome and you might be led to believe that life in Italy will be expensive. However, while it's by no means a budget holiday destination, life in Italy can be perfectly affordable, even on the relatively low wages that most TEFL teachers earn. Italy is actually one of the cheapest countries in Western Europe, and it's especially noticeable when looking at things like the cost of groceries and eating out. Coffee, which basically counts as a staple in Italy, is cheap and available everywhere. There are discrepancies, however – look at the cost of getting a pint of beer in a pub, or the inflated charge for a visit to the GP.

As always, you'll find small town living cheaper than that in big cities and bustling tourist destinations. Italian culture is a curious mix of a slow-paced lifestyle with a fast-paced vibe, but many expats find that embracing the low-key, easy-going lifestyle of the relaxed small towns is the best way to strike a work/life balance and keep costs low.

If you do live in a bigger city, make local or expat friends who are savvy about where to go. Obviously, a cup of coffee will be much cheaper in a little joint down a quiet alley than it will be from a café in St Mark's square. Flat shares are good options in big cities, whereas in smaller locations you might be able to afford your own place. General costs are fairly consistent from region-to-region, and wherever you are you'll get the most out of your experience by living as the locals do.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £548 – £819 / \$682 – \$1,020 per month

Utilities: £79 / \$98 per month

Health insurance: EU nationals can use their European Health Insurance Card to use the national healthcare system (SSN). Non-EU expats must have valid private insurance or register for the SSN. Visit to the GP: £75 / \$94

Monthly transport pass: £31 / \$39

Basic dinner out for two: £32 / \$40

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.29 / \$1.60

A beer in a pub: £4.43 / \$5.52

1 litre of milk: £1.09 / \$1.36

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.63 / \$2.02

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ITALY

Like many TEFL locations in Europe, employers want to meet you face-to-face before offering work. Pounding the pavement and handing out CVs might not work in other countries, but it does in Italy. Approach schools directly, meet the director of the school and give them a CV, even if they're not hiring at that time – it's not uncommon for schools to get in contact a few months down the line when they're looking for staff. With many TEFL teachers in Italy working on a freelance basis for several different language schools, this 'drips and drabs' approach can actually work quite well. Schools also like it when reliable teachers can be found to take on extra work when needed – you might start out with just a few hours a week, but if you are there for them when they need you, your reputation will grow and your hours will quickly follow.

EMPLOYERS IN ITALY

[Associazione Italiana Scuole di Lingue](#) is one of the biggest employers of TEFL teachers in Italy.

[Evocation](#) is a British and Irish recruitment agency and can offer full-time work on British contracts

Visit The [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for listings in Italy and worldwide.

The [Yellow Pages](#) are a good place to look for English schools.

[Insegnanti-Inglese](#) is one of the best places to post an advert about freelance teaching, as well as searching for local positions.

Other big chain language schools you can find in Italy are: Wall Street English, International House, Linguarama, Berlitz, Benedict Schools, Inlingua, Morgan Schools, Shenker Schools, and British Schools Group.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“My TEFL journey has taken me to 6 different countries and all the way back again, to the UK. I started the adventure in Italy, where I worked in a young learner summer camp and lived with an Italian family in Inzago; a small village just outside of Milan in the north of the country. My days were spent teaching English through songs, games, and teaching basic vocabulary; a perfect introduction into dealing with various classroom situations and an unforgettable experience gaining a second family who I have since been back to visit.”

Billie, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in The Netherlands

While there isn't high demand for TEFL teachers in the Netherlands, there certainly is a high demand for teachers with the correct experience.

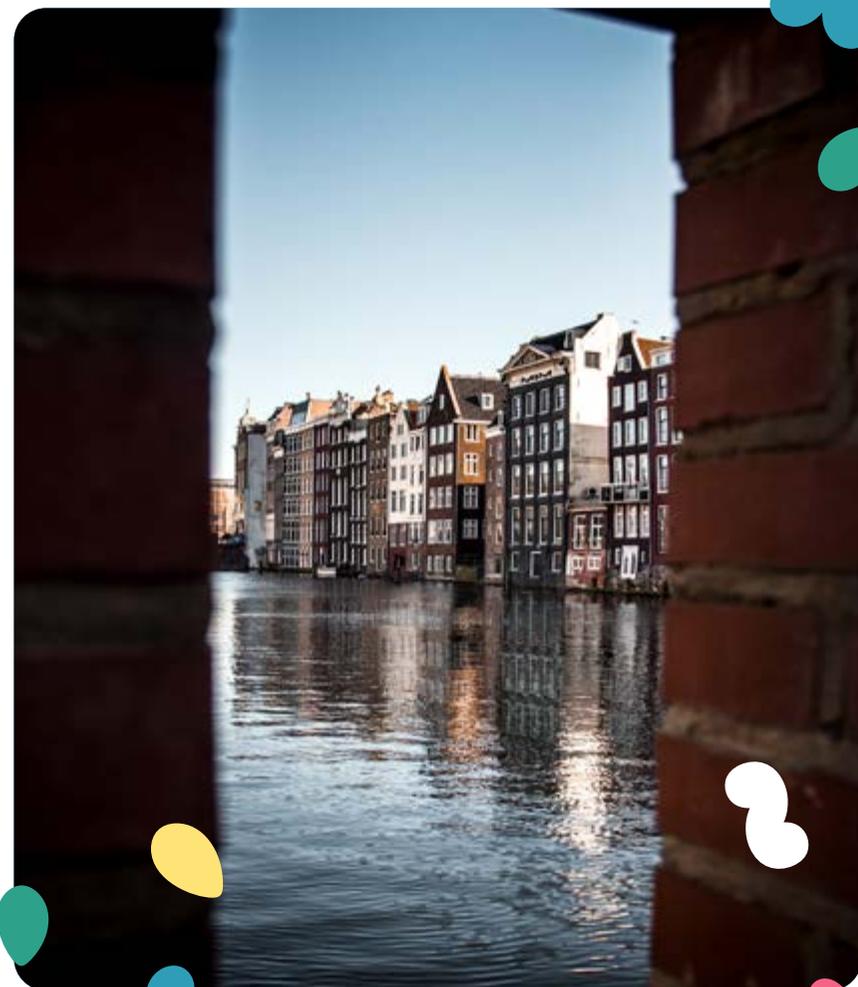
Positions are seeking the very best to accommodate their highly skilled students, and will be particularly interested in TEFL teachers with teaching qualifications other than their TEFL certificate. Having knowledge of Dutch will make your application more desirable.

Living in the Netherlands is a change in lifestyle that many expats adapt to quickly and learn to love. The locals can take some getting used to – the Dutch are straight-talking, but once you get used to it you'll appreciate knowing where you are with these down-to-earth people. They also have what many consider an odd sense of humour, but at their core they're a friendly, chilled out nation with a great sense of community.

Your free time in the Netherlands will be a breath of fresh air compared to sunning yourself in Spain or hiking in Italian mountain ranges. The Netherlands might be flat and boast dreary weather, but they have a great outdoor culture, with cycling being the best way to get around and boating a popular way to relax. Flat landscapes don't equal boring ones – there's something serene about the open vistas you'll learn to call home. The Dutch have a rich artistic culture, an open mindset, an economy growing in opportunities and a people who are some of the happiest in the world – what are you waiting for?

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,300 – £2,600 (\$1,600 – \$2,800)	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: The Hague, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Leiden

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €2,200 (£1,900/\$2,370) per month, with salaries fluctuating from €1,480 (£1,300/\$1,600) to €2,600 (£2,270/\$2,800). Freelance contracts offer hourly rates of around €22 (£19 – \$24) to €27 (£23.50 – \$29).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour online TEFL qualification](#) is a minimum requirement, but the Dutch speak English very well, so you're more likely to get hired if you have further qualifications.

Prerequisite university degree: You need a degree to teach in public school, but private language schools may not require a degree. With fierce competition for well-paid jobs, the more qualified you are, the better.

Term times: The school year runs from September to June

Currency: Euro

Language: Dutch

Teaching programmes: Business English, Legal English and Academic English at language schools, Adult Education Centres, Public Schools, Universities, Freelance

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: While positions may not clearly state what experience you need, with tough competition for the best jobs, you won't get far without some relevant experience under your belt. Your pay might also depend on your experience level.



The Dutch are some of the best second language English speakers in the world. EF's English Proficiency Index actually ranks them as number one, holding a top 3 position since 2011. What this means for TEFL teachers is that demand is limited – with such a high level of proficiency, there isn't much call for catch-up classes for those who didn't learn as kids. English lessons are compulsory in Dutch schools, and English is a popular degree subject, so there is scope for employment in the public sector more so than at private language schools.

Private language schools in the Netherlands are usually geared towards training in specific fields, such as Business English, Legal English or Academic English, and will expect teachers to be experienced in certain topics. With advanced students, you can't just wing it as you might with teaching to beginners or young learners. If you don't have knowledge of these specialist subjects you might be able to find work teaching IELTS or other exam preparation classes.

Giving one-to-one classes on a freelance basis isn't so popular in the Netherlands. Locals will have a good knowledge of English by the time they're adults, and even university students don't often seek extra classes because they're already so well catered for. However, as the Netherlands is a popular place to live, you might find a small market for teaching English to people from other nationalities who are less advanced in English, such as Spanish students studying at local universities.

Being on time is really important to the Dutch, and they consider it very rude to cancel plans at short notice. Learn as much about the culture as you can before you go to make a good impression with your students, and learn to take their brutal honesty on the chin – it's just the way they are and doesn't mean you're doing a bad job.

LIVING COSTS

Ouch, don't those prices just make you wince when thinking about cheap European destinations like Spain, Portugal and Italy? Also, be prepared for high taxes – usually around 30 or 40% – but bear in mind that high taxes mean great investment in social services; the Netherlands has a low level of poverty and a high quality of life. The Netherlands are midrange in price when it comes to Western Europe (8th most expensive country out of 19) and the country is more expensive than 83% of countries in the world. Certain aspects of the below list stand out more than others – the price of rent and utilities are painfully high, but there are perks too. Coffee is pricy but not extortionate – make your café visits a treat rather than a daily trip and you can easily afford a cuppa. The cost of visiting the GP is surprisingly low, too, so it's not all bad.

As you would expect, a country that has a high cost of living also pays high wages. You'll be earning a good salary as a TEFL teacher in this country and if, like many TEFL teachers, you do a few classes in your own time (either local face-to-face classes or online) you'll be earning enough to save some of your earnings, too.

Life in the Netherlands is pleasant enough to draw a good number of TEFL teachers, despite the fact that there's a high cost of living. A small, liberal country, the Netherlands isn't known for its great weather but there's plenty to love about living there. Dutch food is far more varied and delicious than you probably realise, and while the Dutch are often considered rude for being so frank, they're a fun-loving, friendly bunch, too.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £978 – £1,622 / \$1,204 – \$1,997

Utilities: £146 / \$180

Health insurance: Everyone is required to take out their own basic health insurance, called Zorgverzekeringswet. Temporary residents are covered by their EHIC. Cost of typical visit to a GP: £24 / \$29

Monthly transport pass: £83 / \$102

Basic dinner out for two: £37 / \$46

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.77 / \$3.40

A beer in a pub: £4.37 / \$5.38

1 litre of milk: £1.05 / \$1.29

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.33 / \$2.86

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THE NETHERLANDS

With tough competition for the best jobs, you have to be savvy to find employment in the Netherlands. While some companies are happy for you to send them a speculative application when they're not hiring, it isn't common to find a job this way. Make sure you send your application to the correct person in the company, as sending it to the wrong person might result in it being deleted. Having a personal contact or hearing of a job through word of mouth is a great way to beat the crowds. In general, employers prefer applicants to already be living locally.

EMPLOYERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

[Adult Education Centres](#) are one place where you can teach English in a non-corporate atmosphere.

[Berlitz](#) is a major employer of language instructors in the Netherlands, both of TEFL teachers and those who are native speakers of other languages.

To work at [Bogaers](#) you must speak Dutch, have a degree, a TEFL certificate and relevant experience. Positions are freelance, paid by the hour.

[Language Partners](#) specialise in Legal English and freelance classes, and they provide extensive compulsory training for new staff, who they expect to be flexible, highly organised and experienced.

On the [Yellow Pages](#), search for Talenonderwijs which means 'language training' to find TEFL jobs.

Visit the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings.



Teach English in Norway

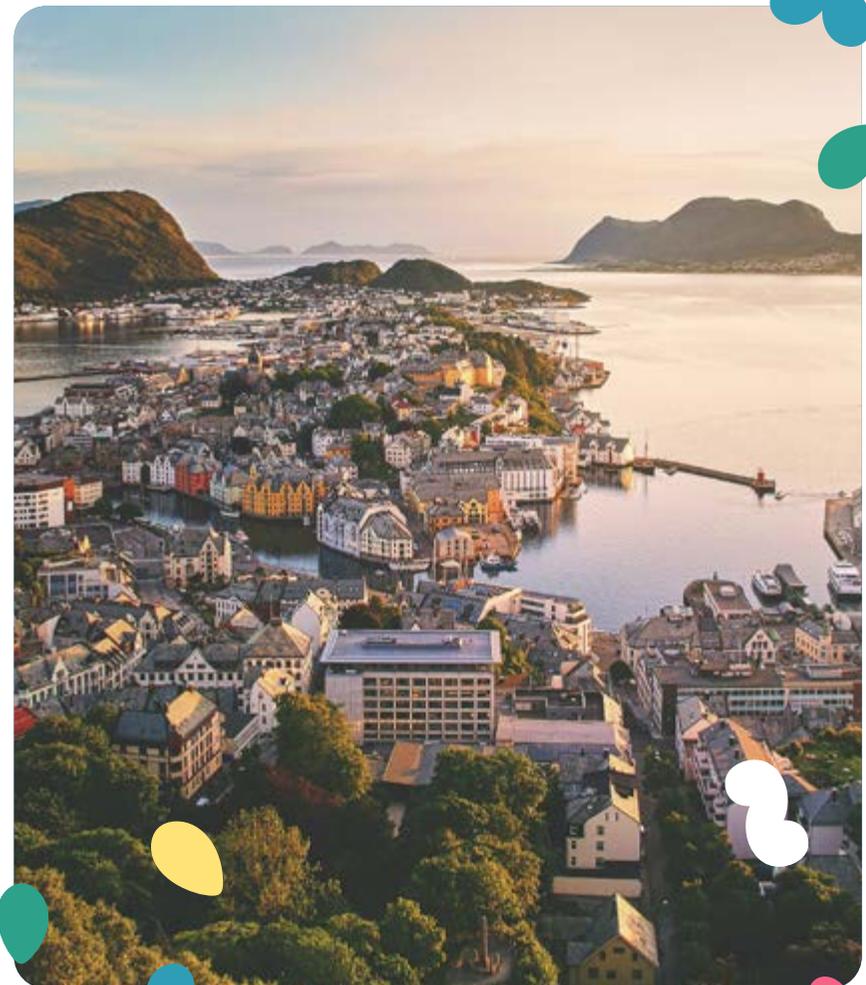
While there isn't a booming TEFL industry in Norway, the pull of the majestic fjords and the mesmerizing Northern Lights are enough to entice the more intrepid teachers out there.

To get work in Norway you need to be well-qualified and have decent experience – like much of Scandinavia, the locals are skilled linguists and have an excellent level of English language ability. Norwegian is a Germanic language, and while more similar to Swedish and Danish, the similarities with English make it easy for Norwegians to pick up the language. Around 80% to 90% of Norwegians are said to be able to speak English to some extent, and the country often scores highly on global English proficiency tests.

Finding a job in Norway can be tricky for several reasons. Firstly, the sheer number of locals who speak English fluently means that many English teaching jobs can be filled by Norwegians. Locals also hold the upper hand for jobs in kindergartens and public primary schools, where applicants are usually required to be fluent in Norwegian as well as English. The preference for hiring locally means that schools are often keen to hire native English speakers already resident in the country rather than bringing a new teacher in. However, in smaller locations where the pool of local native speakers will be smaller, you'll find better opportunities. Also, top positions at International Schools might be looking for multi-talented teachers who have more to offer than just a TEFL certificate, degree, and experience, so if you have any other strings to your bow, make sure to consider how these could be used to boost your chances.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£2,100 – £2,500 (\$2,580–\$3,090)	Preferred	August/ September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Stavanger.

Average salary for EFL teachers: Annual salary in an international school will be around 386,000 kr (£32,150 / \$39,000) for primary school teachers and 465,000 kr (£38,730 / \$48,000) for secondary school teachers. Full-time jobs for professors in universities will pay around 470,000 kr – 510,000 kr (£39,000 – £42,500 / \$48,460 / \$52,580) per year. The average monthly salary for a full-time teacher is 25,000 kr to 30,000 kr (£2,100 – £2,500 / \$2,580 – \$3,090). The hourly basic wage is around 160 kr (£13 / \$16.50), although this can soar to over 300 kr (£25 / \$31) per hour for high-level Business English classes.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is a minimum requirement.

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require a degree, and top positions in International Schools might specify which subject your school be qualified in, or that you need an MA in your field.

Term times: Mid-August/September until July.

Currency: Norwegian krone (KR)

Language: Norwegian

Teaching programmes: International Schools, Private Language Schools, Part-Time, Evening Classes, Kindergarten, Public School, Freelance.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Your chances will be boosted in all jobs with a few years of experience. Some jobs require at least two years of full-time experience behind you.



Bilingual international schools cater primarily to the children of expats, offering well-paid positions to TEFL teachers who are highly qualified and experienced. Hiring usually takes place between September and January, and your first interview is likely to take place online. Contracts are usually for one year, and they might reimburse expenses such as your airfare and initial accommodation while you search for a rental property. Many schools offer medical insurance.

There are other fields of work in Norway which require English-speakers. Some who move to Norway for other work might stay on and work as an English teacher (and be easily hired despite lack of qualifications or experience because they're already resident with a bank account, etc), or they might have a spouse who takes up part-time TEFL work in the country. These fields include engineering, developers, the oil and gas industry, tourism, construction, au pair work, nursing and hospitality. If any of these are fields that you have a background in, think how you can utilize your skills to gain access into the tricky market of TEFL teaching in Norway. Remember that corporate gigs are a major employer of TEFL teachers, rather than private language schools catering to kids and teens or lower-level adult learners.

LIVING COSTS

Norway is one of the most expensive countries in Europe, and in the top ten most expensive countries in the world. While tourists often comment about the expense of visiting Norway, when it comes to the cost of living in the country, it's not quite so simple. Things may cost more than in other European countries, but wages are often higher, meaning that even on a lower salary in the country you can afford to get by. Norway is interesting in that it has no minimum wage, and there is a narrower range of salaries across different industries. Jobs that are typically poorly paid in other countries (such as service industries – working in a café or restaurant), will pay you more than you might expect in Norway. But at the higher end of the scale, in jobs such as middle management where in other countries you'd expect a much higher wage, these positions will see managers earning little more than the people they supervise. Across the board, wages can be seen as more equal in Norway, and a full-time teaching position will certainly pay your way if you don't live too extravagantly and bear in mind the high VAT.

Make the most of your time off work by indulging in outdoor activities. In the summer, the sun never sets in Norway; locals and tourists alike make use of the 'midnight sun' to enjoy experiencing the great outdoors at this unique time. Fishing, cycling, hiking, skiing, ice-skating, exploring fjords and watching the Northern Lights are all great ways to get a taste of the local culture. It's a good idea to foster enjoyment from free outdoor activities – Norway can be an expensive place to live, so you'll save more if you don't splash out on your weekend activities. Allemannsrett is the name for a local 'law' which means you can pitch your tent or hike anywhere in the country – great news for keen campers.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,166 – £1,774 / \$1,427 – \$2,172

Utilities: £177 / \$217

Cost of typical visit to a GP: Full-time contracts might provide health insurance for TEFL teachers. Cost of typical visit to a GP: £60 / \$73

Monthly transport pass: £63 / \$77

Basic dinner out for two: £39 / \$48

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.53 / \$4.32

A beer in a pub: £7 / \$9

1 litre of milk: £1.62 / \$1.98

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £3.04 / \$3.72

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN NORWAY

While Norway isn't a member of the European Union, they do have separate visa regulations for EU and non-EU citizens hoping to work in the country. Teachers who are EU citizens don't need to apply for a work permit to teach in Norway, but teachers who come from outside the EU will need a visa and work permit, and it's generally very difficult for them to find work unless already in the country.

EMPLOYERS IN NORWAY

[AAC Global](#) is a well-known TEFL employer in Norway.

[Berlitz](#) is a major employer of TEFL teachers in Norway.

Evening classes (engelskurs) at [Folkuniversity centres](#) are a good opportunity for TEFL teachers seeking part-time work.

For well-qualified and experienced teachers, getting a position in an International School is a great way to earn highly in Norway. [This list of international schools](#) across the country will help you find work – schools usually advertise on their own websites.

Local and national newspapers can be a good way to find out about current positions – check out Aftenposten, Dagbladet, and The Norway Post.

[Sucre Language Solutions](#) teaches English and Spanish in Oslo.

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for listings.



Teach English in Poland

With some of the best living conditions in Eastern Europe, it's not surprising that Poland is one of the most sought-after TEFL destinations in this part of the world.

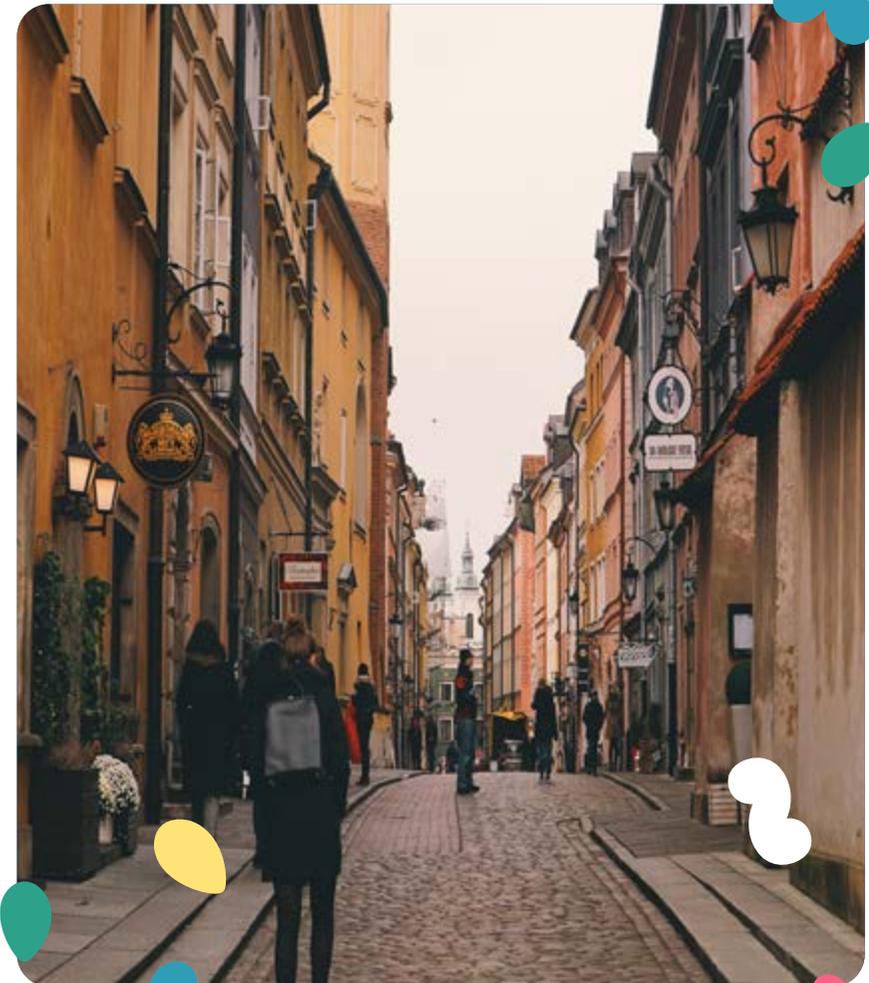
The country itself has a lot to offer, from impressive architecture to medieval towns and plenty of theatres and museums to visit. Winter sports are popular pastimes, as well as roller-skating and cycling in public parks. With mountains, lakes, and the sea, Poland is a great place to enjoy outdoor pursuits. If you like getting away somewhere further afield, weekend trips to places like Slovakia or Hungary where you can go to the thermal pools are popular trips.

Public transport in the cities is cheap and easy to use, making it a great way to see all the sights. Prices for food and drink are a lot cheaper than in Western Europe, so make sure you take advantage of this and sample all the local delicacies! The Polish are friendly and warm-hearted people, eager to learn English and are respectful towards their teachers. Overall, Poland is definitely a great destination to kick off your career teaching English abroad.

The demand for fully-qualified TEFL teachers isn't as strong as it used to be, but you should still find it relatively easy to secure a job teaching English in Poland. This high demand for English to be taught is mainly due to the rise in foreign investments and other business ventures that are conducted in English. Also, students in Poland who wish to pursue a career in business are required by the government to sit an English proficiency examination. However, in recent years there has been an emphasis on teaching English to younger children in Poland, and while Polish school children will study English from at least secondary school, many now have exposure to it from kindergarten age.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£400 – £700 (\$480 – \$850)	Yes	September	No	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Kraków, Warsaw, Wrocław, Gdansk, Łódź, Poznan, Silesia

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time position at a language school is likely to be in the region of 2,000 – 3,500 zloty (£400 – £700 / \$480 – \$850) per month. Freelance rates are around 50 to 90 zloty per hour (£10 – £18 / \$12 – \$22) but hourly cooperate gigs will likely pay more.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [TEFL course](#) of at least 120 hours is required for most jobs.

Prerequisite university degree: A degree is typically required to teach English in Poland.

Term times: The school semesters in Poland start in September/October and in February. July to September and January are when the majority of teaching positions will be advertised.

Currency: Polish Zloty (PLN)

Language: Polish

Teaching programmes: Government Schools, Private Language Schools, Private Tuition, Teacher Training Colleges, University, Holiday Language Camps, Freelance.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: Some jobs require years of experience, and while most jobs want at least a bit of prior experience, some positions will value the personality and character of a teacher over years of experience.



Most contracts to teach English in Poland run for one year, or an academic year of 9 to 10 months. Although, there are also opportunities for short-term teaching contracts if you apply mid-way through the academic year and with summer schools. Generally, the best time to apply for TEFL jobs in Poland is in September or January. Teaching hours vary between 20–30 hours a week depending on your school, and class sizes can range from 5–50 pupils.

One of the great things about teaching English in Poland is that almost every school offers its teachers free accommodation, Polish language classes, paid holidays and work and visa permit assistance. While wages look low, factor in your free housing and it's quite a good deal. You can find work teaching English in both the state and private sectors as well as institutions, government schools and inside major corporations. The best-paid jobs are found in major cities, but competition is tough. If you seek out work in smaller places (such as in eastern and southern Poland) where you can find even cheaper living costs, it will be much easier to secure a job.

Polish students are open, good humoured and keen to learn, and while pronunciation can be an issue, they're happy to speak but might be shy in bigger groups. Conversation classes often focus on real-life situations, such as how to fluently order food in a restaurant or have a casual chat with a colleague, rather than focusing on more formal usage. For Business English, companies often hire a tutor to teach in-house classes, but the enthusiasm for students in these classes can vary as attendance might not be optional!

Private teaching can be lucrative, particularly if you live somewhere smaller where word of mouth counts for a lot and your good reputation won't go unnoticed. Students can be unreliable, so it's recommended to get students to sign up to a block of pre-paid lessons.

LIVING COSTS

Compared to Western Europe, the cost of living in Poland is enviable, but it's fairly evenly placed in the middle of standards across Eastern Europe. For locals, the low cost of living is weighed up against relatively low salaries, and while you can get by on less it takes a savvy shopper to find the best deals and take home savings at the end of the month. Expat salaries tend to be higher than local wages, so if you're careful with your money you can afford to live well in Poland.

Accommodation is easy to find and fairly priced, even in more popular areas, but as many jobs provide free or cheap accommodation with the role this might not be a problem for you. In Poland, young people can likely speak English and perhaps other languages as well, but if you go to smaller towns, you'll find that there are few people in the older generations with English language skills. People in Poland are hardworking and the office-life culture can be stressful. But people also like to relax and have a good time, so you'll find plenty of nightlife and entertainment to keep you busy.

Polish food is perhaps not world-famous, but there are plenty of local dishes that are easy to fall in love with. Pierogi are sweet or savoury dumplings that will quickly become your go-to snack, bigos is a hunter's stew that will be a winter favourite, and potato pancakes are a carby treat you won't be able to resist.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £624 – £921 / \$765 – \$1,128

Utilities: £105 / \$129

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £25 / \$31

Monthly transport pass: £18 / \$22

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$19

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.10 / \$2.57

A beer in a pub: £1.20 / \$1.47

1 litre of milk: £0.67 / \$0.82

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.06 / \$1.29

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN POLAND

Be sure to check requirements carefully before applying as many jobs will specify not just that you have a degree, but that it should be in an English-related subject. Schools that ask for CELTA qualified or equivalent are unlikely to hire a teacher with just an online TEFL certificate. When comparing jobs, make sure you have the figures for gross and net pay as this can make a big difference, and also whether accommodation is included free, subsidised or not included at all. Also, there's much variation in contract length rather than the standard one-year contract, so check all the details before applying.

EMPLOYERS IN THE POLAND

For something a bit different, book a 'free holiday' with [Angloville](#) where in exchange for room and board you volunteer with paying students.

[British Centre](#), in association with British Council, looks for qualified, Cambridge exam experienced, British accent teachers.

[English College](#) offers 20,000 – 22,000 zloty per contract plus a single furnished studio flat (utilities not included) to TEFL teachers with experience and a degree.

Take a look at the [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for our latest positions.

At [Lektor](#), teach at summer courses, language camps and regular classes.

[McGregor Language Schools](#) hires TEFL qualified teachers, experience beneficial.

[My Speed](#) has 5 branches, offering 10 or 12-month contracts.

[Right Now](#) hires TEFL teachers with an EU passport for 10-month contracts, 2,500 zloty per month plus accommodation provided, teaching kids and adults.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

"I currently teach in the small city of Bielsko-Biała, known as 'Little Vienna', about an hour away from the bustling city of Krakow. Poland has taken me completely by surprise. I had previously visited Poland as a teenager but had no idea about the beauty that could be found in its cities and landscapes. I couldn't have asked to live in a better location. Krakow, Wrocław, Warsaw as well as Prague and Vienna are just some of the nearby cities that are so easy and quick to travel to.

