

Students may be interested in teaching English in another country for many reasons: 1) an adventure and time off before you take a “real job,” 2) a passionate interest in a country’s language and culture, 3) to enhance qualifications for a career goal (i.e. foreign policy, community development, or public health) or graduate school.

Factors to Consider

Research your options, as programs can differ considerably. These are some important factors:

Degree or Language Requirements: A teaching degree, certification or experience may be preferred. Knowledge of the country’s language is usually not required.

Job Description: Review the types of students to be taught (children vs. adults), class size, support (training, lesson plans, resources, teacher’s aide), schedule (part-time or full-time, number of days per week and hours per day), and length of assignment.

Living Conditions: Obtain information about housing (assistance in locating place to live, apartment vs. host family, costs), safety, emergency evacuation, visa status and restrictions; availability of quality health care and inoculations needed.

Compensation: Find out whether the position is paid vs. volunteer; cost of medical and other insurance; rate and proportion of income subject to tax; whether transportation is covered by the employer or is the teacher’s responsibility.

Career Factors: Ask whether the organization has advancement opportunities, if desired. Sometimes teachers can become recruiters or trainers. Think about how this experience can contribute to future career goals.

Preparation

Since the supply of prospective English teachers exceeds demand in many countries, some preparation can be advantageous. Certification in teaching English as a second language can increase an applicant’s confidence and competitiveness. Some programs abroad provide students with assistance in obtaining employment.

College Courses

Knowledge of the destination country’s language is helpful but not usually required. Relevant study abroad or courses (such as East Asian studies or linguistics) may increase an applicant’s competitiveness.

Certificate Programs

Many colleges and universities offer programs in teaching English as a second language. A community college typically lists these classes among certificate programs, while a four-year institution, such as **Duke University** (www.learnmore.duke.edu/eslteaching/index.asp), usually provides this training within its continuing education services. **Georgetown University** combines on-line and on-site classes in its six month Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate Program.

Cambridge CELTA and CELTYL (www.CambridgeESOL.org/teaching)

The University of Cambridge offers 100-hour full and part-time training at 250 worldwide locations. Choose from two programs: CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) and CELTYL (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Young Learners.) This is a widely accepted and prestigious credential.

Teacher Training Center (www.teachertrainingcenter.org)

Located in Queretaro, Mexico, TEFL Certification is provided in an intensive, 4-week, 120 hour program. Offers job placement internationally, from Mexico City, Seoul, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo and more. Also included are assistance in housing and free Spanish lessons.

Trinity College

Trinity College (www.trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=293) offers an elite certificate program in teaching English as a second language. This program may be taken full or part-time in over 100 sites worldwide.

Sample Programs

Peace Corps www.peacecorps.gov

The Peace Corps is always looking for volunteers to work in education. Experience with teaching or working with children is often required.

WorldTeach www.worldteach.org

This non-profit organization sends volunteers overseas to teach in year-long programs (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Marshall Islands, China and Namibia.) Six month and two month programs are also available. Fees apply.

JET jet@cgjapanatlanta.org or www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JEJT/

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme promotes foreign language education in local governments, boards of education and elementary, junior and senior high schools throughout Japan.

Transitions Abroad www.transitionsabroad.com

Guide to work abroad, overseas study, international living and independent travel overseas.

Colegio Bilingüe New Horizons www.gcnewhorizons.net/gcx/site02/1001.aspx

A bilingual school in the Dominican Republic that recruits on campus for teachers.

Projects Abroad www.projects-abroad.org/projects/teaching/

Volunteer options include teaching abroad (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America/Caribbean) and career-related internships. The site offers a blog and newsletter.

Bilkent University School of English Language www.bilkent.edu.tr

Communications Skills Instructors teach conversational English to college students in Ankara, Turkey; Benefits include free tuition for two graduate courses. Teach 25 hours per week in classes of 5-10 students. It is a 10-month commitment (August –June). Must be native speaker of English although U.s. citizenship is not necessary. Paid job plus airfare, housing, and free lunch meals.

ECC Foreign Language Institute <http://recruiting.ecc.co.jp/contract/index.html>

This school provides 50-70 hours of paid training during a teacher's first two weeks, a set curriculum and syllabus, generous vacation time, possible airfare reduction and opportunities for advancement.

CSCIEE English Immersion Program <http://csciee.org>

Sponsored by China Study Center for International Educational Exchange. Teach school students to upgrade their English skills and become more familiar with English-speaking countries and cultures. Free, private apartment and reimbursement for international airfare. Commitment is teaching 16 hours per week.

TASIS Summer Programs <http://summer.tasis.com>

The American School in England and Switzerland offers positions for counselors, who serve as teaching assistants. Academic, Enrichment, and English Language courses are offered near London. The Switzerland campus also includes a French Language Program.

Teach for India www.teachforindia.org

Two-year, full-time, paid TFI Fellowship for students interested in education, international development, or service in a developing country. Modeled after Teach for America, the program is highly selective. Fellows receive five weeks of training and teach all major subjects in elementary grades during their first year. They use leadership skills to implement a major school-wide project in their second year.

ESL Starter www.eslbase.com/jobs/south-korea/5449

Positions in Suwon-Si, South Korea with free furnished housing, round-trip airfare, 1 month severance pay after completing one year contract, low cost of living and taxation rate (3%).

World Camp www.worldcampforkids.org/

A volunteer program in Malawi, Honduras, and India to educate children on public health and human rights issues. Sessions are available for 4, 5, or 10 weeks.

U.S. Dept. of State www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm

An alumna obtained a teaching job at the American Embassy School-New Delhi, one of those supported by the Overseas School Assistance Corporation. The Office of Overseas Schools has a list of schools by region.

Teach in China www.uschinaedu.org

i-to-i www.i-to-i.com

TEFL training starts at \$260 and placement assistance available for China, Thailand, South Korea, Spain, and Slovakia.

TIE (The International Educator) www.tieonline.com

Subscribe to a service that advertises openings at "international schools." These independent schools generally provide education for children ages 3-18. They started to serve children of expatriates, but some of them also enroll children of local families. The basic fee is \$39, with higher levels providing additional services. Teacher certification and experience are usually required, although some schools offer internships.