



Teaching English Abroad

Teaching English abroad is a popular and accessible option for long-term work abroad. You don't have an educational background in English or ESL? Not a problem—English teachers abroad come from a variety of educational backgrounds! Volunteer or paid opportunities can be found around the world, ranging from the Czech Republic to Japan.

Questions to Ask Yourself

What are my goals for this experience?

Are you looking to teach English abroad because you want experience in the field, to live and work abroad, or because you simply want to help? Identifying your goals can help you decide what sort of experience you would like to pursue: paid work or volunteer positions.

Where would I like to go?

What languages would you like to reinforce, if any? Research locations with better employment prospects. Establishing country differentiations may help you discern which is most suitable for your personal and financial situation.

What are the cultural differences in each country?

How do cultural attitudes differ in regards to the view of work and leisure? What is the position of women and how comfortable will you be with that? Remember to always be flexible; how we view time, work, leisure, and gender relations could vary greatly in the country in which you will be teaching.

With my training and education, where will I be best suited?

Are you looking to acquire your TEFL certificate? Have you had previous experience teaching English? Which countries have the best job prospects for those wishing to go abroad uncertified? Consider that areas such as Western Europe are competitive and are often looking for applicants with certification.

Where is my comfort level?

Would you feel comfortable being the leader of the class and establishing your own lessons or would you prefer to be an assistant or volunteer? Would training or volunteer experience before departure ease the transition into a new environment of teaching and learning?

Online Resources

The Internet may assist you in the decision making process or answer some of the questions above. Information on certification, schools, jobs abroad, and other information can be found on these websites:

www.daveseslcafe.com

www.eslworldwide.com

www.jobs.edufind.com

www.teachabroad.com

www.eslemployment.com

www.eslfocus.com

TEFL Certification

The Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Certificate gives you specific training and introduces you to the methodology of teaching English to non-native speakers, all in a four-week intensive course. The most widely recognized TEFL certificate is the Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), administered through Cambridge University. A list of schools offering this certification can be found at www.cambridge-efl.org/teaching. Although employers do not always require certification, it can be an important investment for you and your students and will make your transition into this environment much easier.

Depending on which country you want to teach in, you will become a more competitive candidate. Check out Susan Griffith's *Teaching English Abroad* in the Learning Abroad Center for specific teaching requirements categorized by country.

Local and regional TEFL Certificate programs include:

Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

www.hamline.edu/tefl

Beloit College, Beloit, WI

www.beloit.edu

Midwest Teacher Training Program, Madison, WI

www.mttp.com

You also have the option of doing an international TEFL program. There are many programs, so be discriminating in your search.

Paid Teaching Placement Programs

Associazione Culturale Linguistica Educational (ACLE)

Teach at Italian youth camps during the summer for four to six weeks.

www.acle.org

The American-Scandinavian Foundation

Get a year of practical training teaching English in Finnish schools, colleges, private and public institutions, and universities.

www.amscam.org

Council Exchanges Teach in China or Thailand

Students with a bachelor's degree can explore these paid teaching positions in China or Thailand, available for a period of five or ten months.

www.ciee.org

English Language Teaching Assistant Program (ELTAP)

Interested in gaining credit for your teaching period? Or looking for a flexible program for non-students in a number of different countries and administered by a university here in Minnesota? Check out the ELTAP program administered through the University of Minnesota Morris for a diverse range of countries.

www.umdivofed.org/gsteltap/public/eltap/index.asp

French Embassy Assistant d'Anglais

Current undergraduates or graduates with a background in French can be an assistant (roughly ten hours a week) to an English class in France for an academic year in this government-sponsored program.

www.frenchculture.org/education/support/assistant/2003.html

Fulbright US Student Program

This government-sponsored program offers opportunities to teach English language and conversation classes in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Taiwan, and Turkey.

www.iie.org

InterExchange

InterExchange offers two options. You can teach in a classroom in Bulgaria, or live with a Spanish family in exchange for English lessons for their children.

www.interexchange.org

Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET)

Take an active role in the teaching of Japanese children and youth for an extendable period of one year or more. Competitive candidates interested in Japanese culture receive room and salary in exchange for full-time teaching duties in rotating schools.

www.jetprogramme.org/e/index.html

Learning Abroad Center

A merged unit of Global Campus and ISTC

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