The architecture and history of the cities is fascinating, and the charming coloured buildings look as if they have been built by LEGO. There are beautiful market squares, museums and lakes all around which means I always find something to do at the weekend.

I have also had the great experience of travelling to the famous Tatra Mountains, again just a short journey from my city. The views are stunning and while visiting in winter is not advised, it was a lot of fun and one of the most memorable experiences I've had while living here (although if you are going to visit in winter, I strongly recommend a good thick coat!) Living in Poland is very cheap so it's easy to eat out (I once got a huge pizza for the equivalent of £3.00!) and very easy to travel the country and still have a nice amount of money in your back pocket."

Katie, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Portugal

While Portugal has rarely featured as a top TEFL location in Europe, in recent years a number of teachers have become aware of the unique benefits to living in this country, prompted by its recent economic growth.

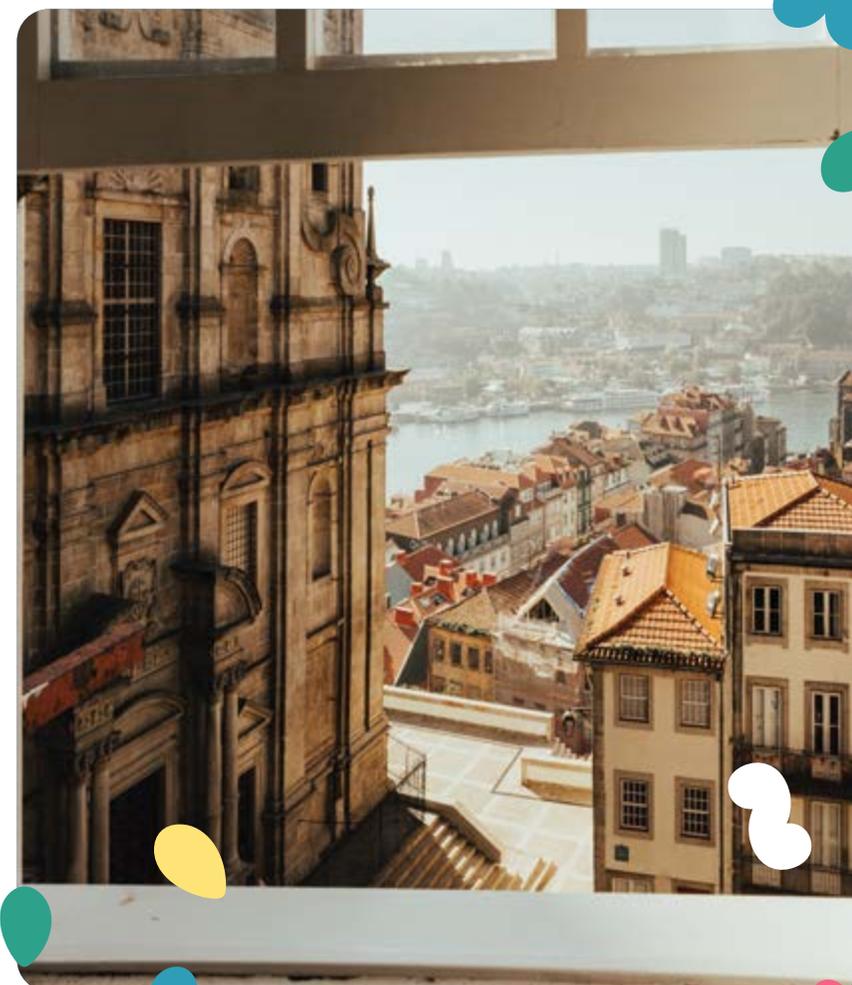
This is a country with rich employment opportunities and a slower pace of life for seasoned TEFL teachers who want to kick back and enjoy the good weather. With a social culture and a positive attitude to language learning, teachers will find their role in Portuguese society easy to settle into.

Foreigners are drawn to Portugal for the slower pace of life. Locals are friendly and gregarious – they like to socialise, eat together, enjoy good music, and spend time in cafés and bars. The weather is a major draw in Portugal, which enjoys warm weather for most of the year (March to October) but summers can be stiflingly hot if you aren't used to it. However, do bear in mind that winters are cold in Portugal – it isn't balmy all year round. Relaxing on the beaches is a great way to spend your free time if you live on the coast.

While predominantly popular for British expats, it's easy for any EU citizen fluent in English to work in Portugal. Non-EU citizens will need a work permit (Autorização de Trabalho). All foreigners living in Portugal must apply for a residency permit (Cartão de Residencia).

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£616 – £880 (\$756 – \$1,080)	Yes	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: The Algarve, Porto, Lisbon, Coimbra

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €700 to €1,000 (£616 – £880/\$756 – \$1,080) per month. Top schools will offer in the region of €1,300 – €1,600 (£1,145 – £1,409/\$1,404 – \$1,729) per month. Private lesson prices vary from €10 – €18 (£8.80 – £15.85/\$10.80 – \$19.45) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL certificate](#) is a minimum requirement.

Prerequisite university degree: Candidates are required to hold a degree for all but volunteering positions.

Term times: September – June (dates vary by region).

Currency: Euro

Language: Portuguese

Teaching programmes: Intensive summer school courses (which are a great way into securing a full-time job), public schools, private schools, international schools, language centres, freelance.

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: At least one year of experience will be required for many jobs, with the best jobs asking for two or more years of experience. Knowledge of basic Portuguese will also make you more employable.



While the wages for TEFL teachers in Portugal might not seem as high as other nearby countries, remember that the cost of living is low in Portugal. Most teachers in full-time employment will find they have enough to live on, but can make up any extra they need by teaching one-to-one classes in the evenings or on weekends.

Most Portuguese schools operate from Monday to Friday and teachers will teach around 22 hours per week, on top of preparation time. Some schools might require you to get involved with extra activities such as school performances. Classes are likely to be 45 minutes for younger students, 90 minutes for older kids. Getting hired in a private school can sometimes be easier than in a public school – public schools are more likely to require a knowledge of Portuguese, and their employment process can be lengthy. Full-time contracts will be for 9 or 12-months. If you have a 9-month contract, fill the gap with a summer school placement before the next term.

Teaching in a language school will have a different schedule, with most lessons taking place in the evenings and weekends. You might apply for a school job and find yourself actually working for five or six different schools who share you throughout the week. This is likely to be the case in smaller locations where one school doesn't have enough pupils to justify a full-time English teacher. Some jobs provide accommodation, flight reimbursement, school meals, Portuguese lessons, and an annual bonus.

LIVING COSTS

While you may not be raking it in with a huge salary in Portugal, the cost of living is low and you can afford a great lifestyle. In Western Europe, Portugal is the cheapest country to live in, beating other top TEFL locations like Spain, France, Italy and Germany. Prices are highest in cities such as Lisbon, Cascais, Porto, Braga and Aveiro, but get out into smaller locations and the cost of living will drop. Even in the most popular cities, prices are astonishingly low compared to other nearby countries.

When you live in Portugal, you can afford to embrace the Portuguese lifestyle. Eating out in Portugal is quite different to home dining in the country. At home, the diet Mediterranean-style – plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables, side salads, lots of bread, soup and hearty dishes. When dining in restaurants, you'll notice a distinct lack of vegetables – many of the dishes are meat or fish heavy, with assorted appetizers such as bread and olives. Vegetarians can struggle when dining out in Portugal. Dinner is eaten late in the evening, from about 19:00 – 23:00.

Café culture is a huge part of daily life in Portugal. Unlike other Western countries where you order a latte and a slice of cake and sit nursing it for an hour, in Portugal the café drinks are often short (even shot sized) and the cakes are bite-sized. As such, locals can be seen dashing into the coffee bars, knocking back an espresso and a tiny pastry, then heading out to carry on with their day just minutes later. The low cost of these treats (small coffee and assortment of tiny cakes for two people, under €5) you can afford to dine out frequently.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £429 – £628 / \$526 – \$770

Utilities: £95 / \$117

Health insurance: If you live and work in Portugal and contribute to social security, you will typically be entitled to state healthcare (called the Servico Nacional de Saude (SNS), similar to the NHS in the UK). Dental visits not covered. GP Visit: £43 / \$53

Monthly transport pass: £32 / \$39

Basic dinner out for two: £23 / \$28

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.02 / \$2.48

A beer in a pub: £2.06 / \$2.53

1 litre of milk: £0.56 / \$0.69

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.72 / \$2.11

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN PORTUGAL

Most jobs will want to interview in person, and will be reluctant to sponsor visas for those coming from further afield. Sending letters of inquiry to schools is unlikely to land you a job unless they're actually advertising for a position. You'll find that many smaller private language schools don't list employment opportunities on their website – you'll have to look through online job forums at peak hiring times (before the summer, September and January) to find adverts.

EMPLOYERS IN PORTUGAL

[Wall Street English](#) is a major employer of TEFL teachers in Portugal, with around 30 language centres across the country.

[International House](#) has ten schools in Portugal and the majority of their students are children.

[Fun Languages](#) offers instruction in English (as well as other foreign languages) as summer schools or extracurricular classes.

[Bristol School](#) has 9 schools providing classes for young learners (8 and above), teenagers, adults and corporate groups.

[Cambridge School](#) is one of the largest private language schools in Portugal.

[APPI](#) lists various TEFL jobs for different schools and centres across Portugal.

Visit our [TEFL Jobs Centre](#) for listings.



Teach English in Romania

Romania is a country shaped by its folk culture as much as by the Carpathian Mountains running through it.

Villages in the mountains have been isolated and self-sufficient throughout most of their history, meaning each one has its own unique traditions and stories. Only recently have these villages become more interconnected, so the connection to local folklore remains a cultural touchstone for many Romanians. If you want a TEFL adventure in a country where you can really immerse yourself in the language and the culture, Romania is a great choice.

The rise of interconnectivity and modernisation in the country has driven demand for TEFL instructors, particularly in once-isolated villages. While you're there, you'll have the opportunity to visit reinforced churches, towering castles, abandoned forts, and other historical structures in your spare time. People in the country are eager to help outsiders integrate with local customs, and you may even have these excursions paid for by your employer! For this reason, TEFL roles in the country are particularly well-suited for historians, folklorists, and other storytellers. Whether you have a taste for the macabre, an interest in superstitious tales, or a desire to nurture your imagination, you'll find it all with TEFL in Romania.

However, while teaching in Romania may sound like a fairy tale, the truth is that it's not always easy to find work there. While English lessons are popular, the low wages across the country make it unviable for many schools to hire English teachers from abroad. The market for freelance and private language teaching is also poor for this reason. If you're keen to go to Romania, look into one of the many volunteering opportunities you can find to teach English in the country. Be prepared to take a pay cut compared to what you'd usually expect to be earning as an English teacher, but if you live frugally, you can enjoy a good quality of life in this marvellous country.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£200 - £460 (\$260 - 580)	Preferred	September	No	Preferred	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Bucharest, Constanta, Cluj-Napoca, and Lasi

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,100 Leu (£200 / \$260) per month. Top jobs can pay up to 2,500 Leu (£460 / \$580), but these positions are rare. The hourly rate will be around 50 Leu (£9 / \$12).

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be a minimum for most jobs

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs are for postgraduate candidates, but voluntary opportunities can often accept those without a degree

Term times: September to June

Currency: Romanian leu (RON)

Language: Romanian

Teaching programmes: Public Schools, Private Schools, Language Schools, International Schools, Freelance, Volunteering

Age restrictions: Postgraduate, but volunteering opportunities for those aged 16+

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial to most jobs



English has been taught in Romanian primary schools since the collapse of communism, so most young people can communicate quite well in English. Both children and teenagers are often highly motivated to become skilled in English – one for the benefit of watching English-language cartoons, the other for the chance to live and work abroad in years to come. Since a 2014 ruling that has made it easier for Romanians to live and work in the UK, English is more popular than ever.

Getting hired in a public school in Romania is pretty difficult. Local teachers do a good job of teaching English, and schools generally can't afford the inflated wages they'd need to pay in order to hire a teacher from abroad. However, opportunities are sometimes available, more commonly in the capital. Private schools and International schools can be a bit more flexible, and while language schools aren't a major business in Romania, they're gaining popularity, particularly with affluent companies that can afford language lessons for their staff. Freelance work is scarce and you're unlikely to build a full profile of freelance work, but you will likely be able to find a handful of students to supplement your other full-time or part-time salary. Most teachers will find it hard to afford to live in Romania on the wage of just one full-time job. If you're able to teach English online in your free time, this is a good way to make far more than you would by teaching private classes locally.

LIVING COSTS

One of the cheapest countries in Eastern Europe, the cost of living is particularly favourable in Romania. However, even with such a low cost of living, teachers can still struggle to make ends meet in this country as the TEFL wages are so low. Most schools are unable to afford to hire teachers from abroad. If you do find a full-time job, you'll likely be on the same wages as the local teachers, although some schools are able to provide benefits such as free or subsidised housing. Rent is particularly low in Romania, so even if you do have to find your own apartment, you should be able to find something within budget.

Living like a local is the best way to get by on a smaller wage. If you're frugal you can enjoy a good quality of life in Romania, even though it's one of the poorer countries in Europe. Romanians are great hosts and you'll get the most out of your time there by trying to make local friends. Their friendliness and desire to impress can come across as aggressive at times, and you may be encouraged to overindulge in food and drink at social events, or to take part in cultural activities like traditional dances – but on the whole, this is good natured fun. Despite the fact that you might not be earning much more than them, locals may view you as a bit of a celebrity and assume you're rich, which is a description they assign to most foreigners they meet. Younger Romanians will understand that being foreign doesn't always mean you're rich, but you'll still be popular with young people who are eager to learn about other cultures and dream of travelling themselves.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £339 – £559 / \$425 – \$701

Utilities: £73 / \$91

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £26 / \$33

Monthly transport pass: £13 / \$16

Basic dinner out for two: £20 / \$25

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.33 / \$2.92

A beer in a pub: £1.51 / \$1.90

1 litre of milk: £0.93 / \$1.17

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.10 / \$1.38

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ROMANIA

You'll need a bit of luck on your side to find paid work in Romania, although the market is growing and if you put effort into your research you might be able to find something decent. There are plenty of voluntary opportunities for those who are desperate to reach Romania, and these positions could be a great way to get your foot in the door and inquire in person at TEFL establishments.

The peak months for hiring are in January and September for the start of the next academic term.

EMPLOYERS IN ROMANIA

[Angloville](#) has two locations in Romania where volunteers teach conversation classes in exchange for accommodation and free use of facilities.

Each year [BREDEX](#) sends a limited number of UK university students to teach conversational English in five cities in Romania throughout the summer.

[DAD](#) is a volunteer opportunity for UK TEFL teachers who want to work at a summer camp in Romania.

[Happy Faces Summer Camp](#) looks for volunteers.

[Professional Language Centre](#) hires part-time teachers

The only European country listed on the [Projects Abroad](#) destination list, teaching is just one of a variety of projects you can do as a volunteer in Romania.

Check [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings of positions in Romania

The [Yellow Pages](#) are a place to find language schools, but they would be unlikely to hire a foreign teacher as the wages are too low.

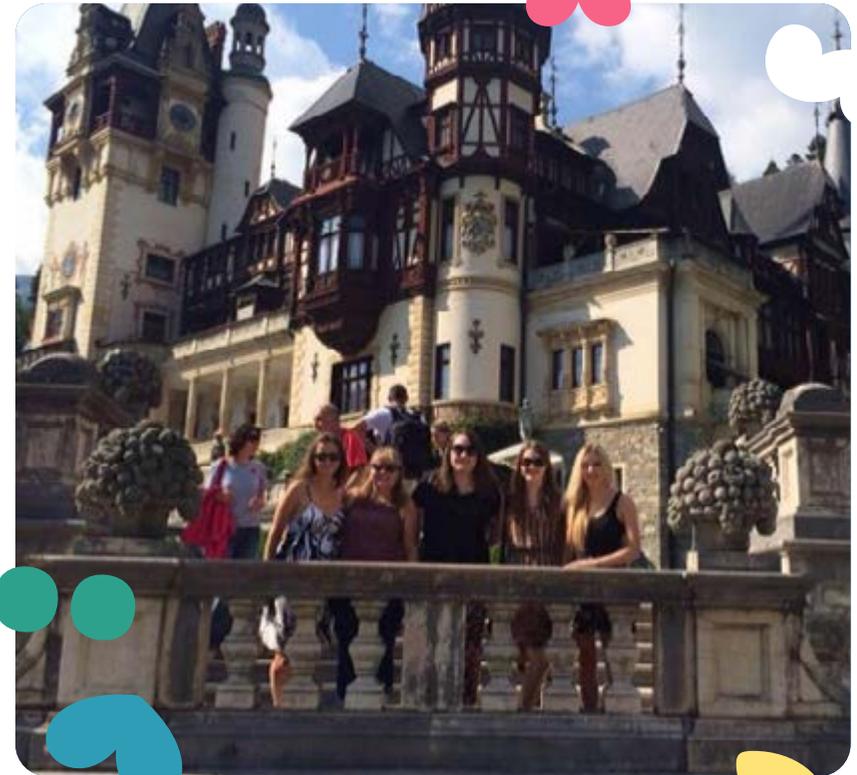


TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“ During my three weeks of teaching in Romania, I taught topics such as colours, animals, places and transportation. In addition to this on a Saturday afternoon I was able to have an arts and crafts workshop, where we made dream catchers, from various different materials.

As well as teaching, we participated in evening activities for the children such as discos, film nights, quiz nights and so much more. We also supervised the children in sporting activities such as swimming, hiking and zip-wiring! Hiking in the Romanian countryside was beyond stunning. ”

Louise, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Russia

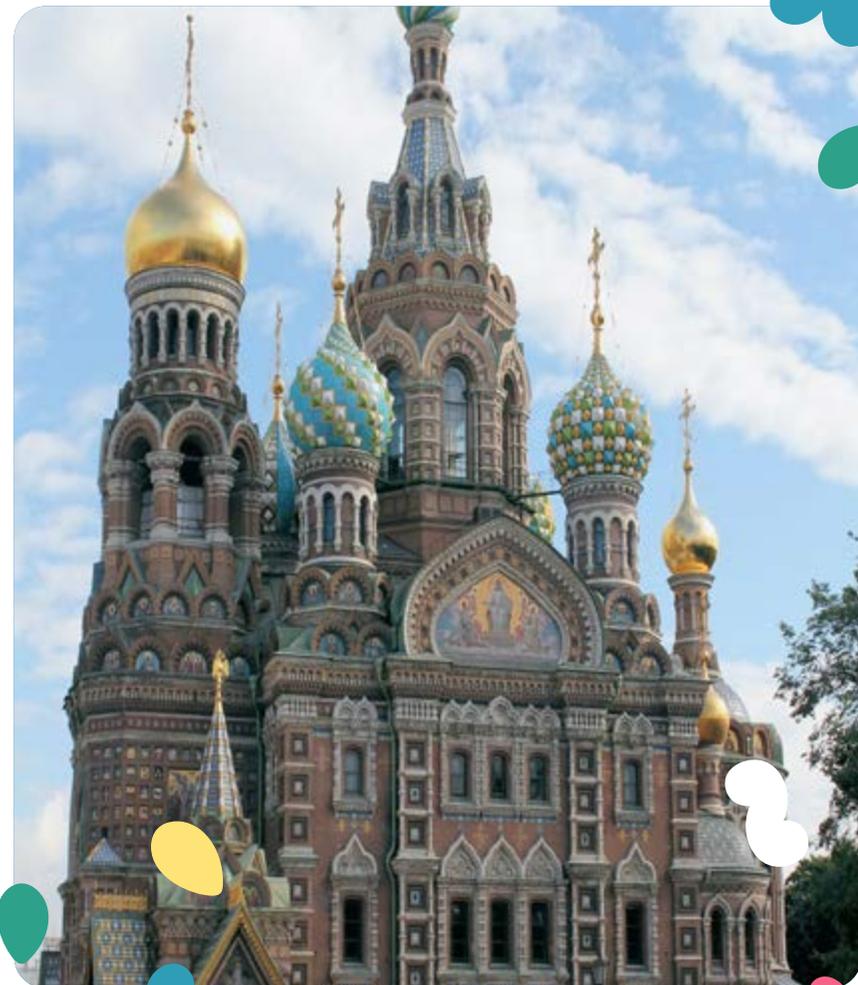
Considering Russia is the largest country in the world (spanning 11 different time zones), it's no wonder that such a vast country is packed full of opportunities for TEFL teaching.

Most of the population live in Western Russia, particularly in the European part of the country, in famous cities such as Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Russia has a wealth of things to see, such as Saint Basil's Cathedral and Red Square in Moscow, the famous Bolshoi ballet or the Mariinsky ballet in Saint Petersburg. Russia has a reputation for being an icy, cold place, which is true in winter, but the summers of Eastern Russia are hot with temperatures often in the 30s. Life in Russia can be a challenge, particularly if you don't get on with the cold winters, but despite political turmoil it's a country that has TEFL teachers arriving in droves.

Everyone with a TEFL background can find work in Russia, from newly-qualified teachers looking for an adventure, to highly qualified TEFL experts who are looking for well-paid and well-respected jobs. Most jobs require a TEFL certificate as well as a degree, and having experience is preferential. Voluntary opportunities and summer camp jobs are available for those who don't fulfil the requirements for paid work. Having experience in Business English or a specialisation in young learners will also raise your employability in Russia.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£800 - £1,300 (\$1,000 - \$1,600)	Preferred	September	Preferred	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Moscow, Yakutsk, Grozny, Saint Petersburg, Samara, and Yekaterinburg.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 20,000 – 60,000 roubles (£220 – £670 / \$280 – \$850) per month, though more often around the 35,000 mark (£400 / \$500). Jobs for highly experienced and qualified teachers could earn closer to 90,000 roubles (£1,000 / \$1,270) per month. Freelance work can earn you around 2,000 – 4,000 roubles (£22 – £44 / \$28 – \$56) per hour, though it's not uncommon to see a much lower hourly rate depending on where you are in the country.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is usually required.

Prerequisite university degree: Degree preferred.

Term times: September to June.

Currency: Roubles (RUB)

Language: Russian

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Kindergartens, Au Pair and Live-in Positions, International Schools, Freelance Tutoring, Online Teaching, Business English, Volunteering, Summer Schools.

Age restrictions: None.

Previous teaching experience: If you have experience teaching IELTS, CAE or FCE, this will make you more employable in Russia.



Young people in Russia are keen to learn English, mainly to improve their job prospects. Students looking for a career in banking, computing, advertising, and the film industry need to have a good level of English. The Russians respect a professional education and won't be impressed by a cowboy teacher who doesn't know what they're doing. Attempting to teach without any TEFL training isn't wise.

Those who like working with children can easily find work as an au pair, as affluent Russian parents want to give their kids a head start by immersing them early in an English environment. There's also much scope for one-to-one or small group tutoring if your regular job doesn't quite pay the bills. Most TEFL teachers in Russia take on some extra tutoring work. With many wealthy Russians seeking to improve their English, freelancing can certainly be lucrative and could even be a full-time operation for a savvy, experienced teacher. When seeking private students, it's important to remember that likeability is highly valued, and with many private tutors on the market, you'll have to make an effort to impress potential clients – a free trial lesson is a good start.

While the cost of hiring an English teacher who's come from abroad is vastly greater than hiring a local teacher, many private language schools see the benefit that a qualified EFL teacher brings to their school. Credibility and professionalism will set them apart from countless other TEFL institutes, and qualify the higher prices they can charge for lessons. Schools in Russia are run a lot more strictly than in the UK, almost as though they were businesses, so sometimes they are harder to deal with than in other countries. It's worth finding out about a school's reputation before accepting a job there. To legally live and work in Russia you need a sponsored visa – don't pursue a job with any school that tries to hire you without one.

LIVING COSTS

Cheaper than in 75% of countries in Eastern Europe, and 78% of countries across the World, Russia isn't known for its high TEFL wages, but the low cost of living more than makes up for the amount you'll be paid. As a general rule, the further you get from Moscow, the lower the wages will be, but so too will be the cost of living. While many expats are drawn to the cosmopolitan bustle of Moscow, you might be able to more easily afford a higher standard of living in a cheaper location, somewhere where you'll also have a more authentic, immersive experience of this fascinating country. Many jobs offer free accommodation, which is helpful as accommodation can be tricky to afford for a single renter.

Living in Russia might be a completely different experience to life as you have known it so far. The climate is harsh, and many big cities experience high levels of pollution. Crime can also be an issue, depending where you are. Moving from the UK to Russia is likely to be just as radical a change as it would be moving to China or Japan. Politically, life can be challenging in Russia. Your day-to-day life is more likely to be affected by the everyday cultural differences you'll experience, such as the Russian tendency to flare up in passionate, heated debates, and the lack of signage in English, even in big cities. However, if you like a bit of an adventure and are keen to get stuck into a foreign culture, you could be one of the many TEFL expats who make Russia their home in the long term.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £427 – £805 / \$539 – \$1,016 for your own apartment

Utilities: £67 / \$85

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £15 / \$18

Monthly transport pass: £21 / \$26

Basic dinner out for two: £17 / \$21

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.25 / \$2.84

A beer in a pub: £2.40 / \$3.03

1 litre of milk: £0.75 / \$0.94

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.61 / \$1.98

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN RUSSIA

When looking at TEFL jobs in Russia, always check that the school can provide the correct visa to invite a teacher to work for them, and also check whether the salary is gross or net. Working for a large chain company (such as EF or Language Link) is often preferable for newer teachers – while wages might be lower, you know it's a professional operation with a proper visa as well as academic support, and a good introduction into the country. Don't just look at salary, either – perks such as free accommodation, professional development, favourable working hours, and flight reimbursement can really seal the deal.

EMPLOYERS IN RUSSIA

British applicants are required for [English Centre Angletica](#).

[AAA English](#) seeks teachers with a TEFL/CELTA, a degree, and at least 1-year of teaching experience.

[CCUSA](#) hires camp counsellors from the USA.

Recruitment Agency [Duke and Duchess International](#) hires tutors, nannies and governesses.

[EF English First](#) are a major global TEFL employer, with Russia being one of their most popular areas, where they have around 35 schools.

[Foreign Language Centre Reward](#) hires TEFL qualified teachers for 8 or 12-month contracts.

[Glory School](#) hires TEFL teachers of native ability, experience preferred.

[Little Angels Kindergarten](#) caters to children aged 16 months to 7 years.

[Serendipity](#) offers 9 to 11-month contracts to American applicants with a degree.

Visit the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) to see our latest listings.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“ For me, it soon emerged that the Eastern European/Russian market was a rapidly growing one. Predominantly, my students are well-educated Russians in highly skilled roles such as software developers, programmers, engineers, business analysts and architects working in the IT sector, as well as doctors, anaesthetists, lawyers, university professors, air traffic controllers and digital marketers!

These individuals are largely at a B2-C2 level already. However, they have the common issue of working and living in an environment where they only speak their native language on a daily basis, have limited exposure to English and may even be planning to move to an English-speaking country. As a result, proficiency in English is imperative.

David, TEFL Org graduate

”



Teach English in Slovakia

A small country in the heart of Europe, Slovakia gained its independence in 1993 after the Velvet Revolution.

While not the most popular tourist destination in Central Europe, in recent years it has become a trendy location for travellers on a budget who want an authentic experience abroad. With picturesque hills, gothic town churches, and strong folk traditions. The High Tatras mountain range offering unparalleled hiking and climbing expeditions, and in the centre of the country, the rounded hills of the Low Tatras range offers a gentler climb, as well as wineries on par with the best of France.

Located right in the centre of Europe, staying in Slovakia would afford you the chance to travel to a variety of destinations. The capital, Bratislava, is close to Vienna and Prague to the west, and to the south Budapest is within easy reach. Home to a growing economy with a low cost of living, Slovakia is an attractive destination for those looking to work in TEFL.

Slovakia is a welcoming and friendly country to teach English abroad. There's a substantial demand for TEFL teachers, helped in part by the European Social Fund which has provided free or subsidised English courses for civil servants and those working in education. You'll find plenty of job opportunities, and with little competition (particularly in off-the-beaten-track locations) you're sure to find something to apply for.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£330 - £900 (\$400 - \$1,120)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Bratislava, Kosice, Nitra, Presov, and Banksa Bystrica

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €360 – €1,000 (£330 – £900 /\$400 – \$1,120) per month. Freelance rates are around €8 – €25 per 45–60 minute lesson (£6.30 – £23 / \$8 – \$28)

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be minimum requirement for most jobs

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require a degree

Term times: September to June

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Language: Slovak

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, State Schools, Business English, Corporate gigs, Freelance

Age restrictions: Postgraduate

Previous teaching experience: Helpful but not always required



Teaching in Slovakia, you will often be working around 25 to 30 hours per week (20–25 hours of teaching, plus prep time), which leaves you plenty of free time to travel and explore the country. Peak hiring time is in January, and also September/October. Teaching in a private language school might mean moving around during the day as corporate lessons are quite popular, whereas in a state school you're more likely to be in the same place each day. Most schools prefer to interview in person, although a telephone or Skype interview in advance is common for a first introduction. As Slovakia isn't as popular with TEFL teachers as other nearby countries, competition for jobs is relatively low, and if you have a degree and a TEFL certificate it won't be hard to find a job.

It's not common for teaching jobs in Slovakia to provide accommodation for their teachers, although they do often include health care and might offer money for other expenses. If accommodation is provided, it will likely be a flat share or home stay. You'll find the most job opportunities in Bratislava, but don't rule out smaller locations where there will be less competition and perhaps an even more authentic immersion into life in Slovakia. To teach freelance, you need a trade licence.

LIVING COSTS

As few schools provide accommodation, the cost of renting in Slovakia will be of key interest to TEFL teachers. While costs are low, many teachers choose to share apartments to save even more money. Bear in mind that the price of renting in Bratislava is around twice as much as renting in a small town in Central Slovakia. Locally, buying property is cheap and preferable to renting, so if you plan to stay for a long time, owning property could be a viable option.

Food is cheap in Slovakia, and you'll be able to afford to go out for meals and drinks regularly. Many shopping centres and supermarkets are open late, even on the weekends, to accommodate shoppers with long working hours. Shopping centres are a good place to find entertainment in the city, such as cinemas. If you prefer outdoors pursuits, hiking is a popular pastime, as is visiting the spa for a touch of luxury.

People in Slovakia aren't obsessed with making as much money as possible to acquire more material wealth. They take pleasure in the small things in life, like to take their time enjoying a nice meal, and value relationships and experiences over objects. Making friends in Slovakia will be key to enjoying your leisure time. Whatever your leisure time involves, be aware of cultural differences with your home country. Slovakia isn't known for its hospitality culture, so don't expect super-polite waiters or to get services for free.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £597 – £838 / \$744 – \$1,044

Utilities: £138 / \$173

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £23 / \$28

Monthly transport pass: £24 / \$30

Basic dinner out for two: £21 / \$27

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.26 / \$2.82

A beer in a pub: £1.57 / \$1.95

1 litre of milk: £0.78 / \$0.98

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.12 / \$1.40

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SLOVAKIA

For non-EU applicants, the visa process in Slovakia is expensive and lengthy, requiring criminal records checks from your own country, a letter from your landlord to evidence accommodation, a local blood test, medical certificate and more. Some schools will help you with the process but are unlikely to cover the fees.

EMPLOYERS IN SLOVAKIA

The [Canadian Bilingual Institute](#) offers courses in several languages, for kids and teens as well as adults.

[Class Language School](#) have a kid's summer camp as well as regular lessons for children and adults.

[Easy Lingua](#) offer classes for kids and adults.

[EduPoint Language School](#) is in Bratislava.

The largest American-owned English school in Slovakia, [Elite Language Center](#) offer lessons in English and French.

[EuroTrend21](#) is a language school in Bratislava.

[Flying Solutions](#) hire TEFL teachers for their schools in Puchov and Bratislava.

Accommodation is provided for teachers at [Institut](#), which has rolling vacancies for university graduates.

[Native Speaker Network](#) offers six-month placements.

[Start Language School](#) looks for university graduates with experience or a TEFL qualification.

[The English Club](#) prefers British applicants for their 10-month contracts.

Check the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings.



Teach English in Spain

Spain is often listed as the number one TEFL destination in Europe, and a top location when looking at the entire globe. There are several reasons why so many jet off to teach English in Spain, and it's not just down to sunshine and sangria.

In 2008, the country was hit by a financial crisis which has become known as the Great Spanish Depression; a time when youth unemployment dropped to around 55%. While it's still tricky for locals under 25 to find work in Spain, the majority of young people say they'd be happy to move abroad to find work, and as such, learning English has become increasingly popular. As a result, young people in Spain are now more highly educated than generations before them. To graduate from university, students must acquire a First Certificate in English, prompting them to seek out extracurricular English classes and courses to get ahead of the game.

It's not just university students who are focused on learning English in Spain. From the first year of primary school it's compulsory to learn English in all state schools. The prevalence of native classroom assistants has rocketed, creating rich opportunities for TEFL teachers in Spain. Some kindergartens and private schools teach English to children as young as three years old, so there's no shortage of opportunities if you like working with young learners.

Something else that contributes to Spain's popularity as a TEFL destination is the fact that it's so easy to find work there. Newbie teachers without experience will find themselves in demand even if they have no prior teaching experience. Naturally, the better qualified/experienced you are, the more likely you are to land top jobs, and bear in mind that the most professional schools can afford to be picky. With Spain being so popular, the market is saturated and high-paying jobs will have fierce competition. However, there is so much work available in Spain that even if you don't score one of these top positions, you can still earn enough to get by and enjoy the Spanish lifestyle.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,054 – £1,229 (\$1,312 – \$1,531)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Madrid, Grenada, Zaragoza, Seville, Barcelona, Malaga, Majorca

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of €1,200 – €1,500 (£1,053 – £1,317 / \$1,300 – \$1,623). Some positions which are less than full-time or in locations with lower salaries might offer contracts from €700 to €1,000 (£614 – £878 / \$758 – \$1,083), and others go as high as €1,800 (£1,580 / \$1,950) per month. Paid by the hour, you're likely to make €15 to €20 (£13.16 – £17.55 / \$16.24 – \$21.67), though hourly rates of under €15 aren't uncommon. For private classes, €25 up to about €50 (£22 – £44 / \$27 – \$54) is realistic for the most sought-after teachers.

TEFL qualification requirements: For shorter contracts (2 weeks – 3 months) working in summer camps a 20- or 30-hour classroom course would be sufficient. If you're looking at a long-term role then we would recommend a [TEFL course of at least 120 hours](#).

Prerequisite university degree: Not required, although some employers may express a preference for one.

Term times: The Spanish School year begins in September until late December. The second terms start in early January until early April. The final term begins late April, running to mid-June.

Currency: Euro

Language: Spanish

Teaching programmes: [The Meddeas programme](#), NALCA Program, Language Schools, Exam Preparation, Private Lessons, Young Learners

Age restrictions: Summer camp employers usually have an age restriction, but within long-term roles in language centres, schools, etc., there tends to be no age bias.

Previous teaching experience: This is not essential and there are plenty of opportunities for first-time teachers in Spain.



If you've taught in other countries (such as Japan) where the kids are quiet, shy and reserved, you might relish the opportunity of teaching some fun-loving, chatty, boisterous Spanish kids. However, there are ups and downs to every sort of learner and many teachers find Spanish students a challenge. With younger students, the best advice is to be a bit stricter than normal when you first meet them (and for the first few weeks of lessons) as if you go in too friendly at the beginning, they'll walk all over you.

Another wall you'll hit trying to teach English in Spain is getting students to use English without reverting to Spanish. Students in Spain find it very difficult to refrain from speaking in their mother tongue, whether they're chatting to their classmate or getting confused about what they're saying. Being too strict and insisting on 'English Only' is a battle that few teachers win, especially with younger students, so get advice from your co-teachers about how to approach the problem and how strict to be. It will be no surprise to you that pronunciation is one of the key skills that Spanish students struggle with the most.

Exam preparation courses are hugely popular, and if you can get experience in this sort of teaching it will make you even more in demand. The work-life balance is good in Spain, but be prepared for unsociable hours. Depending on where you are in the country, the siesta in the middle of the day can mean that your working schedule is split up with both early mornings and evenings. You're also more than likely to run into an employer who will attempt to pay you less than they should – unscrupulous employers are fairly common and pretty much every TEFL teacher in Spain will come across them from time to time. Teachers attempting to get work without a TEFL qualification are particularly vulnerable to being hired by bad employers, so make sure you're suitably qualified.

LIVING COSTS

You probably won't get rich if you teach English in Spain, especially if you're a newbie teacher without the experience to go for the highest paying jobs. However, money isn't what attracts teachers to this vibrant country. Spain is a fun, bustling country with a fascinating culture, delicious cuisine and relaxed lifestyle that TEFL teachers love. Even on lower wages, you can earn enough to enjoy a good quality of life and experience what Spain has to offer. There's so much work available that it's unlikely you'll ever be stuck for classes to teach – and the demand for EFL teachers just keeps growing. Many teachers working in schools and as language assistants subsidise their income by tutoring on the side, which can give your income a big boost. Teaching TEFL online can also be a great way to make extra money at times that suit you.

The cost of living in cities such as Madrid and Barcelona will be higher than elsewhere in the country, but your salary will be reflective of this. By living like a local (avoiding imported food and goods, tourist areas, etc) you'll find that your money stretches further. Most teachers share accommodation with other teachers or expats to cut down on costs. It's uncommon for employers in Spain to offer accommodation as part of your contract (unless it's a summer school) but they may be able to offer assistance and advice.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £674 – £1,132 / \$843 – \$1,416

Utilities: £99 / \$124

Health insurance: State healthcare is good in Spain and comes out of your social security payments. 90% of locals use the National Health System but you can sign up for private healthcare too. Cost of typical visit to GP: £53 / \$66

Monthly transport pass: £39 / \$49

Basic dinner out for two: £26 / \$33

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.12 / \$2.66

A beer in a pub: £3.48 / \$4.36

1 litre of milk: £0.72 / \$0.90

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.37 / \$1.72

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SPAIN

There's plenty of work in Spain to be found year-round for teachers in language schools, state schools, private tutoring, and at summer camps. Many teachers working for schools will also tutor alongside this, on average making around 10 to 25 euros an hour depending on location and experience. Schools prefer to hire locally, so the best way to find work is to be in Spain – sending prospective emails from abroad is certainly a more difficult way of securing work.

You don't need a degree to teach English in Spain but having one makes it much easier to pick up work. You need to have a resident permit and a foreigner ID number (NIE) to live and work in Spain. If you're from outside the EU it's very difficult to legally work teaching English in Spain, as employers can only sponsor a visa if an EU citizen can't fill the position. An option for non-EU citizens is to enter the country on a student visa, which allows you to work for a limited number of hours per week.

EMPLOYERS IN SPAIN

One of the only exceptions for non-EU citizens looking for work is the [NALCA program](#) (North American Language and Culture Assistants in Spain)

[Spainwise](#) lists numerous jobs across Spain, and the website also has details about the TEFL Jobs Fair held in mid-May.

On the [The Meddeas Program](#) you'll teach 20–24 hours a week to kids from 2 to 18 years and earn €880–1,162 per month.

Check out our [jobs board](#) for positions in Spain.

[Up International Education](#) provides positions for recent graduates under 30.

[English YA](#) sources native speaking volunteers to provide English conversation and activities in exchange for accommodation and meals.

[The Yellow Pages](#) is a great source for finding English language schools, just search 'Academias de Idiomas'.



TEFL ORG STUDENT STORY

“ My first year teaching English as a foreign language took me to the North of Spain. I graduated from Cardiff University in the Summer of 2015 and, after a Summer of being an activity leader for a language school in Devon, I headed to live in the small town of Mungia, just outside of Bilbao. I found a job on The TEFL Org website with a company called Meddeas.

During my first year of teaching I taught all types of English to soooo many different ages – it was crazy. But good crazy. I taught English conversation skills to teens in the secondary school, played games and sang songs with younger children in ‘fun, after-school English class’, and even participated in baking and playtime with little ones at home. The experience really pushed the boundaries of my confidence and teaching abilities and I often found myself doing activities that I truly hadn’t anticipated myself doing. I played the guitar and sang Christmas songs with nursery school children; I invigilated exams; I went on a week’s residential trip to the mountains and even I ended up half-directing an end-of-year performance.

Harriet, TEFL Org graduate



Teach English in Sweden

Like other Scandinavian countries, finding a TEFL job in Sweden isn't easy, even for those who are both well-qualified and experienced.

On some English proficiency tests, Sweden has ranked first place several years in a row, and there's even an ongoing debate about whether English should be classed as a 'foreign language' at all, due to its widespread usage. In excess of 85% of the population speak English to some extent, with a 2005 study suggesting that around 40% of the population speak English every day. As such, finding work as an EFL teacher can be difficult.

Many TEFL jobs in Sweden are taken by locals who are bilingual or fluent in English, although finding someone with a perfect accent can be a little harder as the Swedish language is so lyrical and can cause L1 interference. Sweden offers expat roles in a variety of industries, and so many people who have travelled to Sweden as a spouse can find work teaching English. Like many countries in this position, employers find it much easier to hire someone already in the country (like the spouse of an employed expat). Part-time teaching jobs may be taken up by students who are living in Sweden and benefitting from their excellent education system.

To make yourself more employable in Sweden, knowing a bit of Swedish will certainly go a long way. You might find opportunities to teach English in Sweden to refugees and immigrants from other countries, although these will almost always be voluntary positions, but potentially a good entrance into the country. While positions are scarce, if you manage to find employment in Sweden you'll be rewarded with a good quality of life, excellent public services, a vibrant culture and stunning natural backdrop.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,100 - £2,400 (\$1,400 - \$3,000)	Preferred	September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmo, Lund and Uppsala.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for part-time or full-time positions in language schools (or full-time pre-school positions) is likely to be in the region of 4,680 SEK – 28,000 SEK (£400 – £2,400/ \$500 – \$3,000) per month. At public schools and international schools, teachers earn from 30,000 SEK to 50,000 SEK (£2,550 – £4,250 / \$3,200 – \$5,300) per month, with the higher wages for secondary school teachers.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) is required for most jobs as a minimum.

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require at least a BA degree, with International Schools hiring subject teachers usually requiring a strong academic background in your subject

Term times: August to June, but regionally dependant

Currency: Swedish krona (SEK)

Language: Swedish

Teaching programmes: International Schools, Adult Education Centres, Private Language School, Freelance, Public Schools, Voluntary

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: One year minimum for many jobs, useful for any application



To teach in a public school in Sweden you might need to have a certificate from the National Agency for Education, which certifies that you have a working ability in Swedish, but some mother tongue teaching positions are exempt. International schools will have their own regulations, with the general rule being that Swedish is useful but not always mandatory in bilingual schools.

Private language schools are a rarity, and those you find will have limited classes and be mainly business orientated. You're unlikely to find work in a Swedish kindergarten or positions teaching young learners, unless they're either bilingual/international establishments or you have proficiency in Swedish.

In general, you'll find the education system in Sweden quite progressive and open. Formal classroom setups are going out of fashion, particularly in educating younger children, and there is a greater focus on student mental health, wellbeing, and creating a rounded individual rather than a purely academic focus. Students are self-motivated and hard working. With colleagues and adult students, it's best to start formally (handshakes, surnames and smart appearance) but don't be surprised to see teachers wearing jeans and greeted by first names.

LIVING COSTS

Sweden has a reputation for being an expensive country. Typical of places that have high taxation, you lose a fair chunk of your take-home pay. However, you also get a lot for your money in the way of excellent public services, from free university education for resident students, free school lunches and a great education, affordable childcare, generous parental leave, good pensions, and high unemployment pay allowance.

The most expensive places to live in Sweden include Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö, Lund and Uppsala, but if you decide to live in a smaller location, you'll find daily life much more affordable. Rental properties in particular are hard to come by in Stockholm – they're expensive and much sought-after, often with long waiting lists. Living outside of a major city and travelling for work could easily work out to be more affordable, and while public transport is expensive, it's well run and you can get a rail card to make it cheaper.

Life in Sweden can take some serious adjustment depending on where you come from. The winters are long, cold and dark, with sunlight for just a few hours during the day. The rest of the year is the opposite, with bright summer sunshine lasting all night long. A very seasonal culture, in the winter you'll learn to embrace hygge (a cosy appreciation for time spent indoors with loved ones, reading and enjoying good food), and when summer comes, the Midsommar festival celebrates the good weather with traditional dance and song, socialising, drinking and good food.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £900 – £1,498 / \$1,111 – \$1,850

Utilities: £93 / \$115

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £24 / \$30

Monthly transport pass: £65 / \$80

Basic dinner out for two: £34 / \$42

Cappuccino in expat area: £3.75 / \$4.63

A beer in a pub: £5.28 / \$7

1 litre of milk: £1.01 / \$1.25

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.84 / \$2.27

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SWEDEN

The TEFL industry has been declining in Sweden in recent years as the standard of English amongst school leavers has improved, and the need for extra lessons is reduced. Positions will often be freelance or part-time, but full-time work can be found for well-qualified teachers at International Schools.

EMPLOYERS IN SWEDEN

A major TEFL employer worldwide, [Berlitz](#) has just a few centres in Scandinavia.

British and Irish TEFL teachers are preferred for positions at [Cambridge Institute](#), and you'll need a TEFL certificate, a degree and 1 year of experience.

Adult education centres, [Folkuniversity](#), run language courses, where TEFL teachers can sometimes find part-time work.

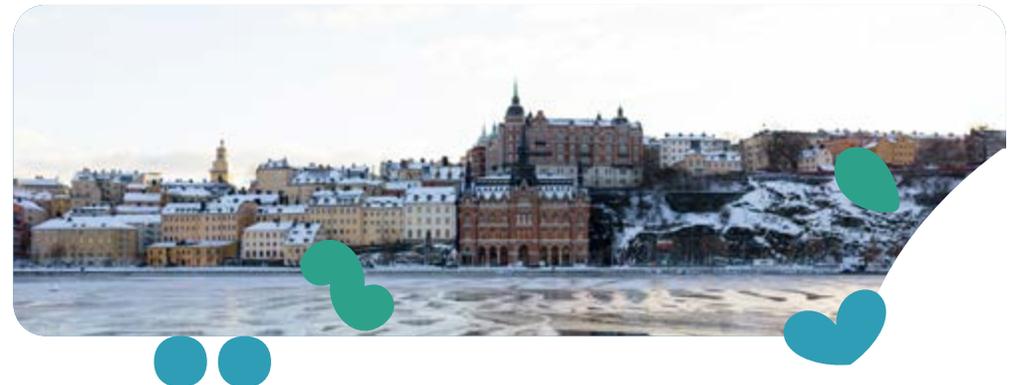
Subject teachers can apply to [Internationella Engelska Skolan](#), a popular International School network with branches across the country.

[Sanwes](#) hires freelance TEFL teachers with a business background, part-time work but for a minimum of 6-months preferred.

[The Swedish Public Employment Service](#) can be a place to find work, and they also have information about working in Sweden, support and benefits.

Immigrants and refugees in Sweden who have been granted residency can take a [Swedish for Immigrants course](#), but with a huge number of refugees arriving in the country every year, you might also be able to find work volunteering teaching English.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current positions.



Teach English in Switzerland

The Swiss eat more chocolate than any other nation in the world – reason enough to consider this TEFL location if you have a sweet tooth.

However, chocolate aside you'll have to weigh up the pros and cons of pursuing a TEFL career in this small country. Chocolate, cheese and the great outdoors (you're never more than 10 miles from a lake anywhere in Switzerland) are some of the highlights, but getting work can be tricky even for experienced teachers. Work permits are necessary for anything more than summer jobs, and only a limited number of permits are granted per year. As such, schools don't want to sponsor a permit for anyone but the best teacher they can find, and would rather hire locally without the permit hassle, even if the teacher isn't such good quality.

One of the most expensive countries in the world, it can be hard to get by in Switzerland unless you've landed a well-paid job. If you plan to work your way up the career ladder, prepare to grow a thick skin. The Swiss have a very hierarchical society and you'll feel this acutely in the workplace. Arguing with your boss could mean a reduction in hours or not renewing your contract despite earlier promises. If you want to succeed, keep your head down, agree with the right people, put up with any annoyances and work hard. If you do, you'll be rewarded with some of the best paid TEFL positions in Europe.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,850 – £2,475 (\$2,260 – \$3,015)	Preferred	August/ September	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Zurich, Bern, Basel, Luzern, Geneva, Winterthur, Ticino

Average salary for EFL teachers: Most jobs are freelance and paid hourly or by lesson (often 40 or 50-minutes). Hourly rates are usually around SFr60 (£50/\$63), but can range from SFr20 up to SFr123 per hour (£17 – £100/\$20 – \$127). Work in a hotel school and earn SFr2,200 – SFr3,000 (£1,850 – £2,475/\$2,260 – \$3,015) per month. Other full-time positions might exceed SFr5,000 per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: At least a [120-hour TEFL qualification](#)

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require a degree

Term times: The school year starts in August/September

Currency: Swiss Franc (CHF)

Language: Mostly German (also French, Italian and Romansh)

Teaching programmes: Language Schools, Summer Camps, Private Finishing Schools, Higher Education Facilities, Private Lessons, Hotel School

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Some jobs rank experience over a degree or TEFL experience, but others are happy to take new teachers. Inexperienced teachers can struggle even with getting summer camp positions, but if they're bilingual or multi-talented they might get a position



A multicultural country with several official languages, the average Swiss person can speak two foreign languages as well as their mother tongue. For those in the German speaking part of Switzerland, English is a popular choice of second language to learn, but is less popular in the other parts of Switzerland where their second language might be German, French or Italian. However, English is often used as a lingua franca, and so lessons are high in demand.

The Swiss are keen to learn English as it is the language of business, so you'll find opportunities for teaching English to adults as well as to children. All children in Switzerland learn English in school – some in primary school, others not until they reach about 14 and have studied another language already. Language schools are often flexible to meet the needs of the clients, offering classes at varied times of day and on specialist subjects. In the summer months some schools will specialise in catering for international students, and there are also a number of popular summer schools where TEFL teachers can find work.

A unique opportunity for TEFL teachers in Switzerland is working at hotel schools – institutes that train people in the hospitality sector who might also need to improve their English. These positions can be easier to get than those at higher education institutes (which rarely have openings as they hire experienced, qualified, long-term teachers) and private finishing schools (where the Swiss elite send high-achieving kids). Private lessons can be lucrative but it's a competitive market.

In-house training is often offered at language schools, and might be mandatory even if you're experienced and qualified. One thing you'll learn quickly in Switzerland is not to argue – the boss is always right, and arguing can mean making your life uncomfortable, so if you're asked to do mandatory training, just do it. The Swiss are formal people (both in smart appearance and behaviour) so be sure to come across well, shake hands with everyone, and use formal address.

LIVING COSTS

Brace yourselves... Switzerland is the most expensive country in Western Europe, and in the top three most expensive places to live in the world (along with Bermuda and the Cayman Islands). As such, newbie teachers on lower wages can struggle to get by in Switzerland, but those with more experience under their belt can pitch for better jobs and earn enough to live on. Starting out at a summer camp (where food and accommodation is included) is a great way to see if you'll be able to get by in such an expensive country.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,435 – £2,669 / \$1,764 – \$3,280

Utilities: £149 / \$183

Health insurance: Cost of typical visit to a GP: £82 / \$101

Monthly transport pass: £65 / \$80

Basic dinner out for two: £66 / \$81

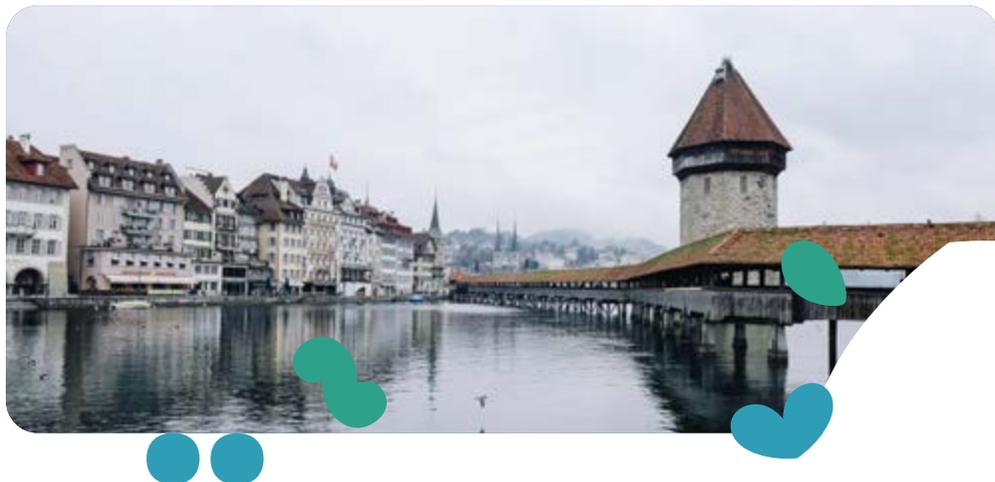
Cappuccino in expat area: £4.40 / \$5.41

A beer in a pub: £6 / \$7

1 litre of milk: £1.34 / \$1.64

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.18 / \$2.68

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, more important than your TEFL certificate or degree will be your work permit (permit 'B'). You need a contract to get a permit, and it can take a while to come through, so apply in plenty of time for upcoming positions. The permit process can be tricky and put employers off hiring teachers new to the country, and might instead prefer to hire someone local with a permit, even if their qualifications aren't so good. Qualification requirements vary for different schools – Eduqua validated schools only hire CELTA qualified teachers. If you're an EU citizen staying less than 3 months, you don't need a permit, though you must register online. Stays of less than a year can be on an L permit (labour permit) but long-term jobs require the full B permit. Work permits for non-EU citizens are almost impossible to acquire. The best thing to do is be prepared, do your research and make a good impression when you meet employers.

An easier route to employment would be doing a stint at one of the popular summer schools to see if Switzerland is for you. We've listed plenty of summer school opportunities below, as well as regular TEFL work which usually requires advanced qualifications.

Membership to the English Teachers Association of Switzerland is highly recommended if you're looking at building a decent career in the country. Including two annual national conferences, regional workshops, subscription to the ETAS journal and unlimited access to teaching resources, you can also access their jobs board.

EMPLOYERS IN SWITZERLAND

[Altitude Camps](#) run day camps and residential camps for kids aged 3 to 14. an EU

[Alpadia](#) runs summer schools for 8–17-year old's, primarily in Switzerland but also other European countries.

[Camp Suisse](#) hires native or fluent teachers aged 19+ to deliver TEFL classes.

[Les Elfes](#) camps hire for a variety of positions to support in their seasonal programs.

For teachers living in Basel and with a residence permit, look at [Berlitz](#).

Living in Zurich, Basel, Bern or Luzern? Check out [The Cambridge Institute](#).

Hotel School [EHL](#) occasionally has openings for qualified, experienced teachers.

Another Basel opportunity at [Inlingua](#).

[Verbier Language Schools](#) looks for teachers that are at least bilingual

Check the [TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings.

Teach English in Turkey

Political unrest in Turkey in recent years has meant that tourists have been staying away from this previously idyllic location.

Check your own government's guidelines regarding how safe it is to travel at the time of your trip, and if there are no barriers, there's no reason why Turkey shouldn't feature high up on your list of TEFL destinations. A great location for newly-qualified EFL teachers, and a good option for non-native English teachers. To gain a work visa, both a TEFL certificate and a university degree are a requirement. This is a part of the world where people are keen to learn English, and the TEFL industry is doing well, even if positions aren't always well paid.

Turkey is a country that straddles the border between Europe and Asia at the far eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The country's size is about three times larger than mainland Britain, and its population is about 25% higher than the whole of the UK. It has a rich cultural heritage, with records dating back to at least 2400 BC. Famous places include the Walls of Troy (the city that was famously attacked in Homer's Iliad), The Suleymaniye Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, and the Blue Mosque. The city of Istanbul is also famous for being the only city on two continents, one half in Europe, the other in Asia. The climate is hot, with high temperatures throughout the year. Tourism is a major industry on the southern coast, with stunning beaches wherever you look. Whether you're looking for sun or culture, Turkey has it covered.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£170 - £575 (\$220 - \$730)	Yes	September	No	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Bursa

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,500 – 5,000 lira (£170 – £575 / \$220 – \$730) per month. Freelance rates are around 40 – 170 lira (£4 – £20 / \$6 – \$25) per hour, often at the lower end of the scale.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions, and is required for your visa

Prerequisite university degree: A degree is required to get a visa for Turkey. Some top positions require degrees in English, or an MA in linguistics

Term times: September to June

Currency: Turkish Lira (TRY)

Language: Turkish

Teaching programmes: Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Private Language Schools, International Schools, Universities, Corporate gigs, Summer Schools

Age restrictions: Postgraduate

Previous teaching experience: Beneficial but not always necessary



Read a handful of articles about teaching TEFL in Turkey and it won't be long before you stumble on a horror story or two. The internet is full of jaded ex-TEFL teachers who had a terrible time in Turkey. Schools forcing teachers to work on tourist visas, withholding documents so that the teacher can't leave, paying salaries late and other unscrupulous behaviour have all been reported. However, many teachers on the ground believe that things are changing in Turkey. Standards are improving, and while you might find evidence that certain schools were appalling just a few years ago, it's not inconceivable that things have improved vastly. Be sure to read our article about [how to avoid TEFL scams and bad employers](#).

The best thing to do is to speak to current or recent employees at a school to get an impression of what things are like now. This is best done in the country, going hand-in-hand with the pavement pounding method. Don't accept the first job you're offered – if you're qualified with a TEFL and degree, you'll be offered plenty of jobs, so just hold out until you find one where you get a good vibe. If possible, look around the school in person and get a real feel for it. Make sure you check all the details of your contract carefully, and hold your employer to account for what they've promised. This might include free, furnished accommodation, flight money on completion of your contract, insurance, and health benefits.

Freelance teaching can be risky in Turkey – if you work for the Ministry of Education, your contract will prohibit you from accepting private students outside of your employed work. If you want to work in a private school or state secondary school, your degree must be in English, linguistics or a related subject, and having a PGCE is beneficial.

LIVING COSTS

One of the cheapest countries in the area, wages aren't the best in Turkey but even so you can afford a nice quality of life if you budget carefully. Many TEFL positions offer free accommodation or an accommodation allowance, making it easy for you to settle in and work out how much disposable income you'll have at the end of the month. The amount you spend will vary greatly depending on your lifestyle. If you want to experience top entertainment in a big city and spend your time in Western bars and restaurants, expect to spend more than someone who is living a local lifestyle. Imported food at the supermarket comes with a heavy price tag, so you'll save more by sticking to a local diet. Public transport is cheap, and in such a stunning country you'll enjoy taking trips to other locations during your time off.

The Turkish cuisine is famous around the world and, if you get on with the diet, Turkish food is a great reason to live there in the long run. Expats often find they get so much more out of their TEFL experience by immersing themselves in Turkish culture, and by shopping locally and dining at Turkish restaurants. It's also a great way to meet local people and get to know something of the culture. While Turkey is a great TEFL destination, it does come with a few warnings. Western women often have a hard time in Turkey, especially if they are pale with blonde hair. Your experience in Turkey will vary depending on where you are in the country and who you travel with.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £268 – £395 / \$335 – \$494

Utilities: £60 / \$75

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £24 / \$30

Monthly transport pass: £22 / \$28

Basic dinner out for two: £12 / \$15

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.65 / \$2.06

A beer in a pub: £2.53 / \$3.16

1 litre of milk: £0.57 / \$0.71

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.63 / \$0.79

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN TURKEY

The job-hunting method of turning up and handing out your CV can sometimes lead to gaining work once you're in the country, particularly in the more populous areas such as Istanbul. However, many newer teachers want the security of a guaranteed job before arrival, and as such would probably prefer to go through an agency to find employment. There are chain language schools which hire throughout the year, as well as smaller private language schools where opportunities will be limited, but worth looking out for. Doing corporate gigs for large companies can be another route to finding employment, such as the Marriott Hotel in Ankara. While securing a job in advance is usually advisable, many expats in Turkey say that they found better options when searching on the ground, before getting tied into terrible contracts with schools of ill repute. Wherever you apply, do your research, and try to get a reference from a previous teacher at the school.

EMPLOYERS IN TURKEY

[Bilkent University](#) hires highly qualified, experienced teachers.

[Early American English](#) teaches kids aged 7-14.

[English Life](#) is a partnership of schools licensed by the Ministry of Education.

[English Time](#) has over forty branches in Turkey, hiring hundreds of part-time and full-time TEFL teachers. You need a degree and a TEFL, experience is preferred.

[Kent English](#) has summer courses and English lessons throughout the year.

[Marmaris Recruitment Ltd](#) is an agency based in the UK and can help you find a teaching job in Turkey.

[Teachers in Turkey](#) is another agency linking candidates with private schools, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools as well as university positions.

Check out the latest job listings on [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#).



Teach English in Ukraine

The cheapest country in Eastern Europe, Ukraine is a great TEFL destination for teachers who like a warm, friendly welcome, being somewhere with a low cost of living, and having a bit of an adventure.

Perhaps not the easiest country to live in, if you can find a professional job (with all the legal paperwork) then a nice quality of life can be enjoyed in this country, with many teachers staying for several years.

Ukraine is home to a rich history, stunning architecture, and gorgeous landscapes. Even a short time spent teaching here will give you the opportunity to see some of the beautiful sights that the country has to offer, such as the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev. Hiking and camping are popular pastimes, and with dozens of national parks, those who love the great outdoors will be drawn to this spectacular country. Experience the scrumptious local cuisine, which is both delicious and good value for money – worth embracing rather than paying extra for foreign imports.

TEFL students are often young learners, or young professionals hoping to boost their career prospects. A background in Business English would be useful, as would experience teaching kids and teens. If you want to try out teaching kids in Ukraine, look for a summer camp job where you can get an introduction to the country, and look for full-time work once you're there. There's no shortage of jobs for qualified teachers who are already in the country. Ukraine offers jobs for teachers at every stage of their career – inexperienced non-native teachers can find limited work, and there are also top-notch positions for those with qualifications and 3+ years of experience.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£215 – £920 (\$260 – \$1,125)	Preferred	September	No	Sometimes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Kiev/Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odessa, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhye, and Donetsk

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 7,000 – 30,000 UAH (£215 – £920 / \$260 – \$1,125) per month. Hourly rate of 240 – 360 UAH (£7 – 11 / \$9 – \$13.50) an hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most jobs require a degree

Term times: September to June

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH)

Language: Ukrainian

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, Freelance, Business English, Public Schools, International Schools

Age restrictions: Usually postgraduate

Previous teaching experience: Useful, not always essential



There's a high demand in Ukraine for TEFL teachers, booming since the 2016 DCFTA agreement which has led to some modernisation in the country. There are a good number of TEFL jobs around, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to get one. It is expensive (and involves a lot of paperwork) for a school to hire a foreign teacher on the proper visa. Some schools got into the habit of hiring teachers on 3-month contracts and getting them to leave and re-enter the country as a tourist each time their visa is up. Obviously, you'd do well to avoid schools that don't provide the legal visa required for full-time work and to keep it all above board. Going with a larger company, such as International House or British Council, will avoid this problem. Public schools hire in January/February and August/September.

Students in Ukraine are welcoming and enthusiastic. Young learners make up a large portion of TEFL students and so if you have experience teaching children, it won't be hard to find a job. Teachers will often be invited to social events with their students, and even to visit students' homes to meet their families. The unerring generosity and friendliness can be overwhelming for more introverted teachers, but if you love meeting locals and immersing yourself in a new culture, Ukraine is a great place to teach. A lively social atmosphere ranks as one of the reasons why many TEFL teachers end up staying long term in Ukraine. It's also easy to find students for teaching one-to-one lessons in Ukraine, earning you a little extra money – group classes are a good way to ramp up your earnings as freelance lessons don't always come with high wages.

LIVING COSTS

Ukraine is the cheapest country in Eastern Europe, making it an attractive destination for TEFL teachers who want to experience another culture on a budget. While TEFL wages aren't high in Ukraine, with a low cost of living you can afford to enjoy a nice lifestyle and perhaps also put aside some savings for the future. Another perk is the fact that banks in Ukraine often have high interest, regularly over 10%, so you can put by more than you bargained for with a local bank account. Public transport is very cheap so its easy to get around. Some schools offer health insurance benefits, or free apartments with the job.

As with many cheap countries in Eastern Europe, you'll find the infrastructure lacking somewhat compared with what you may be used to. Also, be prepared for plenty of red tape and mounds of paperwork whenever you try to get anything done. And be aware that some places in Ukraine are considered unsafe for visitors – please consult your embassy for current guidelines before applying for jobs in Ukraine. It might be difficult to get certain things done without at least a smattering of Ukrainian or Russian, so it's perhaps not the easiest place to get by in, but if you like a challenge and are up for learning a new language, it's a great opportunity.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £313 – £610 / \$387 – \$753

Utilities: £57 / \$71

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £9 / \$11

Monthly transport pass: £12 / \$15

Basic dinner out for two: £13 / \$15

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.17 / \$1.44

A beer in a pub: £1.19 / \$1.47

1 litre of milk: £0.81 / \$0.99

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.75 / \$0.93

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN UKRAINE

It's possible to find a job in Ukraine once you're in the country, especially if you're in a big city – language schools are often hiring and you'll likely get an interview if you just pound the pavement and hand out your CV. Applying in advance is recommended for smaller areas without many schools to choose from, and also for the more elite positions at international schools. Visa regulations can make it tricky to get work from outside the country, especially if you're a non-EU citizen, so check what the situation is with your home country when you apply.

EMPLOYERS IN UKRAINE

[ABC Lingua](#) is a school in Simferopol.

[Baker Street Club](#) hires teachers of English (and other languages) for groups of up to six students.

[Buckeye English](#) hires English, Canadian and USA applicants.

[DEC Camp](#) is a fun, friendly summer camp that encourages applicants from unique individuals – no experience required.

[Fayno Camp](#) has English camps throughout the year.

[International House](#) in Kyiv wants native English speakers with a TEFL/CELTA for one-year contracts, teaching 25 hours per week.

[Meridian](#) is a large school with three branches in Sevastopol.

[Pechersk School International Kyiv](#) has 500 students, aged 3 to 18 years.

[Phoenix](#) hosts a number of summer camps in Ukraine.

[British-run Yazlingo](#) hires native speakers with TEFL qualifications to teach in Cherkasy.

Check out [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for current listings.



MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA



Teach English in Algeria

Algeria is the largest country in Africa and an exciting tourist destination due to having many UNESCO heritage sites, as well as the stunning Sahara desert, beautiful colonial architecture to marvel at, gorgeous beaches and historical Roman ruins.

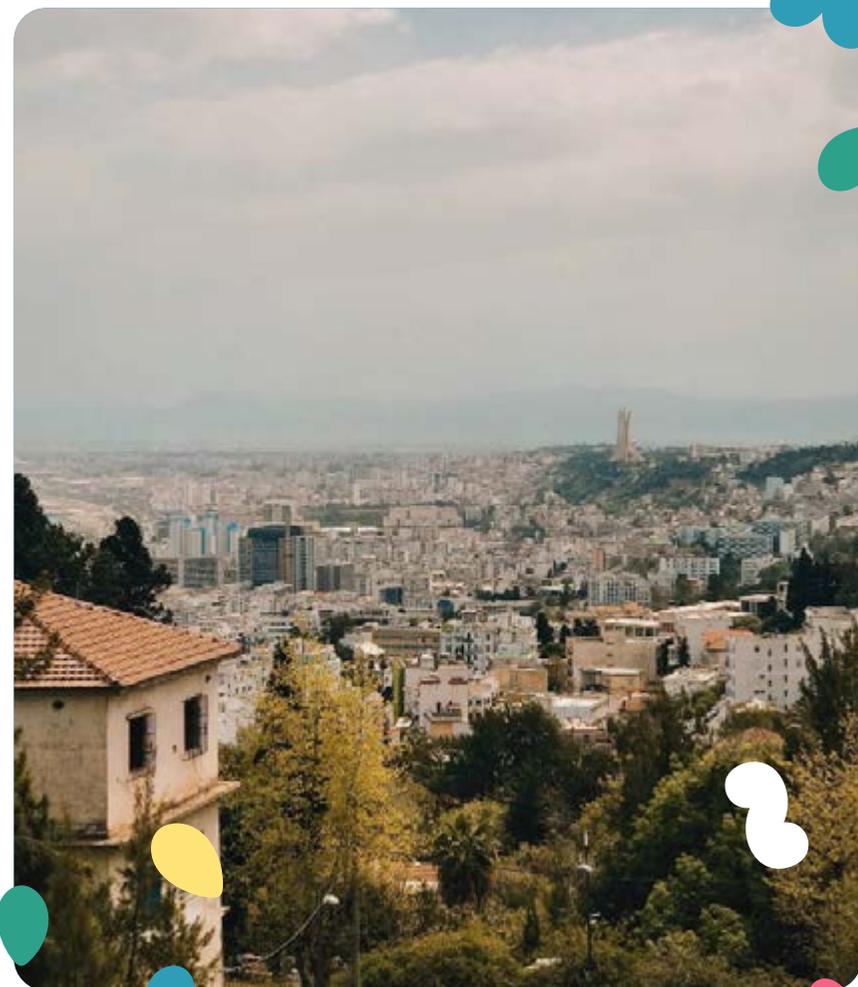
In such a large country, the geography of the landscape changes depending on where you are, so when checking out TEFL positions, make sure to research what sort of region you'll be in – mountainous, coastal, desert, etc. This will make a big difference not only to the weather and temperatures, but also what things there are to do in your local area.

The diverse climate makes Algeria the perfect spot for growing various delicious fruits and vegetables, and as such you should make an effort to enjoy the rich cuisines of different regions and sample local specialities. Couscous with BBQ lamb or chicken is a staple dish, but camel meat is also common.

While there are many benefits to living and teaching English in Algeria, this country is sometimes branded as dangerous to travel to, and so you should always check the current guidelines from your country on whether or not travel to Algeria is advised. While Algeria is predominantly a Muslim country, it's often a good choice for TEFL teachers because it's more liberal than other similar locations. Even so, some teachers might experience culture shock if they've not lived in a Muslim country before, so it's important to research what local customs you'll be expected to adhere to while in Algeria.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£820 – £1,600 (\$1,130 – \$2,350)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Algiers

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 110,000 – 221,000 DZD (£820 – £1,600 / \$1,130 – \$2,350) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term times: September to July

Currency: Dinar

Language: Arabic (and French)

Teaching programmes: State Schools, Private Language Centres, Voluntary, Universities and International Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Not always necessary



People in Algeria are welcoming and friendly. However, they sometimes lack motivation to learn English, as there is still the perception that speaking French would be more useful. This opinion is likely to change, particularly with young people who want to study abroad or do well in business, as it's undeniable that English is a great skill to have under your belt. You can find work teaching both children and adults in Algeria, and the work teaching adults will often be corporate, in-house lessons to a group of colleagues.

Wherever you end up teaching, you'll likely find your school lacking in resources – don't expect anything hi-tech like interactive whiteboards here! Have a good bank of activities to draw on when planning your lessons, and try to think of things that don't require either use of the internet/a computer/projector, or anything that will require too many photocopies and handouts. Finding things to do when you have limited resources can be a challenge for inexperienced teachers (or for those who are more experienced but used to having a range of resources at their fingertips!) but it can be a great challenge to help you hone your teaching skills and get back to the basics of productive language learning. Literacy rates in Algeria are at around 80%..

LIVING COSTS

As you might expect in a country with such a low cost of living, the salaries TEFL teachers can earn in Algeria aren't very high, but if you live like the locals do and try to shop frugally, you should earn enough to make ends meet. Expats in Algeria say that the slow pace of life makes it a comfortable place to live, although the culture shock can make things hard to adapt to. In the past few decades, the unemployment rate in Algeria has dropped dramatically, and poverty has been cut by around 20%, contributing to a better quality of life for all who live there.

One part of local culture shock you might experience is that men and women don't often socialise together – it's not uncommon for the men to socialise together in one room, and the women in another, though of course this will be different if you spend your time predominantly with other expats. Another struggle expats can experience is the quality of healthcare available, which might be a concern for you if you have ongoing health issues.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £340 – £567 / \$469 – \$781

Utilities: £29 / \$40

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £10 / \$14

Monthly transport pass: £8 / \$11

Basic dinner out for two: £16 / \$22

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.69 / \$2.33

A beer in a pub: £2.99 / \$4.12

1 litre of milk: £0.52 / \$0.71

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.78 / \$1.07

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN ALGERIA

While the official language of Algeria is Arabic, French is used as a lingua franca and is also used in some schools. As such, brushing up on your school French and putting this skill on your CV will make you more employable, even if it's just to make a good impression. Before you arrive in the country you must organise your visa, which your employer will help you to apply for. The employment authorization is issued by the Algerian Ministry of Labour. Quality paid positions are hard to come by in Algeria, but if you're keen to work there, it might be an idea to seek out a voluntary position to start off with – this will help you to gain access to the country, get to know the people and a bit about the language, and most importantly, make the connections that will help you to secure paid employment. As salaries are generally low, if you can negotiate free or cheap accommodation with your employer, this will be a huge benefit.

EMPLOYERS IN ALGERIA

[African Volunteer Network](#) sends English teachers to a number of locations, including Algeria. The network is actually a database of opportunities offered through different charities and companies.

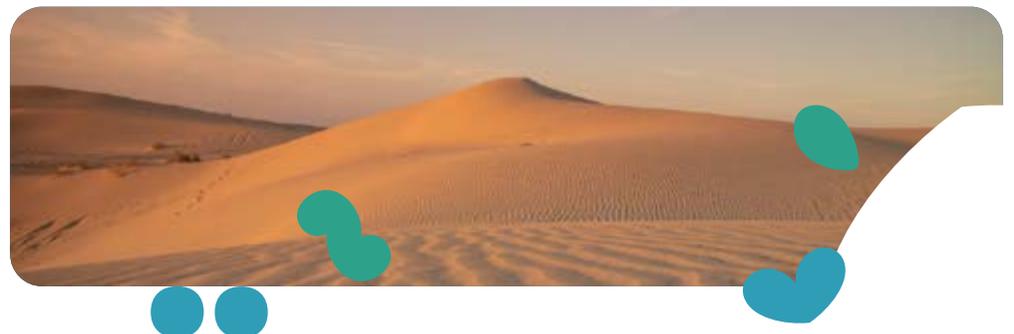
The [British Council](#) in Algeria will offer some of the best positions in the country, with wages far above what you'll earn in a state school or private language school.

[English Language Programs](#) works on behalf of the US Department of State and sends TEFL teachers to many locations, including Algeria.

To find International Schools in Algeria, take a look at [this list](#).

[Professional Language Solutions](#) hires TEFL teachers to conduct classes for adults, often in the energy industry or other corporate gigs.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in Bahrain

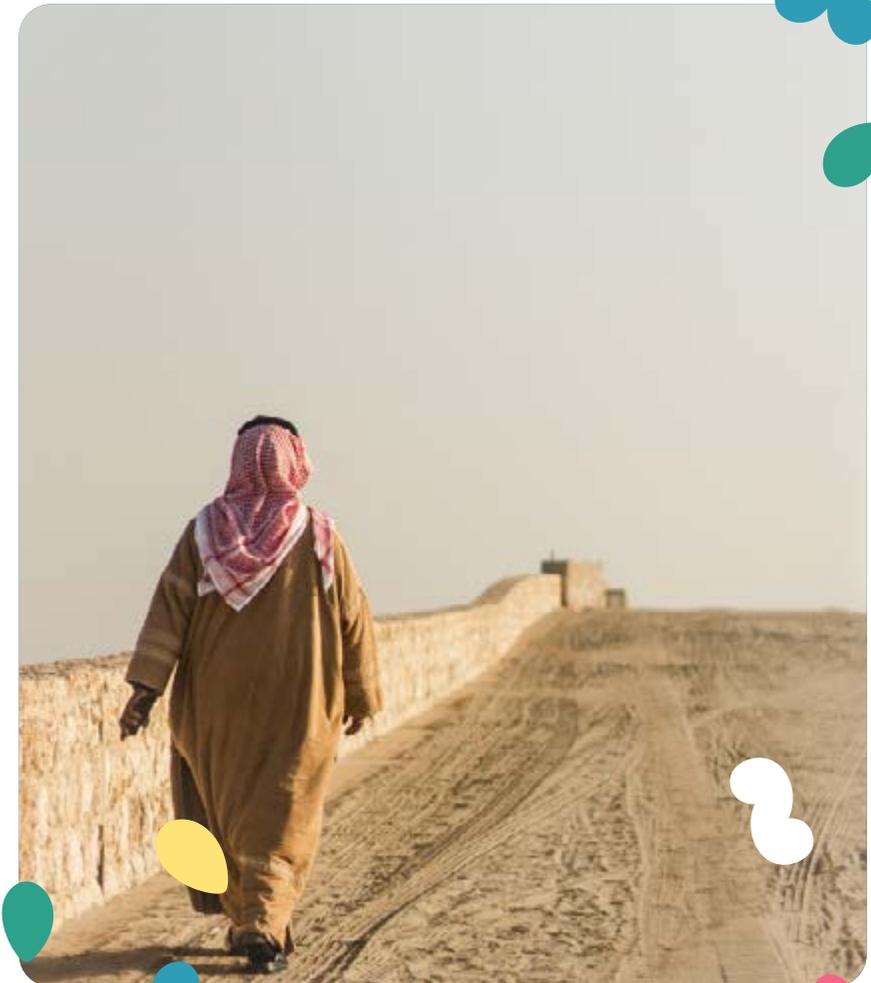
There's a huge demand for TEFL teachers in Bahrain, but this destination isn't for everyone.

There are a number of challenges which come with living in this country which will put off many TEFL teachers who are looking for their next teaching position abroad. For starters, the climate in Bahrain is extremely hot, with temperatures often breaking 40 degrees Celsius in the summer. However, even if you don't deal with heat well, this is something you can acclimatise to, especially if you ease yourself in by arriving in the cooler months. Another challenge is that the Middle East has a completely different culture to what you might have experienced living elsewhere in the world, and you should be prepared to adapt to a new way of life. However, while Arab nations are known to be challenging to people from other cultures, it's said that Bahrain is a bit more liberal than some of its neighbours, so don't rule it out before you look into the nitty gritty of what life in Bahrain will actually be like.

Bahrain is a small, island country in the Persian Gulf with a rich culture. It's known for its oil wealth, making its capital Manama one of the richest cities in the world. However, it's not just the country's wealth that makes it a desirable place to live. Finding somewhere to live in Bahrain is easy with a surplus of accommodation, and many expats wind up in luxury apartments. Receiving a high wage (tax free) means that while the cost of living can be pricy in Bahrain, you can enjoy a good quality of living. Eating out is fairly cheap, and so are many popular leisure activities. Finally, a friendly community comprised of welcoming locals and a bustling expat population make Bahrain a great place to live.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,925 – £3,850 (\$2,660–\$5,320)	Yes	September	Preferred	Yes	Yes	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Manama

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,000 to 2,000 BHD (£1,925 – £3,850 / \$2,660 – \$5,320) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A degree is required

Term times: September until July

Currency: Bahraini dinar (BHD)

Language: Arabic, although English is widely used

Teaching programmes: Private schools, International Schools, Private tutoring, International Kindergarten, Language schools, Business English

Age restrictions: Under 60

Previous teaching experience: Preferred



Bahrain has a literacy rate of around 95%. In recent years, new private universities have been established in Bahrain, providing more educational opportunities for students and also more hiring opportunities for teachers. It is also home to what was rated by the Guardian as one of the best international schools in the world, St Christopher's School. With a large expatriate community, there are plenty of opportunities for working at international schools in Bahrain. The vast majority of teaching opportunities are found in Manama, but positions in smaller towns do come up from time to time.

If you're used to teaching in the UK or in other countries that follow a British schedule, you'll fit in easily in Bahrain where term times are similar to in the UK. As for your working life in Bahrain, it's of the utmost importance that you show up on time for work, as lateness is seen as incredibly rude. Small talk is common amongst colleagues and you should have no trouble getting to know those around you. Also, with a large and ever-increasing expatriate community, you'll have no shortage of people to make friends with when you arrive. While women are often put off working in Arab countries, Bahrain is slightly more liberal, making it a more popular choice for female TEFL teachers. In fact, some positions specifically advertise for female teachers. However, bear in mind that both male and female teachers will be expected to dress conservatively, and your wardrobe should also be appropriate for the stifling heat which will come calling each summer.

LIVING COSTS

Although cheaper than other destinations in the Middle East, Bahrain has a high cost of living and you need to be well organised to keep on top of your finances. However, one perk is that you don't need to pay tax in Bahrain, so that's one less thing to worry about. Another additional benefit to working in Bahrain is that many employers offer free accommodation, medical insurance and annual flights home along with a competitive pay packet. While this is less likely to be the case for language school positions, experienced teachers applying to international school roles can look forward to these benefits.

If you earn around 1,000 BHD per month, you'll easily have enough to live on, especially if you get accommodation included with your teaching role. While the cost of living can be high, you can stick to a budget by learning the best places to get a good deal. Find out where your souqs (local markets) are to purchase basic groceries at a cheaper price than you'd find in the supermarket. Getting savvy about where to shop and living as the locals do will certainly save you much of your pay packet. The cost of living in Bahrain is constantly on the increase due to inflation and an ever-increasing expatriate community, which increases demand for expensive and imported goods and drives up prices. Public transportation is often cheap but with limited services, so many expats choose to own a car in Bahrain.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £739 – 758 / \$1,015 – \$1,041

Utilities: £392 / \$539

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £28 / \$39

Monthly transport pass: £18 / \$25

Basic dinner out for two: £25 / \$34

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.77 / \$3.80

A beer in a pub: £5.79 / \$8

1 litre of milk: £1.23 / \$1.69

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.93 / \$2.65

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN BAHRAIN

The peak hiring season in Bahrain is in August, when schools will be filling last minute positions before the new term starts. If you want a more specialist role such as at an international school, you'll have to apply much further in advance. Many TEFL teachers find that it's easier to get a job once you're actually in Bahrain, but there will be exceptions to this rule. Many expats arrive on a tourist visa to find a job, then switch once they've found employment. You need a work visa to work legally in Bahrain, and this will be applied for on your behalf by your employer, who will need to justify why your skills make you appropriate for the role.

EMPLOYERS IN BAHRAIN

To teach with the [British Council](#) in Bahrain you will need a master's degree and several years of teaching experience.

[The British School of Bahrain](#) hires teachers for both primary and secondary level positions. You'll need a BA, PGCE or equivalent, and relevant experience.

[Giggles Nursery and Day Care](#) follows the British EYFS framework. To inquire about current positions, contact them through their website.

[Naukri Gulf](#) is a great place to look for current teaching jobs in Bahrain (and the whole Gulf region).

[New Generation Private School](#) is recently under new management and on the lookout for passionate and highly motivated teaching staff.

[St Christopher's](#) is a British International School with an excellent reputation. Applications are via their hiring portal, not email.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in Egypt

Despite predominantly negative press around Egypt following the Arab Spring, there's little hostility towards the use of English as a second language, and so opportunities for TEFL teachers continue to be good.

In fact, some TEFL operations have even expanded in recent years to cover a wider area, which is certainly a positive move. Aside from that, there are also many international schools on the lookout for experienced and highly qualified TEFL teachers to join their team.

Ample opportunities for work are one reason to move to Egypt, but there are plenty of other reasons too – warm weather (average temperatures of 20°C to 34°C in the summer, and rarely dropping below 15°C in the winter), amazing cultural history, and delectable cuisine, to name a few. If you like checking out local wildlife, in the Red Sea you can see moray eels, sea turtles and even pufferfish on your adventures. The locals are friendly and many an expat has a story of how strangers have rushed to their aid when they've lost their rail tickets or need help translating something. Also, Egyptians aren't the sort of people to sneer at your meagre attempts to speak their language – any effort you make to speak Arabic will be warmly met and encouraged. However, the country has its challenges too. In Cairo, more than half of the population live in slums, and across the country around 10 million children don't have access to basic daily necessities such as clean water and education. Read on to see if Egypt could be a top choice for your next TEFL teaching job!

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£200 – £500 (\$290 – \$700)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Cairo, Maadi, Heliopolis, Xamalek and Alexandria

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 450,000 – 11,000 Egyptian Pounds (£200 – £500 / \$290 – \$700) per month. Hourly rates are around 200 EGY (£9 / \$13) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most roles

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: Egyptian Pound (EGP)

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: Business English, University, Private Language Schools, Freelance Tutoring, International Schools

Age restrictions: Under 60

Previous teaching experience: Not necessary for all jobs but will be required for better positions



For Egyptians wanting to learn English, there are a few key industries where you'll see a large number of students. One is the tourism industry, where students who are at a specialised training centres might have in-house lessons in English (or seek them as part-time tuition). Another sector is students in computer training schools, and of course general English and Business English classes are a popular choice. The education sector in Egypt is undergoing reform, which is seeing teachers retraining to bring their skills up to standard. As such, there are sometimes opportunities to teach other teachers who want to be able to use English in the classroom. However, at this time there are still very few opportunities to teach English in public schools in Egypt, where lessons are conducted in Arabic. You'll find more opportunities in private language institutions and in international schools.

For both adult and young learner students, Egyptians can make for difficult customers. For one thing, Egyptians tend to be headstrong and don't like being told what to do. Another problem is that if your students are lacking motivation, it can be quite hard to get them to do anything. As such, when seeking out private students in particular, try to gauge whether the student has a genuine interest and desire to learn English (such as the motivation of passing an exam, or learning English for their job) as teaching this sort of student will be hard easier than the trudging through mud sort of lessons you can have with those who don't want to be there. On the plus side, Egyptian students can also be lively, opinionated and a lot of fun. Larger groups can be difficult to keep under control, and if you have a class of mixed nationalities, make sure the Egyptians aren't hogging the limelight.

LIVING COSTS

According to the Expatistan, Egypt is the cheapest country in Africa and the cost of living there is cheaper than in 95% of countries in the world. However, prices are on the rise, so if you want to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle in Egypt then you should be looking at the top-paying jobs. Even then, wages aren't extravagant. When it comes to finding things to do in your free time, you'll be spoiled for choice in Egypt, which has a fascinating ancient history and so many cultural sites and relics to explore. The weather is great too, although many foreigners can be put off by the intense summer heat, averaging 20°C to 34°C in the hottest part of the year.

Although a predominantly Islamic nation, expats don't often feel stifled by life in Egypt as long as the local customs are upheld. Don't drink alcohol anywhere other than a licensed restaurant or bar as this is illegal. Also, homosexuality isn't illegal but there is little public acceptance of it, and acts such as flying a rainbow flag can get you arrested. Check out the foreign travel advice for more information.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £197 – £374 / \$269 – \$510

Utilities: £23 / \$31

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £12 / \$17

Monthly transport pass: £10 / \$14

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$21

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.53 / \$2.09

A beer in a pub: £1.51 / \$2.05

1 litre of milk: £0.71 / \$0.97

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.67 / \$0.91

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN EGYPT

The easiest place to find work is in Cairo, where it's not uncommon to be approached on the street by people wanting a few lessons – particularly those in the tourism industry. When you go for an interview, remember that your experience and qualifications are important but coming across as a confident and outgoing personality is what will win you the role. If you plan to travel on a tourist visa and just seek out work through word of mouth, head to the El Horreya Café (downtown Cairo) or the Ace Club (Maadi) to find expats and people in the know. A tourist visa costs \$25 on arrival, or a multiple entry is £32 for six months max. Business visas are available with a letter of invitation. Please bear in mind that, for visa reasons, teachers over 60 years of age won't be granted the right to work.

EMPLOYERS IN EGYPT

[AmidEast](#) prefers a North American accent but all native English speakers are welcome to apply.

The [British Council](#) has been in Egypt for longer than it has been anywhere else outside of the UK.

The [Egyptian American Center](#) is based in Alexandria.

The [El Alson British and American International School](#) was established in 1982 and offers tuition for children aged 3 to 18 years old.

The [International School of Egypt](#) is a student-centred school with excellent facilities and resources on hand.

The [Oxford English Academy](#) has been running in Egypt since 2016.

On the [Yellow Pages](#) search for 'Language schools and instruction'.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in Jordan

Jordan isn't the most popular TEFL destination in the Middle East, but as a country that has something for everyone, it's one that shouldn't be overlooked, regardless of where you are on your English teaching journey.

Inexperienced and newbie teachers can gain valuable experience as a volunteer working with refugees that have fled to Jordan from neighbouring countries. Not only will this rewarding role provide you with TEFL experience for your CV, but also give you the opportunity to explore this fascinating country in your time off and gain unrivalled life experiences. For TEFL teachers who have been teaching for years, lucrative positions at Jordan's elite International Schools will be right up your street, with great benefits alongside a generous salary. Also, with attractions such as floating in the Salt Lake, visiting the ancient metropolis of Petra, seeing stunning mosques, spending time with the Bedouins for a taste of the traditional way of life, climbing Mount Nebo, and snorkelling in the Red Sea, you'll never be short of amazing ways to spend your free time in Jordan.

While Jordan isn't one of the best known TEFL teaching destinations, it's a country that has one of the most progressive school systems in the region, and is worth keeping an eye on if you want to teach in the Middle East. Schools in Jordan rank as some of the best in the Arab world, and if you manage to land a great job at one of their prestigious international schools, it will look excellent on your CV in years to come. Given that about a third of the population in Jordan are aged under 15, there is a huge demand for teachers who can help propel this country into the world of total bilingualism, which is more easily achieved with a young population.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£430 – £2,160 (\$600 – \$3,000)	Preferred	September	No	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Amman, Irbid

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 425 – 2,130 Dinars yen (£430 – £2,160 /\$600 – \$3,000) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions, some will ask for a Masters degree

Term times: September until June

Currency: Dinar

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: International Schools, State Schools, Private Language Schools, Business English, Freelance Tutoring, Volunteering

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: It's not uncommon for schools to ask for two years of previous teaching experience, though voluntary positions will likely accept inexperienced teachers



As well as teaching English, experienced teachers can also become subject teachers at the international schools of Jordan, where all classes are conducted in English. You can find schools that follow a British, American, and Canadian curriculum. Students in Jordan are typically respectful and well-behaved. You might find their personalities a little standoffish, but this is just because they are brought up to respect the formality of the classroom, and so it can be harder to build a friendly rapport, even with your younger students. However, on the plus side you are less likely to encounter troublemakers.

While there is demand for highly-paid roles in international schools and private lessons, there is also great scope for teaching English as a volunteer in Jordan. The humanitarian crisis, which has seen Jordan give refuge to over 1.5 million refugees from neighbouring countries, means that there are countless opportunities to teach English to those who are trying to find their feet again and create a better future for themselves and their families. You can also find positions for substantial lengths of time, which is a great asset when many volunteering positions are limited to just a few weeks or months.

LIVING COSTS

The cost of living in Jordan is fairly low compared to other destinations in the Middle East, but how you live will mostly come down to what you earn. As well as the lack of income for those working in voluntary positions, the wages you can earn in paid jobs will vary wildly depending on the institution you're in, so keep your salary in mind when comparing to the cost of living. When it comes to spending your free time in Jordan, there's something for everyone.

Epic landscapes will satisfy those with outdoor wanderlust, and the lively cities provide all that you need to have a great time out on the town. On the whole, Jordan is a safe and welcoming place for foreigners, but remember to be respectful of their culture. Both men and women should dress conservatively, and make sure they're always professionally attired in the classroom.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £317 – £496 / \$438 – \$686

Utilities: £73 / \$101

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £20 / \$28

Monthly transport pass: £38 / \$52

Basic dinner out for two: £19 / \$26

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.75 / \$3.80

A beer in a pub: £5.40 / \$7

1 litre of milk: £1.05 / \$1.45

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.07 / \$1.48

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN JORDAN

The visa process for applying to work in Jordan is tricky and expensive for the school. As such, while many schools would be keen to employ a native English teacher, they are put off by the associated fees, which include paying for a lawyer that is required to secure the work permit. As such, don't waste your time applying for roles unless you think you stand a pretty good chance of getting them – the schools will be expecting qualified, experienced, professional applicants who are worthy of all this effort. Your work permit will be valid for one-year and can be renewed. It's possible to arrive on the 30-day tourist visa, though it can be tricky to find a job and complete all paperwork in that time. The best time to find a job in Jordan is around August/September. Keep in mind that most jobs have a three-month probationary period, during which contracts can be cancelled without penalty.

EMPLOYERS IN JORDAN

The [American Community School of Amman](#) looks for teachers with a varied and diverse range of teaching experiences and background.

[Amman Baccalaureate School](#) (ABS) is an IB school that provides tuition in English

[The British Council](#) in Jordan will expect candidates to be experienced and qualified – many will have worked for BC before.

[ELIC](#) have a number of programs, including the Equip program teaching English to refugees in Jordan.

The [Modern American School](#) (MAS) is an elite IB school in West Amman. Candidates should be experienced and well-qualified for the role.

[NCUK](#) has a partnership with Divan International, providing an International Foundation Year in Jordan that helps students progress to university.

[SABIS](#) is a network of International Schools with opportunities in Jordan.

[UniHouse](#) is a British education and development consultancy company which operates worldwide. They have offices based in Amman, specializing in English Language Training and IELTS.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

Teach English in Kuwait

Teaching salaries in Kuwait used to be some of the highest in the industry. While they're more modest these days, you'll certainly find them a step up if you've been doing entry-level roles in places like China and South America.

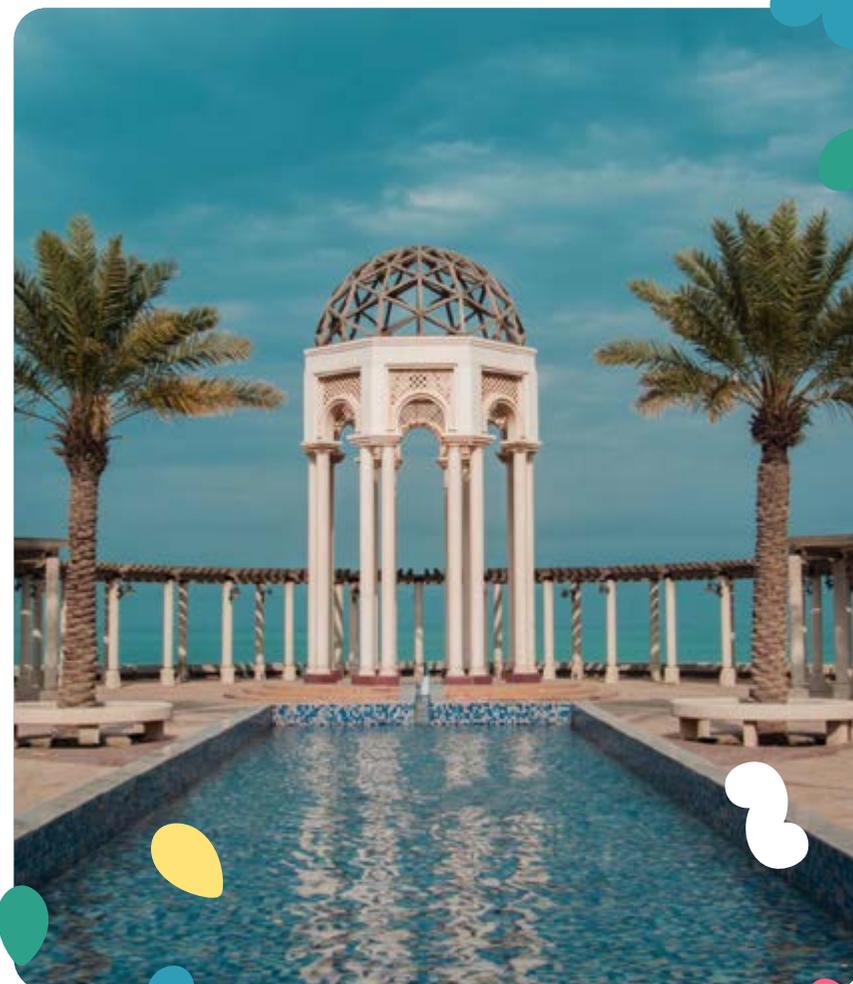
Kuwait is a TEFL destination better suited to the more seasoned teacher, as most roles call for several years of experience and there are a few roles open to newly qualified teachers. For many International Schools, you'll need British QTS or equivalent to apply for these lucrative roles.

As well as financial perks of working in Kuwait, in your spare time you can enjoy visiting the well-preserved archaeological sites which are found near the capital, as well as checking out the impressive desert landscapes and white sandy beaches. Year-long sunshine makes this a great location for those who love nothing better than chilling on the beach in great weather. However, with a strict Muslim culture, some TEFL teachers might find the rules (such as total prohibition of drinking alcohol and having a modest dress code) to be stifling.

Kuwait is a great destination if you want a high flying job (such as teaching at a university) but you don't necessarily have all the usual credentials such as an MA or PHD – if you have several years of experience and interview well, having these certificates isn't always necessary. However, as a small country there are limited opportunities for TEFL teachers and so competition can be fierce for the best positions on the market.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,800 – £2,900 (2,500 – \$4,000)	Yes	August	Yes	No	Yes	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Kuwait City

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 750 – 1,200 Dinar (£1,800 – £2,900 / \$2,500 – \$4,000) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for all jobs

Term times: The school year starts in August/September

Currency: Dinar

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: Private Schools, Summer Schools, Bilingual Kindergartens, International Schools, Universities, Freelance

Age restrictions: Under 60

Previous teaching experience: Pre-school positions often ask for 1 year of previous experience, but more typically teachers will need at least 2 years of prior experience, and some ask for 5 years +



Students in Kuwait are usually polite, eager to learn, and confident in their speaking. However, with some language schools that have an obvious focus on turning a profit, you can find them reluctant to reprimand any naughty students for fear of losing customers, although this shouldn't be the case in more prestigious international schools. Diligent teachers might find it uncomfortable if they're asked to do things such as fudge the grades of less hardworking students in order to get them to sign up for another course. The quality of your working life will depend entirely on the institute you're working for, so it's a good idea to try and get a feel for the school and speak to current staff before signing a contract. It's also quite important to make good connections with your colleagues as this is an important part of the culture here – collaboration is seen as very important and most schools will encourage out of hours socialising between staff. If you work in a school of mixed local and expat teachers, don't live in an expat bubble and pass up the opportunity to get to know your local co-workers as much as the other expats, to give you an insight into their culture and feel truly welcomed in Kuwait.

Female teachers should always have their knees and shoulders covered as part of the strictly professional dress code employed at all schools. Other cultural points to observe in this Muslim country are that pork, alcohol, pornography, homosexuality, heterosexual sex outside marriage, and cross-dressing are all illegal.

LIVING COSTS

Aside from your high salary, working in Kuwait will boast other perks such as free housing, flights to and from the country, and health insurance. Teachers will often live together in a complex with their own apartment, which might have a shared outdoor space to enjoy together in your free time. With a total prohibition on alcohol, you might be spending your time off in Kuwait a bit differently to how you would in other places. A family-friendly culture, this is a great destination for TEFL teachers who are travelling with their children to settle down somewhere for a few years. Some major attractions for your free time include the Grand Mosque, seeing the view from Kuwait Towers, visiting the Scientific Centre, seeing the stunning House of Mirrors, going to the Kuwait National Museum, shopping in The Avenues shopping mall or the more traditional Arabian markets, boating, snorkelling, and spending time at the beach.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £780 – £1,147 / \$1,078 – \$1,586

Utilities: £82 / \$114

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £59 / \$82

Monthly transport pass: £34 / \$47

Basic dinner out for two: £21 / \$29

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.82 / \$7

1 litre of milk: £1.06 / \$1.47

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.06 / \$1.46

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN KUWAIT

Kuwait City, the capital, is the only real option when it comes to finding a good job, but you can also find a few international schools in the nearby cities of Al Ahmadi and Al Jahra, so if you're looking for a location with a bit less of a buzz than the capital, certainly start your search in one of those locations. Many countries have an agreement where you can be granted a tourist visa upon arrival which is valid for one month, giving you time to search for a job on the ground if you don't have the time to search in advance. With the academic year starting in August, the spring or early summer is a good time to look for jobs if you can do so ahead of travel. A work visa will be organised by your employer once you find a suitable position and sign the contract.

EMPLOYERS IN KUWAIT

The [American School of Kuwait](#) seeks talented and vibrant teachers.

The [British School of Kuwait](#) is one of Kuwait's leading schools. Newly qualified teachers are welcome to apply for mentoring here.

The [English Academy](#) is a private school in the Hawally district. They teach the UK National Curriculum and prepare students for IGCSE, As Levels and A Level exams.

The [International School of Kuwait](#) looks for talented educators to join their 'diverse, progressive team'.

[Kuwait Bilingual School](#) operates in English and Arabic. Their website has an 'employment' section but no hyperlink so it's probably best to email them directly for information.

[Kuwait International English School](#) focusses on quality education and have great facilities on offer.

The [New English School](#) provides a British style curriculum to its students.

[Teaching Nomad](#) often has some TEFL roles in Kuwait listed on their jobs board.

The [Victoria Institute of English](#) provides lessons in IELTS, General English, Business English and more.

For an extensive list of the best International and Bilingual Schools in Kuwait, check out [this list](#).

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

Teach English in Lebanon

The political situation in Lebanon has been unstable for years, and you should always check your government's guidelines on whether travel to the country is recommended before applying for jobs.

However, many expats in Lebanon say that despite the instability, day-to-day life in the country doesn't feel too tumultuous, and that you can enjoy a nice quality of life in beautiful surroundings.

Visit ancient sites, mosques, and monasteries to get a feel for traditional life in this stunning country, or spend your free time enjoying outdoor pursuits such as skiing in the winter and swimming at beach resorts in the summer. With comfortable weather, a culture known for its excellent hospitality, and a delicious cuisine, there are many reasons to consider Lebanon for your next teaching adventure if it's safe enough for you to travel there.

Finding a TEFL job in Lebanon can be tricky for a number of reasons. For starters, work permits for foreigners are expensive and so schools are reluctant to bring in foreign teachers when there is already a good pool of local teachers who are trained in English. Even if there are jobs to be found, it is almost impossible to find out about them if you aren't already in the country as companies don't bother advertising abroad or online when there are already teachers in the local area. As such, expats who are already living in Lebanon will find it much easier to get work, particularly if they already have accommodation sorted out.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£650 – £1,090 (\$900 – \$1,500)	Preferred	August	Preferred	No	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, Byblos, and Tyre

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 1,356,000 – 2,260,000 LBP (£650 – £1,090 / \$900 – \$1,500) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term times: August to May

Currency: LBP – Lebanese Pound

Language: Arabic (French and English)

Teaching programmes: Voluntary, University, Private Language Schools, International Schools, Tutoring

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Required for many positions, but not always for volunteer or 'au pair' type positions.



One of the major teaching opportunities in Lebanon is working as a volunteer with refugees from Syria. Accessing Education: Language Integration for Syrian Refugee Children is a programme assisted by the British Council for children aged 8–14, and is one of the best known places to find voluntary work. However, working as a volunteer isn't without its challenges. While Arabic is the official language of both Lebanon and Syria, Lebanese schools usually operate in English or French, which are languages that most Syrian children have never had contact with. It's estimated that about 20% of Lebanese people use French on a daily basis, and young people in the country prefer to converse in their second language (usually French, but increasingly English is becoming more popular) rather than speaking in Lebanese Arabic. As such, when integrated into the same overcrowded classroom, there is huge disparity between the local and refugee children, which can lead to frustration on both parts, as well as for the teacher.

Syrian children are sometimes placed in classes with much younger Lebanese children in order to help them understand the language, but naturally it can be quite demotivating for Syrian teenagers to have to sit alongside Lebanese children aged five or six. Other pressures (such as male refugee children being sent out to work if there is no father figure in the family to earn a wage, or female refugee children at risk of sexual violence or being married off in order to escape poverty) can make the volunteer classroom a challenging and unstable place to be. You can read more about the challenges facing refugee children and their education in Lebanon [here](#).

LIVING COSTS

Teaching positions are usually quite poorly paid in Lebanon, though of course a foreign teacher will usually earn far more than their local co-teachers. Even with a better paid job, it can be hard to get by in Lebanon because of the high cost of living. As such, volunteer teachers (who usually receive room and board in exchange for their services) may actually find themselves better off than teachers in low-paid positions. If you find a paid position, ask for details on what benefits are included so that you can work out your outgoings based on your basic salary. Also, finding extra tutoring work to bump your earnings can be tricky in Lebanon and you can get into trouble if your visa doesn't permit you to do this kind of work, so make sure to do your research before you travel about how you'll be earning enough money to live on.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,345 – £2,090 / \$1,863 – \$2,896

Utilities: £168 / \$232

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £86 / \$119

Monthly transport pass: £168 / \$232

Basic dinner out for two: £57 / \$79

Cappuccino in expat area: £5.71 / \$8

A beer in a pub: £9 / \$12

1 litre of milk: £3.49 / \$4.83

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £2.72 / \$3.76

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN LEBANON

Searching in English newspapers and news websites is the best way to find current listings. If you want to secure a job before you travel, one way to do it is to find information on how to contact schools and email them your CV and covering letter. A number of schools seem to have defunct websites but are quite active on Facebook. Being able to speak French, as well as English, is a bonus as many schools operate in both English and French, and of course any knowledge of Arabic would be beneficial. Because many lessons are taught in English or French, having experience that could get you hired as a subject teacher is worth considering – for example, if your BA degree was in maths, you could potentially become a subject teacher for maths in English. Nearly all of the jobs you'll find in Lebanon are in Beirut, but occasionally you'll see opportunities in other places such as Tripoli, Sidon, Byblos, and Tyre.

EMPLOYERS IN LEBANON

The [American Language Center](#) is located in Beirut. They teach classes in TOEFL, IELTS and other exam preparation classes.

[Basmeh & Zeitooneh](#) runs a 'Learn Arabic and Teach English program' in Lebanon.

[Berlitz](#) is a major global hirer for TEFL teachers and they have a branch in Lebanon.

The classified section of the [Daily Star](#) sometimes has teaching vacancies in Lebanon.

[GeoVisions](#) has previously arranged live-in volunteer teaching experiences in Lebanon (15 hours per week of tutoring in exchange for room and board).

[International House](#) has branches all over the world, and in Lebanon they have a school in Beirut.

[International School of Akkar](#) is a school in North Lebanon that provides K-12 education.

[The Lebanese American University](#) sometimes has positions.

[SB OverSeas](#) has an internship program in Lebanon, and they also have a jobs page for more senior roles.

[Students' Paradise Secondary School](#) is a private school.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

Teach English in Morocco

Combining a warm Mediterranean climate with a rich history and fascinating culture, Morocco is an amazing choice for TEFL jobs.

Despite being just a small trip away from Europe on a ferry, the culture and cuisine of Morocco is totally different to what you might be used to. Eat scrumptious cous cous, rfiissa, pastilla, snails, camel meat, or tagine dishes, and if you like getting inventive in the kitchen, you can buy produce and haggle in a souk (local market) and enjoy measuring out different spices to use cooking at home. Other fun ways to spend your time include going for a ride on a camel in the desert, or you can enjoy exploring Morocco's centuries of history and its cosmopolitan culture – you'll never be short of something to do in Morocco!

Being so close to Europe means that many in Morocco want to learn English to get jobs in businesses that trade with those on the continent. As Morocco's economy grows, more and more people are looking to learn English. At its most northern point, Morocco is a mere eight miles off the coast of Spain, however, it feels a million miles away from the western life. With a blend of Mediterranean, African, and Islamic cultures, Morocco creates its own unique personality. Famous for its inspiring mountain backdrop, bustling markets, and romantic cities, TEFL teachers will never find themselves short of things to do and experience. From the many towns along the coast to the more mountainous terrains in the heart of Morocco and the Sahara desert, it offers a great variety of landscapes to stimulate the traveller.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£720 – £1,500 (\$1,000 – \$2,100)	Yes	September	Preferred	No	Yes	Under 60



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Marrakech, Casablanca, Rabat, Tangier, Agdal or Hassan

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 8,900 – 18,700 MAD (£720 – £1,500 / \$1,000 – \$2,100) per month. Hourly rates are around 188 – 208 dirhams (£14.50 – £16 / \$20 – £22) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: A BA degree is required for all positions (to get the visa)

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: Dirham

Language: Arabic and French

Teaching programmes: Private Language Schools, State Schools, Universities, Volunteering, Private Tutoring, Business English, International Schools

Age restrictions: Under 60

Previous teaching experience: Often required



While Arabic and French have traditionally been the dominant languages, English is increasingly becoming the language of international communication. With opportunities for Moroccans to work in tourism, higher education, and business, there is a growing demand for TEFL teachers. In fact, English is taught to children in schools from the age of ten. For TEFL teachers in Morocco, there are opportunities to help school children improve their spoken English as well as teaching English at an academic level to young adults in universities. English is actually a requirement for entry into university so it's not uncommon to see pre-university students looking for private tutors or group lessons. As well as teaching children and young adults, you'll also find yourself much in demand for teaching business English. Working in the public sector is often the better choice for TEFL teachers – government regulations give some consistency to the roles on offer, whereas if you work for a private company, it's down to your employers as to how much respect you receive and what your working life is like. In public schools, the teaching style is still very much 'chalk and talk', so it can be difficult to get students to take an active role in lessons if they're used to just sitting and taking notes.

If you teach English in Morocco as a volunteer, prepare to be met with scant facilities and a lack of organisation. Some volunteers report being thrown in the deep end where they aren't given much in the way of materials for their lessons, and without a translator to help out, communication can be difficult if the students don't speak any English at all. However, for a veteran teacher this sort of experience will be easy to handle, and for newer TEFL teachers the experience will be a challenge but well worth the effort. Volunteers in Morocco are usually treated extremely well by their host families, particularly in the generous servings of home cooked meals.

LIVING COSTS

Like most countries in Africa, Morocco has a low cost of living which means that, with some careful budgeting, you can afford a nice quality of life while working here. If you're planning to live frugally and save money to send home, do your research – Western Union stipulates that transactions are 'inbound only' and so sending money home isn't easy to do. Morocco has a high level of unemployment, and you'll certainly see signs of poverty wherever in the country you find work. Family values are highly important to locals, so don't be flustered by personal questions such as if you're married, how many children you have and where your parents live – this sort of questioning isn't seen as rude in Morocco. When you make friends in Morocco, you'll often find several generations living together under one roof. Moroccans are very friendly and so it's easy to make friends – get chatting to someone in a restaurant and, in a few days' time, you can easily find yourself invited to dine in their family home. For those who are doing well and who are part of the growing middle class, it's an honour to have a guest visit and be treated well in their home. However, for those who are still living on the poverty line, daily life can be a struggle in Morocco.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £328 – £632 / \$455 – \$876

Utilities: £37 / \$52

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £18 / \$25

Monthly transport pass: £16 / \$23

Basic dinner out for two: £15 / \$21

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.66 / \$2.30

A beer in a pub: £2.47 / \$3.43

1 litre of milk: £0.59 / \$0.82

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.92 / \$1.27

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN MOROCCO

While not necessary, a little knowledge of French will be particularly helpful when applying for jobs here, so if you can brush up on your school French, it will put you in good stead. Another handy thing to know are the cultural norms which will help you get along with your co-workers. In Morocco, it's quite common to interrupt someone when they're talking and it's not necessarily seen as rude. However, confrontation of any sort is frowned upon – if you need to criticise something, do it in private, rather than speaking to someone directly and causing them to lose face. When you're looking for jobs, don't just stick to the tourist locations like Marrakech and Casablanca – there are hidden gems where you'll find cheaper prices, less street crime, less pollution, and more authentic local experiences.

EMPLOYERS IN MOROCCO

The [American Cultural Association](#) hires TEFL teachers who are native English speakers, have at least a BA degree and a TEFL certificate.

The [American Language Center's](#) Casablanca branch looks for full-time teachers, preferably North American but British teachers are also welcome to apply.

Another [ALC branch](#), in Rabat, looks for those who preferably have a BA in Education or TESOL, a knowledge of French or Arabic, and TEFL certificate from a face-to-face course.

[Amideast](#) looks for native English speakers with a TEFL certificate.

[Chantiers Sociaux Marocains](#) is a non-profit NGO.

[Moroccan Voluntary Work](#) organises trips for foreigners to volunteer doing different types of work in Morocco, including TEFL teaching.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in Qatar

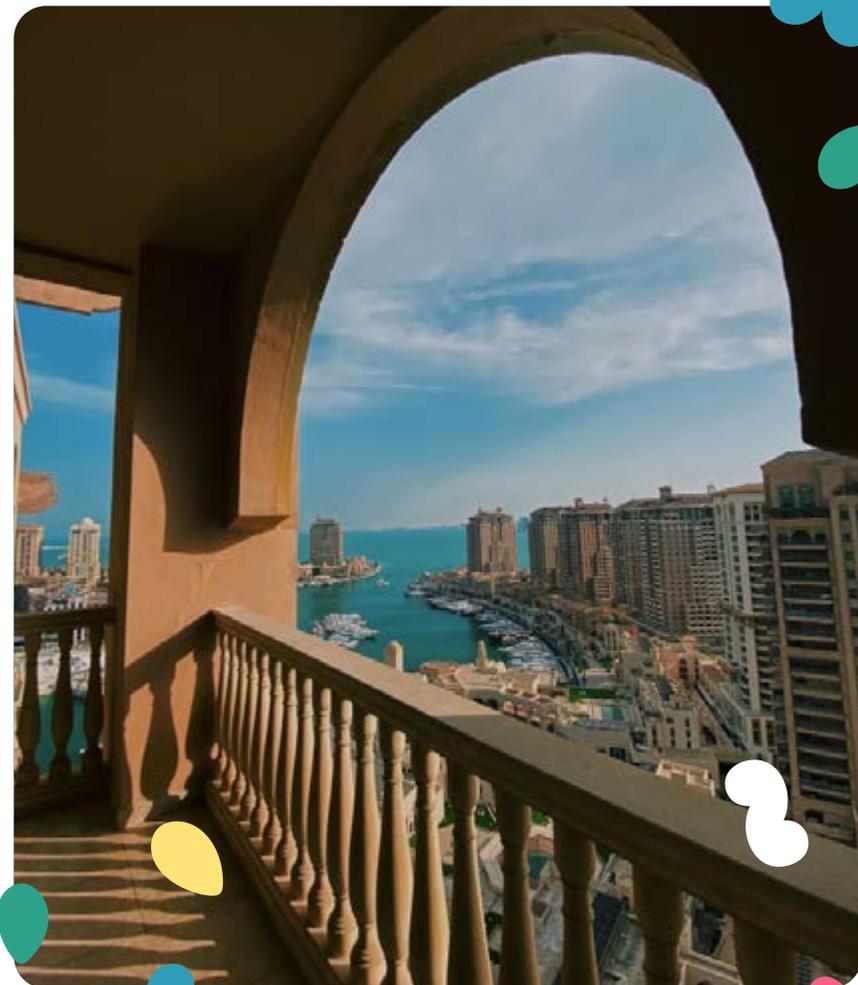
Qatar's global influence is disproportionate to its size – this small country shouldn't be written off as an attractive TEFL location despite its 5,000 square mile size.

In terms of income, the country has the third-highest GDP (PPP) per capita in the world. A predominantly Islamic country, the language is Arabic but English is widely spoken, especially since recent reforms, which have seen English become the medium of instruction in state schools. As such, state schools are one of the best places for experienced TEFL teachers to find work. However, while it might seem that Qatar is a very modern country, there is also a great respect for traditions and the heritage of the country. With a wide mix of ethnic groups (with majorities being Arab, Pakistani, Indian and Iranian) there are sure to be many different customs and traditions observed in the local community. If you teach at an international school, your students will predominantly be the children of expats, contributing to a cosmopolitan mix of cultures. If you like working in a mixed environment with a variety of mother tongues, cultures and personalities, Qatar could be a great place for you to find your next teaching role.

Wherever you end up teaching English in Qatar, be prepared to work hard. Teachers often report long working hours, and you can expect to be in close contact with the parents of your young students to update them on progress. However, on the plus side, schools are typically full of top of the range resources and facilities, and if your school is following its own curriculum, it will give you the opportunity to have some creative freedom and plan lessons yourself.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,190 – £3,230 (\$1,650 – \$4,500)	Yes	September	Yes	Yes	Yes	None



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Doha

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 6,000 to 16,300 Qatari Rial (£1,190 – £3,230 / \$1,650 – \$4,500) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Required for most positions

Term times: September – June

Currency: Qatari Rial

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: State Schools, Post-Secondary Education Centres, Business English, Corporate Gigs, Private Language Schools, International Schools, Freelance tutoring, Summer Schools

Age restrictions: None

Previous teaching experience: Required for most positions



Students in Qatar can be reluctant to speak freely in English as they're worried about making mistakes in front of their peers. The best way to encourage fluent conversation is to promote a comfortable environment for the students and impress upon them the importance of making mistakes in order to grow and move forward. Also, take care not to draw attention to individual mistakes the students make – it would be better to do a class correction at the end of an activity rather than point out an error right after the student says it. In a classroom of mixed cultures (such as at an International School) make sure the local Qatari students don't get overshadowed by students from other locations who speak English at a first language, or who are more confident in their L2 verbal skills.

The quality of your work life will depend greatly on the school you end up in. Regulations aren't so tight in Qatar as other Middle Eastern countries, so don't take it for granted that a school will be highly professional even if they pay a big salary. However, this more relaxed approach does mean that it will be easier for less experienced or qualified teachers to have a shot at some of the best paying jobs in international schools, which wouldn't be open to them in other destinations. Freelance tutoring is a great way to make some extra money teaching TEFL, but don't risk doing it without a work permit – you risk deportation or even jail time by working illegally.

LIVING COSTS

Qatar is the most expensive country in the middle east. A booming economy in Qatar means that the cost of living is high, and expats will particularly find this the case when it comes to finding affordable housing. As such, when choosing your TEFL job in Qatar, don't just consider the wages on offer, but look carefully at the benefits package. A job that includes free, furnished accommodation would be a perfect position to save you the hassle of finding (and paying for!) an apartment. Another tip is to look for a role that includes a travel allowance – Qatar has poor public transport, and most expats take taxis, drive or have a driver, so if your school can cover this, it'll be a weight off your mind.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £1,282 – £1,992 / \$1,783 – \$2,769

Utilities: £111 / \$155

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £40 / \$56

Monthly transport pass: £75 / \$104

Basic dinner out for two: £45 / \$63

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.87 / \$7

A beer in a pub: £10 / \$13

1 litre of milk: £1.66 / \$2.30

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.04 / \$1.44

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN QATAR

Applying for TEFL jobs in Qatar is a slow and lengthy process, usually taking 6 months for all paperwork to be completed, so make sure you leave ample time to apply before your planned departure date. Taking the time to find a good employer is worthwhile, because they will sponsor your visa and enable you to come into the country. While in Qatar, your visa is tied to your employer, and so you may need to get permission from your employer if you want to change jobs. Trying to work off the radar in Qatar isn't recommended as they can (and will) deport expats working illegally, or sent them to prison.

EMPLOYERS IN QATAR

[ACS International School](#) Doha caters for students aged 3 to 18.

[Blyth Academy](#) is part of the Qatar Canadian School. Located in Doha.

[The Educate Learning Center](#) looks for native English speakers with post-secondary education as well as teaching experience. Having some knowledge of Arabic is preferred.

[Inlingua](#) offers one to one and group classes, specialising in IELTS and TOFEL. You must be a native speaker of English.

[Newton Group](#) comprises of a number of International Schools in Doha, each with an excellent reputation.

[Oxford Learning](#) looks for native speakers with TEFL qualifications to teach from preschool aged students right up to college preparation classes.

[Park House](#) in Qatar was founded in 1994 and is part of the International Schools Partnership.

The [Qatar Aeronautical Academy](#) looks for native speakers with a TEFL/CELTA plus at least 3 years of teaching experience.

The Jobs page on [Qatar Living](#) has an education with typically a few dozen posts each month.

[Smart Kids Kindergarten](#) is located in Doha.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

Teach English in Saudi Arabia

As a conservative country with numerous customs that TEFL teachers may find restrictive, Saudi Arabia doesn't suit everyone, but offers great rewards to the right sort of teacher.

For those who can adapt to the differences in culture, the lure of generous financial reward makes Saudi Arabia a great choice. Salaries here are some of the highest in the TEFL teaching world.

Do consider the strict cultural differences of Saudi Arabia, which shouldn't be taken lightly. Your passport will be held by your employer while you get muqem (identity card) and if you want to leave the country, you'll have to apply for an exit visa (which might not necessarily be granted!). Women have to be covered at the knees and shoulders, or wear an abaya (a cloak/robe which covers the whole body, exposing only the head, hands and feet) whenever appearing in public. Men and women are required to refrain from public displays of affection, and homosexuality is illegal. You should avoid using profane language or gestures, and it's not permitted to take pictures or record videos in public without permission. Alcohol and pork products are also forbidden. However, one small win – since 2018, women in Saudi Arabia are allowed to drive a car. All in all, these strict rules often put off potential teachers, regardless of the lucrative income you can earn as a TEFL teacher. But if this daunting list doesn't deter you, Saudi Arabia could be a great – and lucrative – teaching location.

Generally, Saudi Arabia has a very warm climate with temperatures regularly climbing up to 40°C. That said, spring and autumns are very pleasant with average temperatures of 29°C. Whatever the season, you'll be living and working in air-conditioned surroundings.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,600 – £2,000 (\$2,300–\$3,000)	Yes	September	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under 55



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Dammam, Al Khobar, Riyadh, Jeddah, Al Baha, Medina and Jubail

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 96,000 – 180,000 riyals (£18,160 – £34,000 / \$25,000 – \$48,000) per year, or 8,600 – 11,300 riyals (£1,600 – £2,000 / \$2,300 – \$3,000) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Yes

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: Saudi Riyal

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: Language Schools, Business English, Universities, Private Tutoring, International Schools, International Kindergartens

Age restrictions: Under 55

Previous teaching experience: Most positions require experience



Your working week will usually be between 20 to 30 hours of teaching. Most employers are in the university sector and you'll be teaching adults, many of whom will be university graduates. Other major employers include the Saudi oil industry and military, such as the air force.

The prospect of working and living in Saudi Arabia may be daunting at first, but remember you'll be joining a group of teachers from a similar background to yourself. What's more, most of the TEFL teaching contracts include fully furnished accommodation. While you won't be required to speak Arabic, any knowledge you have of the language will be welcomed by your employers and will make your life in Saudi Arabia much easier.

An essentially safe country in which to live and work, Saudi Arabia follows a strict Islamic culture of respect, modesty, and self-control. These are certain factors to bear in mind for those intending working here but don't mistake this way of life as being overly restrictive to the TEFL teacher. Working here can be a rich and enlightening experience and one where your talents as an English teacher will be both recognised and well rewarded.

LIVING COSTS

Saudi Arabia is the 3rd cheapest country in Middle East, and with most teachers earning a more than respectable wage alongside having a free apartment, it's easy to enjoy a luxuriant lifestyle. Remember that you'll be saving money on not having weekly trips to the pub, so if you want to find a TEFL location where you can hunker down, work hard, and save a lot of money, Saudi Arabia is the place to do it.

In your free time, you'll discover a very well established ex-pat community and will have plenty of opportunities to make friends. There's also no shortage of things to do in a country that is steeped in history and culture. Whether it be a trip to the cosmopolitan city of Jeddah on the Red Sea or hiking and camping in the desert, there's something for everyone. Football fans will also find a home here since it's Saudi Arabia's most popular sport.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £368 – £645 / \$511 – \$897

Utilities: £164 / \$228

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £21 / \$29

Monthly transport pass: £15 / \$21

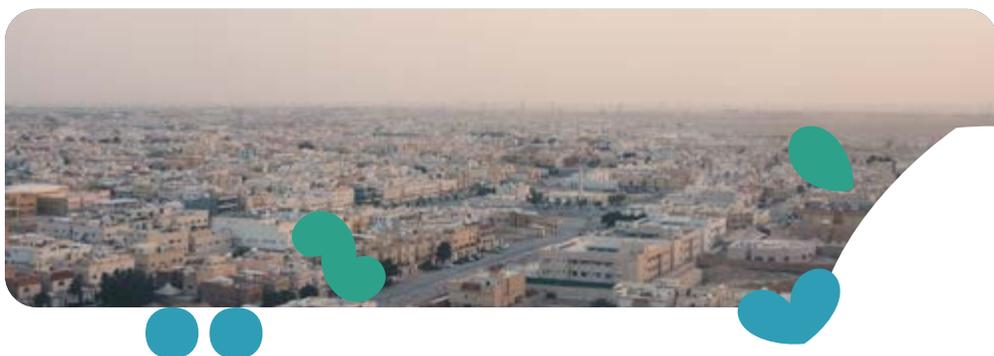
Basic dinner out for two: £14 / \$20

Cappuccino in expat area: £2.49 / \$3.47

1 litre of milk: £0.94 / \$1.31

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.62 / \$2.26

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA

Many teachers seeking employment in Saudi Arabia apply through a well-known recruitment agency rather than going directly to a school. Agencies are often looking for TEFL qualified teachers with previous experience. Stay away from recruiters that charge a fee – recruitment agencies take a commission from the clients, not the candidates, and while there are many reputable companies there are sure to be a few sharks out there too.

Below, we list some of the best-known recruitment agencies operating for the Saudi market. Also, be prepared to plan your trip in advance – it's not uncommon for it to take three or four months from the time of your agency interview to actually find a job and get your feet on the ground. The benefits of going with a recruitment agency, particularly for early-career teachers, is that you'll usually get assistance with the visa process and booking your flights, and there should also be some degree of screening which means that the agency has checked you'll be going to a decent school. Bear in mind that you won't be able to get a visa if you're aged over 60. It's also worth bearing in mind the advice that you should have any documents translated into English before signing – if you can't read it, don't sign it!

EMPLOYERS IN SAUDI ARABIA

[Desert Recruiting Services](#) specialises in hiring TEFL teachers for positions in the Middle East.

[Gold Star TEFL Recruitment](#) is a well-known recruitment agency that can find TEFL jobs in multiple locations.

[Interlink Language Centers](#) hire predominantly native speakers of English with a passport from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, US, UK, Ireland, or South Africa.

[Jubail University College](#) hires native English speakers with a BA/MA/PhD in English, Linguistics or TESOL.

[Skyline Global Solutions](#) sources teachers for universities in Riyadh and Dammam.

[Tamaki TEFL Recruitment](#) is a Japanese founded company that hires for Japan, China, and Taiwan as well as Saudi Arabia.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

Teach English in Tunisia

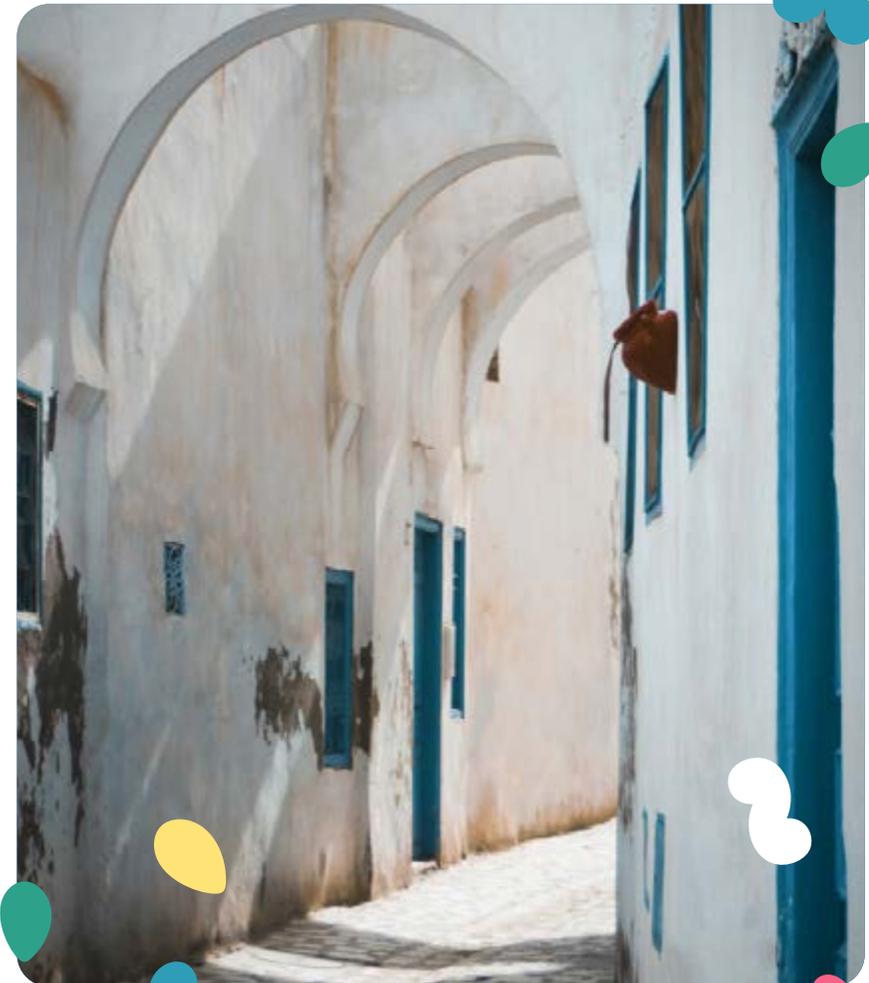
Tunisia is the northernmost country in Africa and while it's one of its smallest nations, it is geographically fascinating – the south is desert (the Sahara) while the north can see snow from time to time.

Tunisia is also fascinating from a cultural point of view. The Roman archaeological historical site of Carthage is a popular place to visit, where you can see the ancient ruins. Another place not to miss is the UNESCO world heritage site of the Medina quarter in Tunis, which was one of the first Arabo-Muslim towns and has countless monuments, fountains, mosques, and mausoleums to see. Aside from historical locations, there are also gorgeous beaches to enjoy along the Mediterranean coastline.

While Tunisia may sound like an idyllic place to live, the Tunisian revolution of 2011 has left its mark, and as a result of a number of terrorist threats and attacks, an enduring state of emergency can make it a difficult place to travel to. Check the latest travel advice from your country to see what the current guidelines are. Another consideration to bear in mind is the crime rate, and while it's not particularly dangerous, it's not uncommon that some foreigners will find themselves the victims of theft in Tunisia. While rare, another problem in Tunisia can be kidnapping, where foreigners are often targeted – it's advised to travel in groups when possible and stay to busier areas with a higher police presence. These are all factors you'll need to consider when deciding if Tunisia is the TEFL destination for you.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£650 – £1,090 (\$900 – \$1,500)	Preferred	August	Preferred	No	Yes	Under 58



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Tunis, Sousse, and Carthage

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 3,750 – 7,700 TND (£980 – £2,000 / \$1,400 – \$2,830) per month. Hourly paid jobs are around 20 – 30 TND (£5 – £8 / \$7 – \$11) per hour.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions

Prerequisite university degree: Most positions require a degree as it is required for the visa

Term times: The school year starts in September

Currency: Tunisian dinar (TND)

Language: Arabic (Tunisian Arabic)

Teaching programmes: Private tutoring, International Schools, International Kindergarten, Private Language Schools, Business English

Age restrictions: Under 58

Previous teaching experience: International schools will require several years of relevant experience



The vast majority of people in Tunisia speak Tunisian Arabic as opposed to the Berber language, and as well as speaking English, many people (more than 60% of the population) also use French, which was the common language of business and administration during French rule in the region, until 1956. However, these days young people prefer to learn English as a second language, identifying the opportunities that are open to them with this language under their belt. Despite the preference young people have for English, they only start learning it in school at the age of 12, while French is taught from when they're 8. As such, if you so happen to speak both English and French, you'll find no end to the job possibilities open to you in Tunisia, especially in bilingual kindergartens and schools. If you work in an International School, most children will be the children of expats living in the area and will speak English as a first language, or as a lingua franca. In public schools and private language classes, English will likely be the second or third language of your students.

LIVING COSTS

Tunisia is the second cheapest country in Africa and cheaper than 92% of countries around the world. Despite a low cost of living, TEFL teachers can earn a very decent wage in Tunisia, making it a great destination if you want to make savings for the future. Even on a modest income, your salary is likely to be two to three times higher than the usual cost of living, and if you live frugally as well as having a higher paying job, the savings can be enormous. It's easy to find things to do on a budget in Tunisia as well as enjoying the luxury that a high salary can afford.

Popular pastimes including visiting ancient historical sites, enjoying the Mediterranean climate on the beach, relaxing with a calming cup of jasmine tea, or perhaps honing your photography skills at the picturesque town of Sidi Bou Saidt, famous for its blue and white doors. Theme parks like Acqua Palace and Friguia Park are also popular.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £228 – £355 / \$321 – \$501

Utilities: £43 / \$60

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £15 / \$21

Monthly transport pass: £11 / \$16

Basic dinner out for two: £10 / \$13

Cappuccino in expat area: £1.20 / \$1.69

A beer in a pub: £1.74 / \$2.45

1 litre of milk: £0.36 / \$0.51

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £0.74 / \$1.05

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN TUNISIA

Visa restrictions mean that teachers without a degree or who are over the age of 58 will not be able to get a work visa. If you are a British citizen or British subject with right of abode in the UK, you do not require a visa to enter Tunisia as a visitor for up to three months. If staying for longer than three months you will need a residence permit – apply at the nearest police station. It's recommended to look for jobs that come with health insurance, as healthcare in Tunisia isn't known for its quality, and it's also rare to find an English-speaking doctor. Going to a private clinic will be recommended if you want a good chance of having an English-speaking doctor, and access to better facilities.

EMPLOYERS IN TUNISIA

[American Cooperative School of Tunis](#) has nearly 500 students from around 60 different nations.

[Amideast](#) looks for TEFL teachers with native (or near native) English ability. Your TEFL qualification should have at least 100 hours of study, and it would be beneficial to have at least a years' worth of teaching experience.

[The British International School of Tunis](#) are particularly interested in hearing from multilingual candidates.

[The British Council](#) in Tunisia looks for a UK first degree, a TEFL qualification (CELTA or Trinity) plus 2-years of postgraduate experience in EFL.

[The International Maarif School](#) has an online application form for teaching candidates.

[The Oxford International School of Tunis](#) caters for kindergarten, primary and secondary school pupils.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.



Teach English in the UAE

The UAE (United Arab Emirates) is a monarchy made up of a federation of seven emirates (or principalities). Each one has its own ruler, which is a hereditary position.

Out of the seven emirates, you've probably only heard of Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), and Dubai, but Sharjah is also a location to consider if you want to teach English in the UAE. Arabic is the official language, but as the area was occupied by the British until 1971, English is used as a lingua franca and is often a requirement for local jobs, making it a good prospect for TEFL teachers.

If you like cosmopolitan places, the UAE is a great location for you. With a mix of local ethnic groups as well as a growing expat population, you'll find a mix of faces both in your classroom and in your private life. One thing that TEFL jobs in the UAE are famous for are the wages – the cost of living is high, but so is your pay packet, and with added bonuses such as free accommodation and return flights, it's easy to put away some savings while teaching in the UAE.

The high wages on offer in the United Arab Emirates mean that employers expect the best teachers to be applying for their roles – don't be surprised to see that interviews won't be granted to teachers with fewer than 3 years of teaching experience (sometimes five years) and an MA alongside other qualifications. You can boost your chances if you have experience teaching the IB, IELTS or Business English.

THE ESSENTIALS

Avg. monthly salary	Degree required	Start of term	Teaching experience	Housing included	Suitable for non-native English speakers	Age restrictions
£1,575 – £4,300 (\$2,200–\$6,000)	Yes	September	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under 55



KEY FACTS

Popular locations for TEFL jobs: Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

Average salary for EFL teachers: The basic monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 8,000 – 15,000 dirhams (£1,575 – £3,000 / \$2,200 – \$4,000) per month. The best paid jobs will boast salaries closer to 22,000 dirhams (£4,300 / \$6,000) per month.

TEFL qualification requirements: A [120-hour TEFL qualification](#) will be required for most positions, if not a CELTA

Prerequisite university degree: You'll need a degree and many positions also require an MA in a related field

Term times: September until July

Currency: UAE dirham (AED)

Language: Arabic

Teaching programmes: Public School, Private Schools, Language Schools, International Schools, Bilingual Kindergartens, Freelance, IELTS, IB, Business English

Age restrictions: Under 55

Previous teaching experience: Three to five years of previous experience is a usual requirement



Female teachers might be wary of applying to teach in the UAE because of the strict dress code, but many expats say that it's actually more liberal than you think. At Dubai's malls, women are encouraged to cover their shoulders and knees, and a similar dress code will likely be expected of you in the workplace, but this isn't any more conservative than would be expected of teachers anywhere else in the world. However, the conservative laws shouldn't be taken lightly. Kissing in public is illegal and can result in deportation, and there are similar rules relating to using swearwords, even when on Facebook or when using WhatsApp. Homosexuality is illegal and is a capital offence in the UAE, and blasphemy is also illegal. These are all important considerations when deciding if the UAE is somewhere you could live and work without feeling imprisoned by the strict laws. Out of the seven emirates, Dubai is probably the most liberal, but you're still likely to experience culture shock if you're coming from the west.

Students in the UAE are eager to learn English, but have quite a relaxed approach to their lessons. Expect students to be late for class and reluctant to do their homework, or even not take part in classroom activities that don't take their fancy. Adult learners are notorious for answering their mobile phones during class (business is king) and not taking the lessons too seriously. While respecting professional boundaries in this strict culture, you'll also find your students friendly and approachable. Classrooms will often be filled with top-of-the-range equipment, and you'll have plenty of resources at your fingertips whether you're teaching children or adults.

LIVING COSTS

More expensive than 70% of countries in the Middle East, you might be surprised to hear that, globally, the UAE only ranks as more expensive than 66% of other countries. This just goes to show that it doesn't always follow that places with super high wages will have an equally high cost of living, as is the case in the UAE. Aside from the high wages you receive as a TEFL teacher in the UAE, your remuneration will be all the more attractive if it also includes free housing, often in luxurious apartment complexes which will include amenities such as a swimming pool, steam room, gym and other sports facilities. Having free accommodation would be a big bonus as housing can be pricey in the UAE, particularly if you live somewhere swanky, and there's a big gap between cheaper homes and more luxuriant living. Many positions boast other perks such as return flights, and the longer contracts at most schools mean you won't face costly relocations every few years.

EXAMPLES

Accommodation: £946 – £1,548 / \$1,311 – \$2,145

Utilities: £132 / \$183

Cost of typical visit to a GP: £45 / \$62

Monthly transport pass: £22 / \$30

Basic dinner out for two: £31 / \$43

Cappuccino in expat area: £4.12 / \$5.71

1 litre of milk: £1.35 / \$1.88

2 litres of Coca-Cola: £1.50 / \$2.08

**Living costs sourced from Expatistan*



WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THE UAE

Getting a work visa can be quite tricky as you need to be sponsored for one by your employer or pay to get office space in a special area. For teaching couples, it's easier to get a work visa if your married partner has an officially sponsored one. Some schools prefer to hire teachers who are already living locally, so if you aren't having luck in your job search, consider the option of travelling on a tourist visa and finding work once you hit the ground. However, it's a good idea to apply well in advance for your move to the UAE as some schools can take five or 6 months to complete all the paperwork and prepare for your arrival. With the school year starting in September, the best time to apply is in the spring. Bear in mind that contracts are often for two or three years here, so it can be a great place for experienced TEFL teachers who want to settle down for a while – especially if you're bringing your family and want a bit of stability. There's also plenty of opportunities for career development, with roles such as Head of Department and Head Teacher roles coming up frequently.

EMPLOYERS IN THE UAE

[Berlitz](#) has centres in Dubai and Sharjah.

In any country, the [British Council](#) will usually pay the highest salary of all TEFL positions in the city, but with such high wages in the UAE, BC is around the industry standard.

To teach with [Direct English](#) you need a TEFL qualification, a BA degree, and two years of teaching experience.

[Footprints Recruiting](#) hires teachers for Dubai and the UAE.

Check the website for current jobs at [Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University](#).

[Jobs in Dubai](#) is a great place to start your job search.

Experience teaching IELTS will be a plus when applying to the [Speak English Institute](#) in Dubai.

[Teach Away](#) lists a vast number of teaching jobs, from basic roles to subject specialists and HOD positions.

There are over 140 international schools in Dubai alone. Check out [this list](#) to see which ones the International School Advisor reckons are the top 20.

See [The TEFL Org Jobs Centre](#) for positions.

ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES



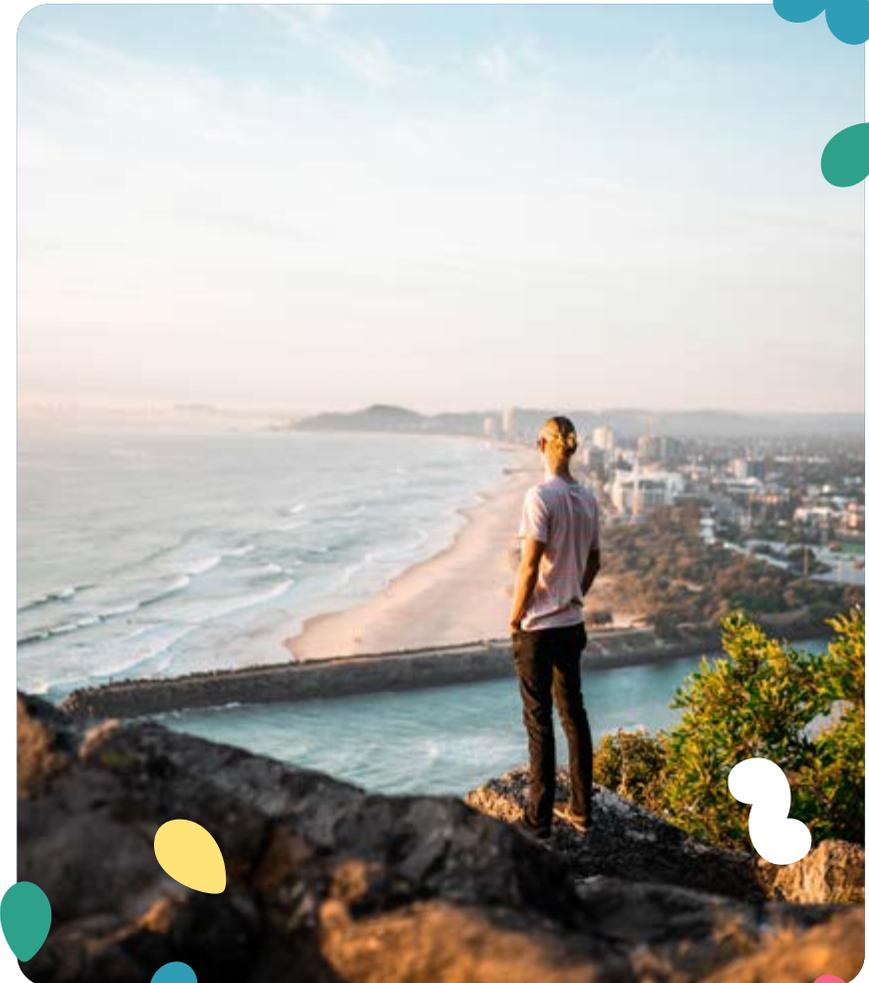
Teach English in Australia

English is the official language of Australia, but its proximity to Asia means that Australia is a great location for ESL students to study abroad, and as such there is much scope for employment for qualified TEFL teachers.

There has been an 80% increase in the number of students studying in Australia in the last 10 years. While most ESL students in Australia are from Asia, you also find students from Europe and Latin America who have travelled to Australia to enjoy the culture and gorgeous weather while learning English.

Teaching in Australia is a great choice for teachers who want to try living abroad but are worried about culture shock – with English being the official language of Australia, you won't feel too lost at sea when you arrive in the country. While the jobs available to TEFL teachers in Australia are usually better suited to experienced and well-qualified teachers, there are also temporary contracts, part-time roles and volunteering experiences that would be perfect for those fresh off their TEFL course.

If you're aged 18 – 30 and come from Britain, Ireland, or North America, you can apply for a working holiday visa to teach English in Australia. Visas are for 12 months, and you need to be in good health to apply, you must be able to prove that you have the funds for your return flight, and you can't have any dependent children. You can't undertake work for the same employer for the whole year of your visa, and work must be incidental with the main purpose of your trip being travel. The best time to apply for professional roles is September, to start with the new school year in January. However, there are short-term contracts year round for students who come to study in Australia throughout the year.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN AUSTRALIA

Teaching English online is a great way to find students at a time to suit you – wherever you are in the world, there will be someone wanting to learn English during your peak hours! However, it's undeniable that the Asian market is one of the biggest when it comes to TEFL customers, and so being available to teach when these students are free will give you plenty of choice when it comes to jobs. While the time difference between, for example, the UK and Japan is around 8 hours, if you're living in Australia, the time difference is only one hour. Picking up some online teaching is a great way to supplement your income if you can only find part-time work, or if you just want to do some paid work on the side of some volunteering.

To teach TEFL online in Australia you aren't limited to Australian companies and can teach with any online school you like. However, if you're applying to Australian companies, be sure to stress your home country and accent – British accents are often highly sought after.



VOLUNTEER IN AUSTRALIA

Volunteering abroad as a TEFL teacher is a great way to see a new place on a small budget. Volunteers often have their accommodation and food provided for them, and some positions even come with a stipend for costs, but you usually have to fund the travel to the placement yourself. If you want to visit Australia but don't want to be tied into a full-time TEFL job, working as a volunteer might be a great way to do it. Volunteering is also a great foot in the door for TEFL teachers who might not be experienced enough to apply for more professional roles. You'll often find that, once you're in the country, it's easier to find an employer.

Navitas runs an Adult Migrant English Program along Sydney's South West and the Canberra region, providing English and computer skills for refugees arriving to Australia. You don't need to speak English as a first language or have any teaching experience to volunteer with Navitas. You have to commit to volunteering for six months, for at least one hour a week, and agree to attend their training program. Teaching is done online so you must have your own device with a reliable internet connection.

Another potential volunteering opportunity could be found with the [Refugee Council of Australia](#).

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN AUSTRALIA

Students who travel to Australia for their studies usually fall into one of two categories – those on a short-term overseas course, and long-term students. Short-term students usually stay in Australia for around 12 weeks, so if you are planning on being in Australia for less than a year yourself, it might be possible to find work teaching these students who are on a shorter visa like yourself. Many contracts for TEFL teachers will be for a course/term/month rather than a year. There are also longer courses (around 20–30 weeks long) for students who need to improve their English before enrolling on a university course in Australia. You'll find that a peak season for teaching on short courses takes place from September to May (the warmer months).

However long you decide to teach in Australia for, bear in mind that standards are strictly regulated and schools will expect their teachers to be highly qualified and experienced, even if its only for a short period of time. You'll need a degree, TEFL certificate with a practical component and at least 800 hours of teaching experience to get your foot in the door. For details on current requirements for TEFL teachers in Australia, visit the NEAS website. If you don't meet all the requirements, you might still be able to find work at a non-accredited school.

EMPLOYERS IN NEW ZEALAND

The [Australian Academy of Commerce](#) teaches IELTS and Cambridge exam preparation classes.

The [Australian Catholic University](#) welcomes overseas applicants.

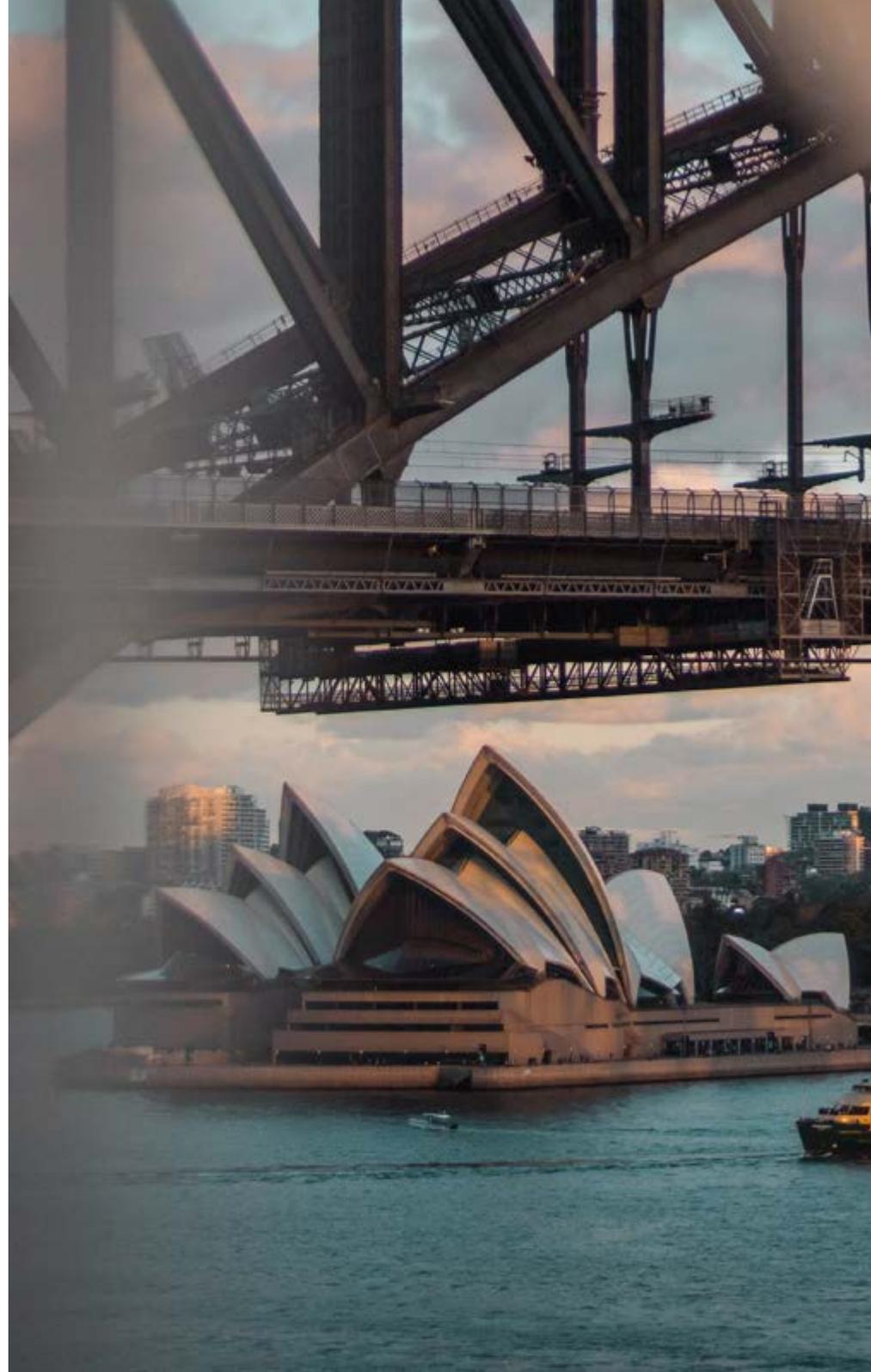
The [Australian International College of English](#) offers IELTS classes, homestay, camps, young learners, general English and other courses.

[English Language Company](#) prefers CELTA qualified teachers with a BA degree and one year of experience with adults.

[English Unlimited](#) asks candidates to have a BA degree and TEFL certificate.

For a list of French/English bilingual schools in Australia, see this [list](#).

[International House in Brisbane](#) looks for teachers with a CELTA or equivalent and at least 1 year of teaching experience.

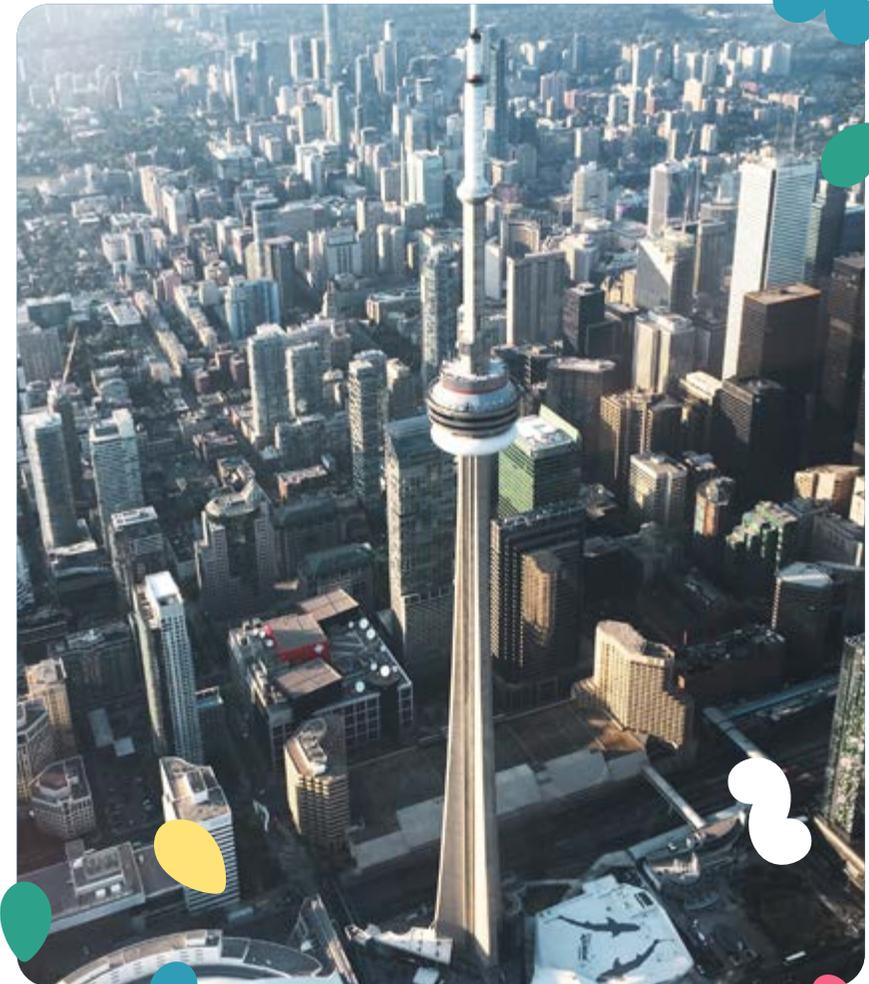


Teach English in Canada

Have you ever met a Canadian you didn't like? The warm, friendly locals are just one of the many reasons why people choose to live and work in this vast country.

The second-largest country in the world, you might be surprised to know that Canada is actually 30% larger than Australia, though the temperature is a bit different! In winter, the average temperature in Ottawa is -14.4 C (6.1 F), but there are areas where it gets much, much colder. A large part of Canada is untouched by civilization, and so if you love getting out in the great outdoors and experiencing some true peace and quiet (and masses of snow), this is the location for you.

It's not just jaw-dropping mountains and impressive vistas that Canada has to offer. Toronto is a big, cosmopolitan city, where around 50% of the population are immigrants (predominantly speaking Cantonese, Punjabi, Italian, Chinese, Tagalog, Spanish and Urdu). Vancouver is another vibrant city, where fewer than 50% of people living there speak English as a first language. In Montreal, 70% of people speak French at home, 17% speak another foreign language, and only 14% of people speak English as their first language. So as you can see, there are countless opportunities for teaching English in Canada, whether to the Francophone locals or the plentiful immigrants who make this beautiful country their home. If you so happen to speak a bit of French, you'll have no trouble in finding work in Canada.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN CANADA

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, many language schools in Canada have shifted their lessons online, and some have decided to continue providing lessons in this way. This means that there are even more options when it comes to finding online teaching work in Canada, as you aren't bound by your geographical location. There are a vast number of potential TEFL students in Canada, despite it being an English-speaking country, so if this is your current time zone, you'll have plenty to choose from.

Picking up some online teaching is a great way to supplement your income if you can only find part-time or casual work in Canada, and you can fit in the online lessons around your regular commitments. Online teaching is a great way to make a bit of money if your primary reason for being in Canada is volunteering as an English teacher, or if you're having a working holiday. Quite a lot of TEFL jobs in Canada are part-time or casual contracts, so looking into doing some teaching online is a great idea if you want a more stable income. Start your research before you travel and you can hit the ground running.

While there is a big market for TEFL teachers in Canada, if you're teaching online, you don't have to limit yourself to finding students in the same country as you. Supplement your income by finding work on a TEFL platform anywhere in the world to find students at a time of day to suit you. When teaching online, you can find students on a freelance basis (which usually pays more, but requires more work from you) or you can apply to work for an established school that will find students for you, and might even provide your lesson materials.



VOLUNTEER IN CANADA

With a large immigrant population and parts of the country where people speak French as their first language, there are ample opportunities for volunteering as an English teacher in Canada. The beauty of this country and its fun, cosmopolitan vibe are an understandable lure for the backpacker in search of adventure, and if you'd like to gain some teaching experience while you're there, you won't struggle to find work.

The TESOL Ontario website has a [volunteer job board](#) where you can search for current positions. Some positions are for a regular commitment, such as one or two mornings a week for the length of a term. These positions will normally see you hosting conversation classes with new arrivals to Canada who want to improve their English. There are also more sporadic volunteering opportunities, such as working with the Hospitality Workers Training Centre to run mock interviews for those hoping to work in the sector.

[Cuso International](#) seeks volunteers for educational programs in Canada.

[ELTOC](#) volunteers in Ottawa must be at least 18 years old, fluent English speakers, and have availability for 2-3 hours per week for at least 10 months. Volunteers are matched with a student for one-to-one lessons, many of whom are migrants new to the country.

[The City Volunteer Canada Program](#) covers a range of volunteering activities, including education.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN CANADA

As an English-speaking country, there is competition for work from local English teachers, who of course already have the right to work in Canada. As a foreigner, it can be tricky to get a work visa for Canada, even if you're experienced and highly qualified as a TEFL teacher. One way to get into the country might be to enter on a Working Holiday Visa, available to those aged 18–35 from a number of different countries. Once you're in the country, it will be easier to find out about jobs and travel for in-person interviews, putting you on par with local applicants.

When looking for work, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal are usually the best places to find a multitude of TEFL opportunities, but any big city should be able to offer positions at most times of the year. Most jobs will pay by the hour and might only offer short term contracts. As such, to make ends meet, a lot of TEFL teachers take on private students in their free time. With such a large immigrant population, you won't struggle to find private students. For more experienced TEFL teachers, or those who are skilled in another language (particularly French) there will be opportunities to apply to some of the best bilingual and international schools in Canada.

EMPLOYERS IN CANADA

[Access English](#) caters for kids, teens, and adults.

[Brentwood College School](#) is one of Canada's best boarding schools.

[Birmingham International Collegiate of Canada](#) promotes interactive, creative teaching. They teach IELTS, run summer camps, and a number of other programs.

[Camp Canada](#) looks for summer staff who are aged 19–30, who are current students or intend to study within one year of the Camp Canada experience.

[English Encounters](#) is in Burlington, Ontario.

[ILAC](#) operates in Vancouver and Toronto.

[The Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada](#) (LINC) provides free English classes to immigrants and refugees in Canada.

Find a job in [Nova Scotia](#) by searching on the Nova Scotia School Boards page.

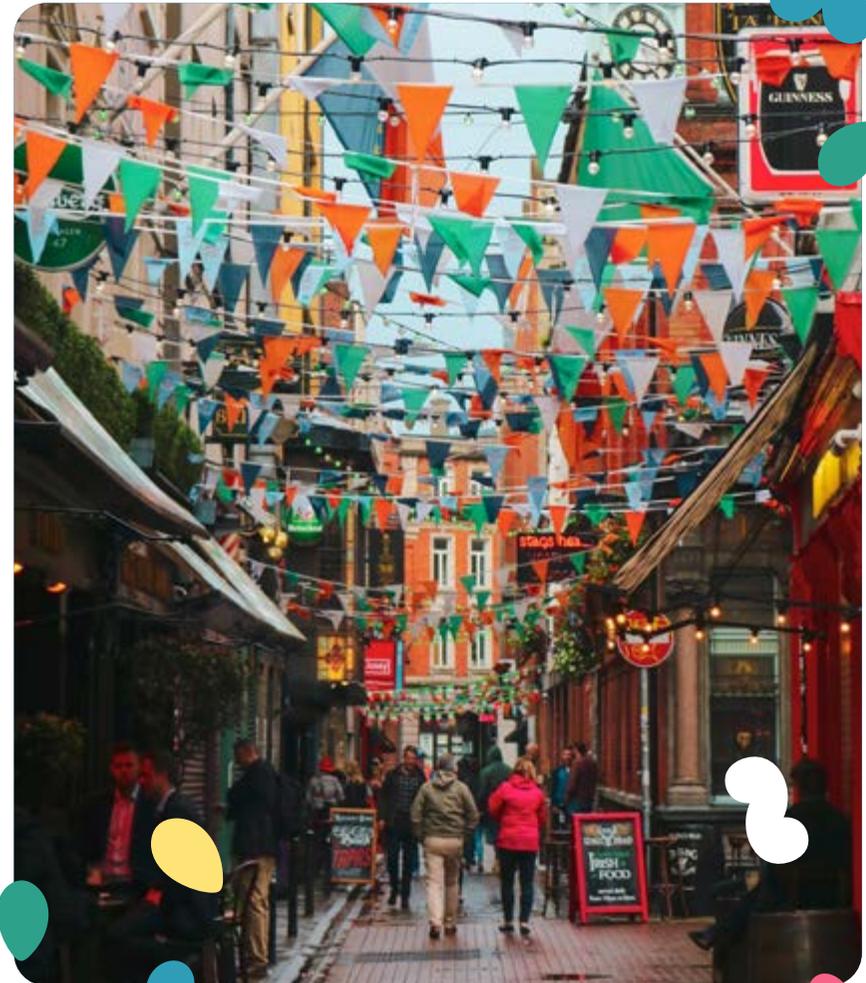


Teach English in Ireland

Despite being a largely English-speaking country, Ireland still offers opportunities for TEFL teachers to teach English to immigrants, either in person or online.

However, it's true that jobs are few and far between, and there is much competition from the TEFL teachers who already live in Ireland. Teachers will need to be both qualified and experienced in order to get an interview, or already living in Ireland. Most TEFL jobs in the country are in Dublin, which is a lovely place to be, but has a high cost of living. However, if you already live in Ireland and are looking for work, don't rule out the possibility of finding work close to home. The best time of year to look for positions is before the summer months, when many summer schools pop up catering for both kids and adults. Working on a summer course is a great way to make connections and find long-term teaching work in Ireland.

Ireland mightn't be as exotic or sunny a destination as other TEFL locations, but there are plenty of reasons to pick this green land when choosing where to teach English. If you're into surfing, you'll know that the surf scene makes Ireland a popular place to visit, particularly in the summer months. Live music is a popular pastime in Ireland, and if you like Irish folk music, you'll have no end of gigs to go to. There are several great festivals that take place throughout the year, too. If you like getting away for the weekend, Ireland's small-ish size makes it perfect for exploring, especially if you have access to a car. Student life is buzzing because of the world-renowned universities, particularly in Dublin. Irish people are friendly, good-humoured and love to have a good time.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN IRELAND

It can be hard to find full-time TEFL work in Ireland, even if you are experienced and qualified, so picking up some online teaching is a great way to supplement your income if you need to earn some extra money. The great thing about teaching online is that you can fit in the online lessons around your regular commitments.

When you're teaching online, you don't have to limit yourself to finding students in the same country as you. Supplement your income by finding work on a TEFL platform anywhere in the world to find students at a time of day to suit you. When teaching online, you can find students on a freelance basis (which usually pays more, but requires more work from you) or you can apply to work for an established school that will find students for you, and might even provide your lesson materials.



VOLUNTEER IN IRELAND

If you want to volunteer as a TEFL teacher while living in Ireland, it might be difficult to find a formal volunteering position, as there isn't much information about what voluntary roles are available. While there are a few roles listed below, many teachers who volunteer find that they can reach those in need by volunteering online. By teaching English as a volunteer online, you can apply to local companies in Ireland or those further afield, as you aren't bound by geographical location. Once in Ireland, you might be able to find a volunteering position in person by making local inquiries or contacting local groups for migrants and refugees.

[County Kildare Leader Partnership](#) runs a number of volunteering projects, including the opportunity to teach English to new migrants in Ireland.

[Fáilte Isteach](#) hosts conversation classes for volunteers to help migrants with their English language skills. Volunteers can join an existing group or apply to set up a new class. At the moment, all new classes are online only.

Search on the [Volunteer Ireland](#) website for an up to date list of volunteering opportunities.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN IRELAND

Dublin is the best place to look for work but Cork, Galway and Limerick also have positions throughout the year. EU citizens can volunteer and work in Ireland without a visa. This makes it a great place to get some work experience if you have the correct passport. If you're a non-EU citizen, it's highly unlikely you'll find a job to sponsor your visa, as there are already many TEFL teachers living locally as well as those with the correct passport.

While it's possible to find full-time positions in Ireland, they're hard to come by. For many TEFL teachers, working in Ireland provides an opportunity for newer teachers to get some experience under their belt by working for one of the many summer schools available in Dublin, as well as other locations. These summer schools provide lessons for kids, teens and adults, who arrive to Ireland in great numbers during the summer months. If you're between contracts during the summer, or looking for a short contract to start you off on your TEFL journey, you shouldn't have difficulty finding a school to hire you, providing you meet the usual requirements: an EU passport, TEFL certificate, and a BA degree.

EMPLOYERS IN IRELAND

[DLTC English Language School](#) hosts group holidays, junior summer schools, online Cambridge English courses, and adult evening courses.

[English for Professionals](#) is based in Cork.

[Executive Language Training Ireland](#) offer summer courses, Business English, Medical English, English for specialist purposes, homestay experiences and more.

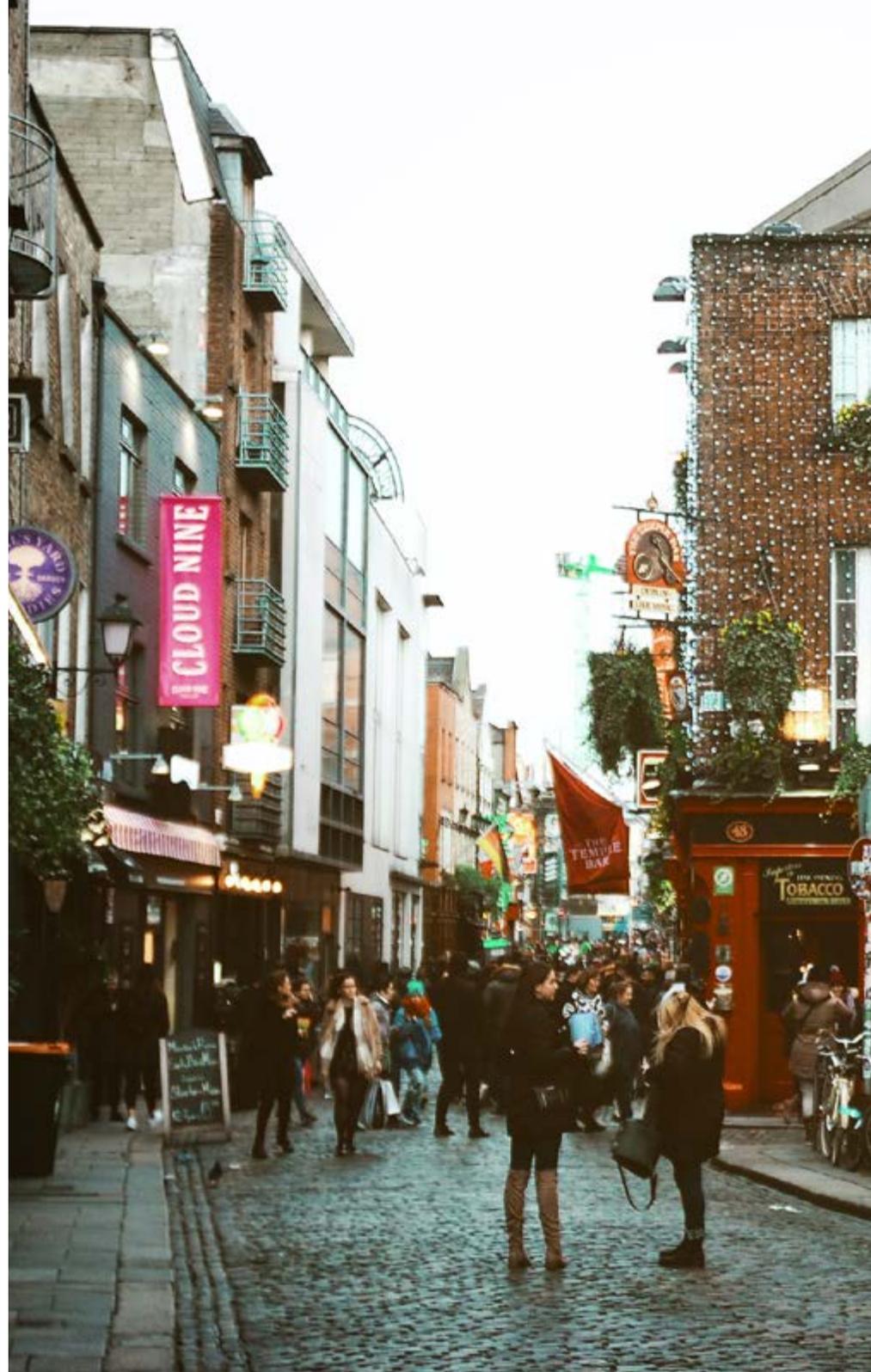
[Gormanston Park School of English](#) offers residential stays to groups or individuals wanting to learn English.

[Harristown House Language School](#) has an English Language school as well as running summer camps in additional languages.

[Hiberno-English Ireland](#) has an English Language School

[The Horner School of English](#) offers a variety of courses such as exam preparation, Business English, General English and more.

[Horizon Adventure & Education Centres Ireland](#) run summer camps and day camps for kids.



Teach English in New Zealand

Living in the land of wide open spaces is a must for any TEFL teacher who considers themselves a nature lover.

New Zealand is a country full of national parks and protected areas where you can discover the natural beauty of your surroundings, and undoubtedly meet a few sheep – there are 9 sheep for every person living in New Zealand! Whether you're into exploring the quiet, peaceful beauty of the great outdoors, or enjoying more adventurous pursuits such as bungee jumping, whale watching, water sports, and sky diving, this is a country that will quench your thirst for life in the great outdoors.

If we've sold the country to you, you might wonder whether there are actually any teaching opportunities in this paradisiacal location, given that it's an English-speaking country. However, plenty of foreign students, drawn by the many benefits of living in this beautiful country, come to New Zealand to study, creating opportunities for TEFL teachers to work here. Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington are where you'll find the most opportunities, but they sometimes crop up in more rural locations too, and of course there are many summer schools that spring up to accommodate predominantly Asian children who want to learn English. Pay is typically good for TEFL teachers, but the cost of living can be high.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN NEW ZEALAND

Teaching English online is a great way to find students at a time to suit you – wherever you are in the world, there will be someone wanting to learn English during your peak hours! However, it's undeniable that the Asian market is one of the biggest when it comes to TEFL customers, and so being available to teach when these students are free will give you plenty of choice when it comes to jobs.

If you're living in New Zealand, the time difference between yourself and the Asian market isn't significant. Picking up some online teaching is a great way to supplement your income if you can only find part-time work, or if you just want to do some paid work on the side of some volunteering. As many TEFL gigs in New Zealand are part-time or short-term contracts, looking into doing some teaching online is a great idea.

To teach TEFL online in New Zealand you aren't limited to local companies and can teach with any online school you like. When searching for online teaching work, think about the following things: do you want to teach kids, teens, adults or all three? Do you want a job that has a minimum commitment (sometimes as low as 4 hours per week, but many schools ask for 8 to 10 hours as a minimum)? Do you want to work with a company that finds your students and prepares your lesson materials or do you want to go freelance?



VOLUNTEER IN NEW ZEALAND

[English Language Partners](#) works with refugees and migrants in New Zealand to help them perfect their English and also adapt to Kiwi life. Volunteers, who must complete a basic training course, will become home tutors for their students, and must commit up to two hours per week to tutoring, for at least six months.

[Seek Volunteer](#) has a number of education-based volunteering opportunities, which could be a great first experience of teaching for a newly-qualified teacher. If you want to get some experience under your belt while living in an idyllic setting, one of these positions could be just right for you.

If you're interested in volunteering in New Zealand, you'll find that most volunteering opportunities are environmental-focused and there are relatively few when it comes to teaching English. However, you might find that it's easier to make connections and seek out students if you're on the ground. With over 1,000 refugees arriving to New Zealand every year, you're sure to find opportunities for teaching English once you get some current, local information.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN NEW ZEALAND

The school year in New Zealand runs from February to December, meaning that if you're looking for a full-time job, the peak times for hiring are in November and December. However, much work is on short-term (often renewable) contracts, especially around summer school season, so you can often find short-time or part-time work at any time of year, perfect for those on a working holiday visa (available for those aged 18–30). Saying that, from time to time there are shortages of full-time teachers in New Zealand and a flurry of jobs appear, but as a foreigner, expect your qualifications and experience to be scrutinized before you're granted an interview. Most positions are filled with local applicants, so you'll have to prove your worth to be considered.

EMPLOYERS IN NEW ZEALAND

The [Coromandel Outdoor Language Centre](#) in Waikato offers a unique teaching experience to international visitors.

As well as hosting volunteers, [English Language Partners](#) hires part-time TEFL teachers.

[English New Zealand](#) accepts applications from qualified TEFL teachers.

The NZQA lists [Education Organizations](#) of all sorts across New Zealand.

[EduExperts](#) (Auckland and Hamilton) is a subsidiary of Crimson Education.

New Zealand has many excellent [International Schools](#), most of which offer the International Baccalaureate.

The [Marine Training Centre](#) (MTC) in Kiribati often has opportunities for TEFL teachers – not clear if positions are voluntary or paid.

[Nelson English Centre](#) have a focus on academic excellence, and two thirds of their permanent teachers have higher level ESOL specific diploma qualifications.

[The New Zealand Language Centres Ltd](#) (NZLC) is one of the largest language schools in New Zealand.

[Tasman International Academies](#) seeks qualified and experienced EFL teachers.

[TESOLANZ](#) is a good place to find current job listings in New Zealand.



Teach English in South Africa

South Africa has eleven official languages (and there are dozens more spoken throughout the Republic) of which English is included.

While the mother tongue for only about 10% of the population, English is understood to some degree by nearly everyone living in the urban areas. As such, there isn't a huge demand for TEFL teachers in South Africa because much of the population already speaks English, and the language schools that do exist will predominantly hire locals who are themselves native English speakers. However, if you happen to be proficient in another language, you might be able to find work at one of the bilingual schools in South Africa. Bilingual schools include those speaking French, German, and some African languages such as Afrikaans. If you struggle to find paid work but still want to travel to South Africa, there are plenty of opportunities to work as a volunteer TEFL teacher, working with children from poor areas to help them improve their English.

A lot of TEFL teachers are put off working in South Africa because of its reputation for a high rate of crime. While it's true that many locations in South Africa have a high crime rate, it's estimated that more than 80% of crimes take place between people that know each other, so as a random person on the street, you're less likely to be a target for crime than you think. However, it is a point worth considering, so make sure you do research into the safety of the area you want to travel to, and try to speak to people who are actually there to gauge what things are like on the ground.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Teaching work can be hard to find in South Africa, even if you're qualified and experienced as a TEFL teacher. If you work part-time, or perhaps are teaching as a volunteer in South Africa, you can earn extra money in your free time by teaching English online. While South Africa has a cheaper cost of living than around 60% of places around the world, it's one of the most expensive countries in Africa, so you might struggle to get by without supplementing your income with some online work.

When you're teaching online, you don't have to limit yourself to finding students in the same country as you. Supplement your income by finding work on a TEFL platform anywhere in the world to find students at a time of day to suit you. When applying for TEFL jobs online, be sure to tell your employer what accent you have – if you say that you're living in South Africa, they might think you have a South African accent. Unfortunately, many schools are unwilling to consider teachers with a South African accent, so don't hinder yourself unnecessarily if you have a British, Irish, Canadian, or American accent – typically the most sought after. For a list of online schools you can apply to, read this article that lists some of the best schools around.



VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH AFRICA

While it can be hard to find paid work as a TEFL teacher in South Africa, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities that you can take part in. Most of these are run by a company who charge a fee to organise your trip, usually including accommodation and food but not transport to South Africa. Always read the project details to see what's included and what extra costs there might be, particularly for visas.

[Plan My Gap Year](#) runs trips for English speakers (native or of a good level) to teach in South Africa. Volunteers will teach English and a range of other subjects to underprivileged children from government schools in Cape Town. Predominantly you will be a teaching assistant, there to support the local teacher, but it's quite usual for volunteers to have the opportunity to plan and lead their own classes – you should be enthusiastic, creative, and be able to think on your feet.

[New Hope Volunteers](#) runs a program to teach English in Cape Town. Volunteers are placed at the local schools and teach at a primary, middle, or high school level, where you will mostly be assisting the full-time teacher. You need fluency in the written and spoken English language.

[GVI](#) looks for volunteers to work one-to-one with underprivileged primary school children. As well as literacy, you might also be teaching numeracy, art, and sport.

[RCDP](#) looks for volunteers to teach English in Cape Town. Volunteers stay in a hostel or with a host family, on trips ranging from 1 to 12 weeks long. The Teaching English Project aims at enhancing written as well as spoken English language skills of these children. Volunteers can assist by taking classes, preparing curriculum, or organizing various activities for the children to participate in. Volunteers can work in the kindergarten, primary or secondary school, teaching for 2–3 hours per day.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA

The school year starts in February, so for academic positions you should look no later than November to find work. Language schools hire around the year, but as we've outlined above, these positions are almost always filled by local teachers. As such, when applying for positions at bilingual schools and other academic institutes you'll be looking to start work in the new academic year. You're most likely to find work in the bigger cities in South Africa such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. Some TEFL teachers find success by handing out CVs once they're in South Africa – employers will be more likely to hire you if you're actually in the country, and if you have the right to work there.

EMPLOYERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

[Bay Language Institute](#) in Port Elizabeth currently runs all its classes online since the Covid-19 pandemic.

[British Council](#) South Africa.

[Cape Studies](#) offers courses in general English, Business English, exam preparation and more.

[Durban Language Centre](#) offers courses to learners of all levels. Group and individual classes available.

South African Citizens can apply to work with [EF Education First](#) in Bryanston.

[The Getting to Know English Centre](#) in Pretoria offers general courses at 6 different levels, from beginner to advanced.

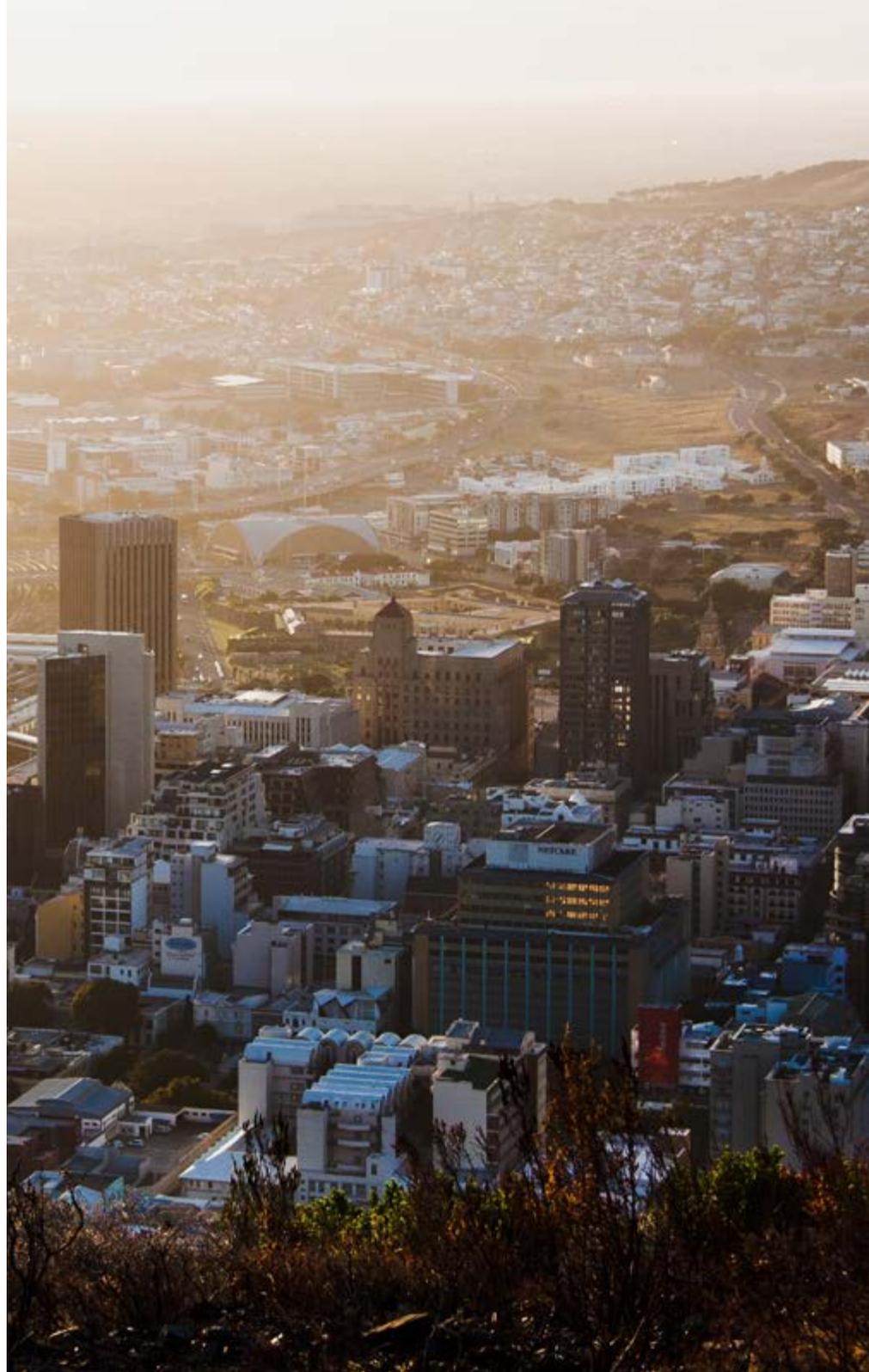
[Interlink](#) prefers South Africans but will consider teachers of other nationalities who are native speakers and have the right to work in South Africa.

[International House](#) has a branch in Johannesburg.

[Knysna English School](#) offers IELTS preparation classes, General English courses, courses for young learners, Business English, and English for Specific Purposes.

[Lycée Jules Verne](#) is a French/English bilingual school.

[Magri's Language Institute](#) runs English courses for kids and adults.



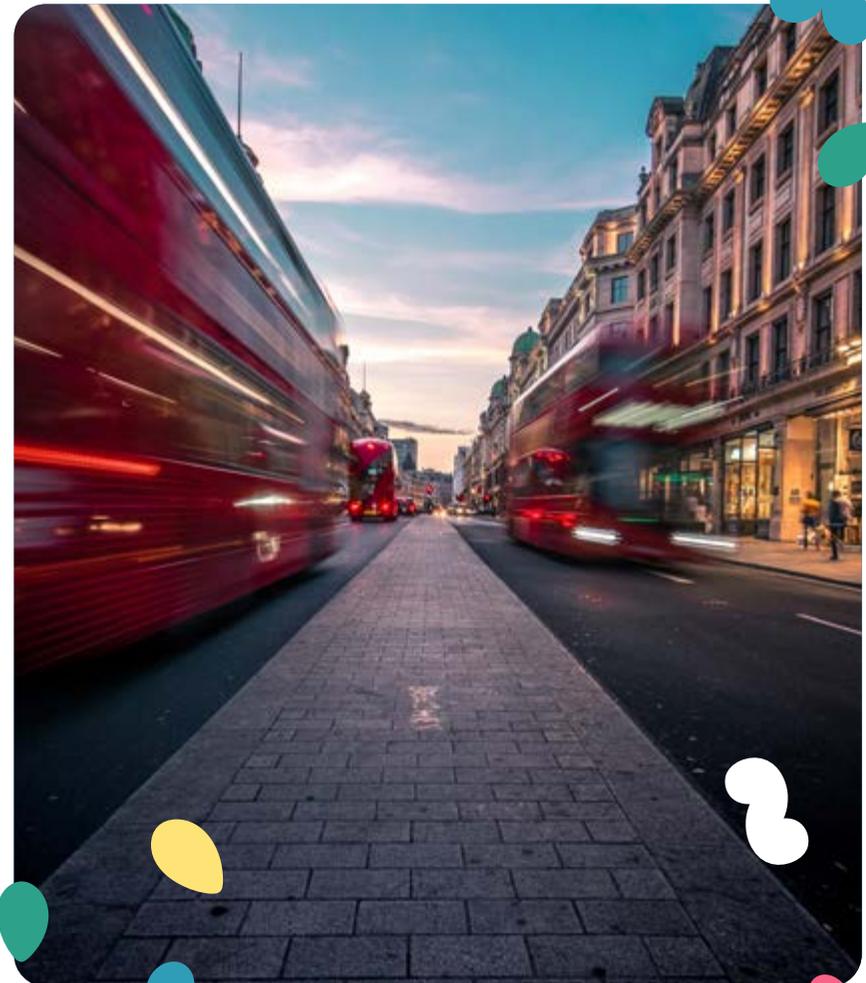
Teach English in the United Kingdom

While many teachers get into TEFL to travel and see the world, you don't have to start with far-flung locations if you want to teach English.

Doing TEFL in your home country can be a great way to see different places in the UK that you wouldn't normally travel to. Not only that, but it can also give you a chance to see if TEFL is for you before packing your bags and jetting off to somewhere exotic. Teaching in the UK can work the other way around too – many experienced TEFL teachers find that, after a few years on the road, they want to move back home and be closer to family, but that doesn't mean it's the end of the line for teaching. While summer jobs in the UK are great for newer teachers, language school positions are perfect for more experienced and highly qualified teachers who are looking to climb the ladder. These roles are highly competitive and often well paid.

Teaching English in the UK can also be a perfect stopgap between other contracts. For example, consider countries like Spain, which has a low season during the summer. Many teachers from Spain head back to the UK to keep working in July and August (and avoid the blistering summer heat!) before going back to warmer climes for their next contract. An added bonus of summer jobs is that your accommodation and food are usually provided.

Finally, teaching close to home can be a great way to save money. Whether you're still living at home and trying to raise funds to get abroad, or you're planning on teaching TEFL around another full-time job, teaching English in your free time can be a great way to save money. If money is no object, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities for teaching English in the UK, too.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN THE UK

One of the great things about teaching English online is that your students can be anywhere in the world, so it doesn't matter that you're teaching the language most widely spoken in your country. The downside of teaching online from home is that there is often a big time difference between when you're available and when your students are free. However, if you're flexible this isn't a problem, and many teachers in the UK find themselves working unsociable hours in order to be free when their students are. Don't worry if early mornings aren't for you – while there are busier parts of the day to get students, you can find work at any hour if you look hard enough – just bear this in mind if you're applying to a company that only teaches in one location.

Teaching English online is a great way to gain experience and see if TEFL is for you. Teaching for just a few hours a week (in the evenings after your full-time job) is a great way to get a foot in the door as well as making some extra money. If you're an experienced teacher, you could choose to teach freelance rather than going through a company that will find your students for you. Platforms such as Verbling allow you to set your own prices (English teachers charge anything from £4 to £70 per hour) and schedule, but you'll also have to provide your own teaching materials. You can also teach English online on a voluntary basis.



VOLUNTEER IN THE UK

The UK is a desirable place to live and work for many people around the world, particularly those who find few opportunities in their home country. Many travel to the UK for work but don't necessarily have fluent English skills, which creates a great market for teaching in the UK. Many people in the UK who don't speak much English have arrived here as refugees, and there is a great demand for voluntary teachers to work with this market.

[RefuNet](#) finds teachers who can commit to teaching for at least one hour per week for at least three months, and all lessons take place online at a time to suit you. Teachers must be aged at least 16 years old and have a DBS if they're going to be working with children, although it's common to teach adults too.

[Breaking Barriers](#) looks for teachers with a TEFL/CELTA who are based in London. Classes of 8-10 students study courses such as pre-beginner, Business English, Writing Skills, IELTS and English at work. Courses last up to 10 weeks, with each lesson lasting 2 hours, held on Saturday mornings or weekday evenings. You must commit to at least 2 courses.

[Bristol Refugee Rights](#) looks for teachers and teaching assistants for both one-to-one, group and online classes.

[Refugee Action](#) lists a variety of charities you can contact regarding teaching as a volunteer in the UK.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THE UK

For both part-time and full-time teaching contracts, look for language schools which you can find in most big cities. Here you won't usually be teaching students who have travelled to learn (like on summer courses) but people who live locally, often coming to class in the evenings/weekends. Exam classes (IELTS) are popular, as are Business English and General English classes. Expect to earn around £15 to 25 per hour.

University roles (part-time or full-time) are almost exclusively for highly qualified (at least a CELTA) and well-experienced (2 years minimum) TEFL teachers who don't mind doing lots of marking. You can earn £600 to 700 per week, and contracts are often for one term at a time.

For one-to-one lessons, this will vary on your location, but the bigger the city you live in, the more likely you are to find students. You can teach through an agency or work as a freelance teacher and find your own students.

EMPLOYERS IN THE UK

[Bell English](#) teaches both children and adults at several branches in the UK.

[EF Education First](#) – you need to be a native English speaker, have a university degree, computer proficiency, and an engaging online presence.

[ELC Bristol](#) offers summer courses and general English classes.

[International House](#) has both long-term and summer course positions.

[Kaplan International](#) has branches all over the UK. You need a degree, a CELTA, experience, and IELTS experience is desirable. £16.50 for hourly roles.

[Living Learning English](#) looks for homestay teachers who host and teach students in their own homes for at least 2 weeks over the summer.

[MDA College](#) – you need a CELTA or equivalent, at least 3 years of experience, and a degree. The pay is £25 to £30 per hour.

[Pilgrims Summer Schools](#) are held at several UK locations.

[Sherborne International](#) runs summer school courses for students aged 8 to 17.

[Speak Up London](#) – you need least 2 years of experience, a CELTA or equivalent.

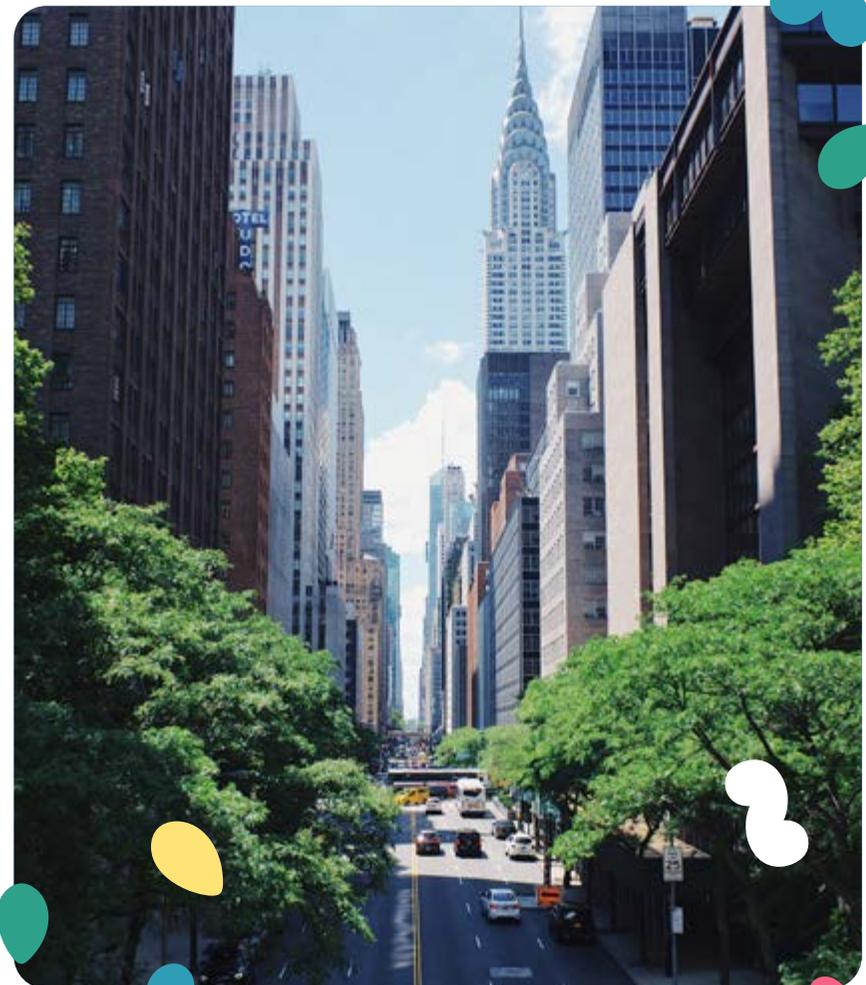


Teach English in the United States

As English is the official language of the USA, you might think that there isn't a lot of TEFL work to be had there.

However, the USA has a large population of people who speak English as a second language rather than their mother tongue, and there are plenty of people who don't speak any English at all – some of whom are refugees. As such, there definitely is a market for TEFL teaching in the USA. You can find work across the USA, and elsewhere in North America you can find plenty of TEFL work in Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

TEFL jobs in the USA vary greatly, with opportunities for seasoned TEFL teachers as well as those who are newly qualified. Those with years of experience and teaching qualifications beyond a TEFL or CELTA certificate will be able to apply for jobs in primary and secondary schools across America – each state will have its own regulations for hiring teachers from abroad, but there are plenty of programs that invite teachers for 3–5 year sabbaticals which are worth looking into. For other positions, seek out universities with a good language center that caters to ESL students. Private language schools are good place for less experienced teachers too, as well as exchange programs and volunteering. Whatever route you take, make sure that your visa paperwork is all in order and don't try teaching for money if you aren't entitled to – the USA is strict on its visas and you could see yourself getting deported.



TEACH ENGLISH ONLINE IN THE USA

If you choose to teach English online while in the USA, a big benefit is that your students can be from anywhere in the world, so it doesn't matter that you're teaching English in an English-speaking country. The downside of teaching online from somewhere like America is that there can be a big time difference between when you're available and when your students are free, depending on where they are. For example, if you want to log on at 9am and teach from California, students in China will likely be in bed at that time (it's midnight!). However, if you're flexible about when you can teach then this won't be a problem. You might have to work unsociable hours in order to be free when the students are, but the USA is a huge place, and you'll likely find students to teach online whatever time of day you're free.

Teaching English online is a good chance to gain experience and see if TEFL is for you. Teaching for just a few hours a week (in the evenings after your full-time job) is a great way to get a foot in the door as well as making some extra money. If you're an experienced teacher, you could choose to teach freelance rather than going through a company that will find your students for you.

Platforms such as Verbling allow you to set your own prices (English teachers charge anything from £4 to £70 per hour), but you'll also have to provide your own teaching materials. You can also teach English online on a voluntary basis.



VOLUNTEER IN THE USA

If you volunteer teaching TEFL in the USA, you're likely to have cosmopolitan classrooms with students from all over the world. While this can be a great conversation point for talking activities, bear in mind the cultural differences between your students and any issues that could cause – some students might be reluctant to speak whereas more lively students can dominate a class, and students from conservative cultures will expect their teachers to dress and act in ways which might be different to students from a more liberal background.

A cross between working and volunteering, there are plenty of opportunities for TEFL teaching in the USA known as stipend volunteering – you don't get paid a full salary, but are provided with a stipend to cover your costs. This is a great idea if you'd like to volunteer and gain teaching experience but don't want to spend a lot of money. [AmeriCorps](#) is one popular company that offers stipend volunteering for TEFL teachers.

WHERE TO FIND WORK IN THE USA

The demand for English language lessons in the USA is rising. Most colleges and universities offer an English language program to cater for students who speak English as a second language. There are also some bilingual schools that you can apply to, and you can also teach in primary and secondary state schools. To teach in a state school in the USA, you'll need a teacher certification. Each state has its own regulations about what qualifications you need, and this website lists what is required for each state. You can also teach TEFL in the USA at private language schools.

Wherever you find work, you'll need to have the correct visa in place if you're not a US citizen – the USA is very strict about immigration and so it's important to have all the paperwork in place. Most full-time teaching roles will sponsor your visa, but it might be trickier if you're looking for part-time work. Jobs that are paid by the hour don't typically offer high wages, so make sure you have enough work to cover your costs while you're in America.

EMPLOYERS IN THE USA

[Alliance Abroad Group](#) offers certified teachers the chance to work on long-term programs (3–5 years) teaching in America. They will sponsor your visa.

[Amity](#) looks for qualified, experienced teachers to work in the USA.

[Central Michigan University](#) is located in Mt. Pleasant and has a language center.

[City Year](#) looks for volunteer teachers to come to Boston.

[ELI](#) is the English Language Institute at the University of Alabama.

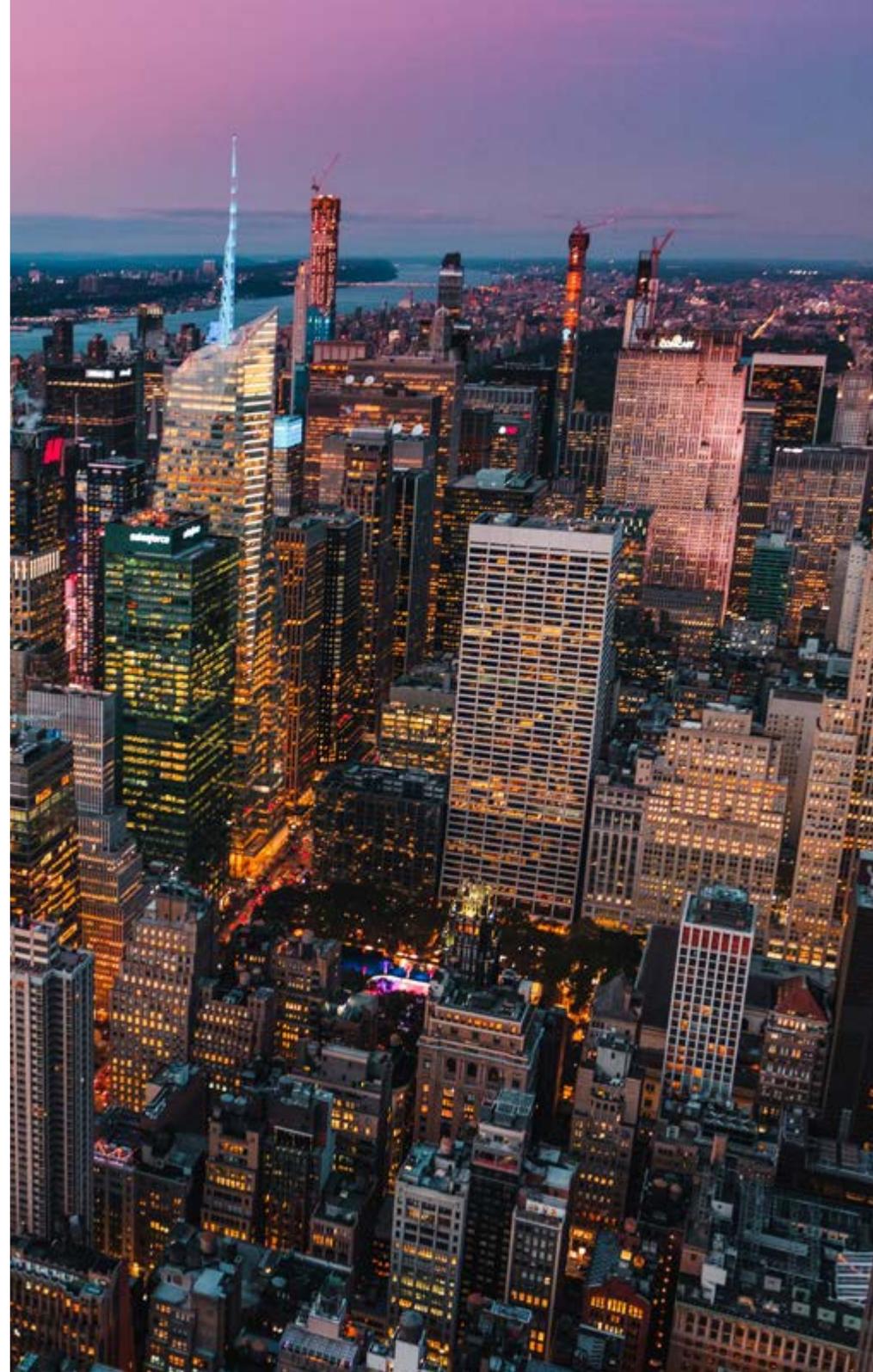
[English in the USA](#) lists language schools by state.

[Fullbright Teacher Exchanges](#) runs the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for International Teachers, where qualified UK teachers can come and work in the USA for up to four months.

[Golden Gate Language Schools](#) looks for highly qualified teachers.

[Greenheart](#) looks for volunteers to participate in its English summer camps in California.

[Kaplan International](#) has schools in 7 locations across the USA.



Become a TEFL digital nomad



What is a digital nomad?

A digital nomad is a location-independent worker. Their job allows them to work from anywhere in the world, travelling from country to country when they so choose. All the typical digital nomad needs is a laptop and access to WiFi.

Before COVID-19, about 5% of people in the USA worked remotely, but the new normal is predicted to be around 25–30%. The pandemic has without a doubt changed the attitudes of employers and created more opportunities for those who wish to fully work online. Whether that's remotely from home, or as a digital nomad travelling the world.

But what sort of work do digital nomads do? Copywriting, social media management, web design, graphic design, programming, and translation are common sources of income for nomads, but any kind of work that lends itself to freelancing or remote working is suitable. And TEFL happens to be one of them!

What do you need to become a TEFL digital nomad?

You don't need much to become a TEFL digital nomad, the basic requirements are:

- At least a 120-hour TEFL certificate
- A laptop
- Access to reliable WiFi
- An online teaching job and/or your own freelance online teaching business



Best locations for TEFL digital nomads

TEFL digital nomads can work from anywhere in the world, but the visa situation isn't always straightforward. Many nomads will work on tourist visas in countries where they are unable to obtain any kind of work visa, especially if their stay is short-term. The legality of this can be sketchy, and while it can be generally accepted in some countries, it could get you into trouble in others. Always do your own research!

However, visas specifically for digital nomads are becoming more common – and we expect that the pandemic will fast-track this, with more countries offering them. As it stands, there are a number of countries out there where you can apply for a digital nomad visa or visas suitable for this type of work.

Europe

Croatia

Croatia offers digital nomads the opportunity to stay in the country for up to a year. This temporary stay cannot be extended immediately after, applicants must wait 6 months after expiry to reapply.

[Find out more information here.](#)

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic doesn't have a specific digital nomad visa, but the Zivno visa (Zivnostenske opravneni, to give it its full name) enables nomads to work within the country. This is a freelancer visa, which is what EFL teachers working in schools within the Czech Republic must also have since schools typically employ teachers as contractors, not employees.

[See the list of nationalities eligible for this visa.](#)

Estonia

Estonia launched their digital nomad visa in August 2020, which allows location-independent workers to live and work within the country for up to a year. You must already have an employment contract and meet an income threshold of €3,504 (£3,000 / \$4,000) per month (before tax), making it suitable only for more established online English teachers who are earning more.

[Find out more about Estonia's digital nomad visa.](#)

Iceland

High-earning nomads from outside the EU can live and work in Iceland for up to a year with long-term remote work visa. You need to be earning 1,000,000 ISK (£5,600 / \$7,700), well above the average earnings of most online English teachers, but the option is there if you start bringing in that sort of sum!

[Learn more about Iceland's long-term remote work visa.](#)

Portugal

If the financial requirements of the last two made you wince, you'll be relieved to hear that Portugal only asks that you provide evidence of earning €635 (£530 / \$730) a month. The temporary stay visa allows digital nomads to stay for up to a year, but can be renewed after for two year periods.

[Find out more about visas in Portugal.](#)

Georgia

Georgia really wants you to visit. Having suffered huge losses with the collapse of tourism during the pandemic, the country is trying to entice people to come and boost its economy with its new digital nomad visa. [Remotely from Georgia](#) was launched in August 2021 to allow nomads to travel to the country and work remotely.

Germany

Germany's freelance visa (Aufenthaltserlaubnis für selbständige Tätigkeit or Freiberufler visa) allows nomads to stay, initially, for 3 months but can be extended for up to 3 years. You have to apply at the local tax office, which will determine whether or not you qualify. Be prepared for navigating German bureaucracy!

[Find out more here.](#)

The rest of the world

Indonesia

Like Georgia, Indonesia hopes to revive its tourism sector following the pandemic by welcoming digital nomads. Bali looks set to offer nomads a 5-year visa under a [proposed scheme](#), although when this is due to be rolled out is unclear. As long as your income comes from outside the country you'll pay zero tax in Indonesia. Keep an eye out for news about this scheme!

Thailand

Most digital nomads teaching English online from Thailand work there on a tourist visa, which while technically not legal is usually not considered an area of concern for authorities. However, the country looks set to launch a '[Smart Visa](#)', which would allow nomads to stay for up to 4 years without a work permit.

The UAE

Dubai offers digital nomads a 1-year visa under its virtual working programme. Unsurprisingly, given its high living costs, the salary requirements for nomads are set high. You need to be earning at least \$5,000 (£3,600) a month to be eligible for the programme.

[Find out more about working remotely in Dubai.](#)



Costa Rica

[Costa Rica](#) has recently announced their digital nomad visa, which will allow remote workers to stay in the country for up to a year, with the option of renewal for an additional year. You'll need to provide proof of earnings of at least \$3,000 (£2,100) a month and have medical insurance to cover the length of your stay. Keep an eye out for applications opening.

Barbados

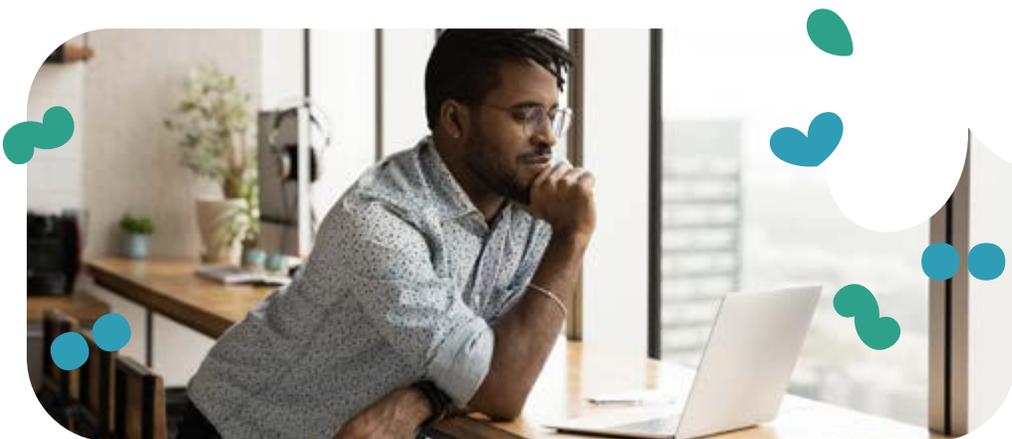
Nomads can work in Barbados under the 12 Month Barbados Welcome Stamp programme. The application fee alone is pricey, though, at \$2,000 and you'll need to provide proof of annual income of \$50,000 (£36,000).

[Find out more about the Barbados Welcome Stamp programme.](#)

Mexico

Mexico doesn't offer a specific digital nomad visa, but nomads wishing to stay more than 180 days can take advantage of the temporary resident visa. You'll need to prove you earn at least \$2,000 (£1,450) a month and that your work is entirely outside of Mexico.

[Find out more here.](#)



A realistic insight into life as a TEFL digital nomad

TEFL Org graduate, David, has been travelling the world as a digital nomad and teaching English online since 2016. So, he knows a thing or two about the digital nomad lifestyle! While it opens up incredible opportunities and a flexible means of exploring the world, it's not necessarily the Instagrammable way of life those working-from-the-beach shots you see might suggest.



I travelled FAST in the year prior to teaching. However, life is a balancing act. The inaccurate posts from Instababes and couples spamming my Facebook newsfeed, advertising courses on 'becoming a Digital Nomad' painted a picture of working on a beach (hello, wifi?) without a care in the world. Subsequent to gaining my TEFL and being accepted as a teacher on italki, I understood that I needed to slow down, perhaps creating homes away from home, integrating myself into communities and building relationships with locals, rather than jumping from place to place, cramming in a few lessons in between capturing the latest popular Insta-shot or visiting the most up and coming tourist trap.

Over the last 4 years I have spent a significant amount of time in countries such as Japan, Mexico and Serbia (writing this in Belgrade as we speak!). While doing so, I could take advantage of the flexibility The TEFL Org and italki had afforded me, setting my own schedule, creating my own lesson material, in addition to, most crucially, determining my own pricing, rather than being restricted by rigid working hours on Beijing time or being limited by a set salary.



5 top tips for TEFL digital nomads

1. Get TEFL qualified

First things first, you'll need to get TEFL qualified. Most online teaching companies require teachers to have at least a 120-hour TEFL qualification. We've also developed an advanced TEFL course specifically for teaching English online, which guides you through the technologies and mediums used for online teaching as well as showing you how to set yourself up online and start finding work!

2. Start building up a client base at home

If you've never taught English before then it's a good idea to get some experience first. Building up an income stream from home can be a lot less stressful than trying to do it abroad.

Online teachers find work via companies and/or through their own websites – don't worry if you don't know where to start with that since our Teaching English Online course teaches you how to set up your very own site! Online teaching companies will take a commission or share of what a student pays while you'll keep everything you earn if the work comes in through your own website.

This way you'll get an understanding of what sort of money you can earn before you set off, which brings us onto the next tip...

3. Budget

Depending on the destinations, the cost of living can be significantly lower than at home so you can find your money goes a lot further. Remember that you'll need money for flights and accommodation, so always carefully budget with travelling costs in mind. Work out how much you need to be working to fund your travels and keep in mind any additional costs such as transfer fees and how long it might take money you've been paid to arrive in your account.

4. Scout out services to help you manage your money

You want to minimise the amount of money you lose through transfer and withdrawal fees so research your options. Services such as Wise significantly reduce the cost of transferring money and pre-paid cards such as Revolut allow you to exchange currency at great rates and the card can be used all over the world.

5. Prioritise internet access

You can't successfully make money teaching English online without a reliable internet connection, so when you're planning your travels you have to make this a priority!

There's also the option of sourcing tutoring work wherever you are and picking up short-term teaching contracts with schools, companies, and language camps (although be mindful of visa regulations when it comes to in-country work!).



Download our [FREE Guide to Teaching English Online](#) to learn more about getting started as an online teacher!



This guide was updated in November 2021. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information but details are subject to change.

For the latest information go to: www.tefl.org