

# TEACHING ENGLISH ABROAD

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## FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A PROGRAM

**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 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.

### 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 institutions usually provide this training within their continuing education services. **Georgetown University** combines on-line and on-site classes in its 19 week Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate Program.

### Cambridge CELTA and CELTYL: [CambridgeESOL.org/teaching](http://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.

### Trinity College: [trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=293](http://trinitycollege.co.uk/site/?id=293)

Trinity College 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.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK IF YOU WANT TO PURSUE CERTIFICATION

I. Is this program accredited? Is it internationally recognized and externally monitored and accredited by a reputable third party accreditor? You can also ask some reputable schools in the region where you want to teach to see if they

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have heard of this certificate and if they have ever hired anyone. You can also contact grads of the program to gauge their opinions.

2. Is the program rigorous? Usually this entails at least 100 hours of training but also includes hands-on experience with teaching English to non-English speakers (usually at least 6-8 hours hands-on).
3. Are sizes of the classes you are enrolled in small enough for you to get individualized attention? When you start exceeding 15 per class, it gets harder to personalize unless there is more than one instructor per class. Some say a 1 to 3 ratio is good but possibly 1 to 5 or 1 to 7 could work.
4. Does the certificate prepare you for teaching youth and/or adults? If you have a preference, this is important.
5. Do they help you find living accommodations or do they directly provide these (they own apartments or have apartments set aside for their short-term students)?
6. Can you afford paying for not only the certification but also placement? This could be helpful but ensure you have the finances to pay for it. Also ask how quickly graduates are “placed” into schools after finishing certification. If it is 1-4 weeks that is good; if 3-6 months, maybe not so good.
7. Do you learn better online or sitting in a live classroom? Are you able to motivate yourself to make progress in the online class?
8. Does the cost also include helping you obtain a work visa? If yes, this is also very helpful since the work visa process can be arduous. It is nice to have experts handling this.
9. Do the schools that they “place” students into fit what you are looking for?
10. Is the certificate program in a location where you are comfortable and safe? Will this location be helpful in allowing you to practice the skills you are learning with locals? Also, it is a good idea to be in the area of the world where you eventually want to teach in order to not only gain practice but also be accessible for on-site interviews at schools interested in you. Often programs also have stronger relationships with schools in their regions.

### **Programs Offered through For-Profit Organizations**

- **ECC Foreign Language Institute:** [recruiting.ecc.co.jp/contract/index.html](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.

- **TASIS Summer Programs:** [summer.tasis.com](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.

- **HESS International Educational Organization:** [hess.com.tw/en/](http://hess.com.tw/en/)

Our programs include all-English and bilingual preschools, two streams of elementary school (one each for those who have and haven’t learned English in preschool), junior high school, an excellent e-learning platform, adult and corporate education programs, overseas study tours, and services supporting arrangement of long-term overseas study placements.

- **TeachingChile:** [teachingchile.com](http://teachingchile.com)

TeachingChile is a recruitment and placement company, headquartered in Santiago, Chile. We provide full-service assistance for qualified applicants to receive an express-mailed job offer from a reputable Chilean school, visa processing arrangements, and preferred housing reservations, all of which are confirmed before the applicant boards the airplane.

- **Central European Teaching Program:** [cetp.info](http://cetp.info)

CETP is a teacher recruitment organization. Since 1991 we have been working to provide native-speaking English teachers and other languages and subjects to public schools as well as several parochial schools in Hungary and Romania.

- **Serendipity Russia:** [serendipity-russia.com/teach.html](http://serendipity-russia.com/teach.html)

The Serendipity American English and Culture Program has been in continuous operation at the American Home in Vladimir, Russia since September 1992 under the auspices of Serendipity: Russian Consulting & Development, Ltd.—now

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doing business as Serendipity-Russia. Demand for English lessons from native speakers remains very strong. In addition to classes, as noted above, our teachers offer lectures on topics of special interest to Russians.

### **Programs Offered through Nonprofits/NGOs**

- **WorldTeach:** [worldteach.org](http://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.

- **Colegio Bilingüe New Horizons:** [newhorizons.edu.do/](http://newhorizons.edu.do/)

A bilingual school in the Dominican Republic that recruits UNC students for teaching positions.

- **Projects Abroad:** [projects-abroad.org/projects/teaching/](http://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:** [bilkent.edu.tr/~busel/interrec/index.html](http://bilkent.edu.tr/~busel/interrec/index.html)

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.

- **CIEE:** [ciee.org/teach/](http://ciee.org/teach/)

Since 1947, CIEE has been in pursuit of its mission, "to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world." Our services to people studying and teaching abroad are more important than ever. As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles and values that guide this mission statement.

- **Teach for India:** [teachforindia.org](http://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.

- **World Camp:** [worldcampforkids.org](http://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.

- **Teach for China:** [tfchina.org/](http://tfchina.org/)

In China today, where you are born determines your educational prospects and therefore life opportunities. Affluent urban centers spend up to five times as much educating students on a per capita basis compared to low-income municipalities while early education and foreign language resources are almost unheard of outside of major cities.

- **InterExchange:** [interexchange.org/working-abroad/teaching-program/teach-english-abroad](http://interexchange.org/working-abroad/teaching-program/teach-english-abroad)

InterExchange is a nonprofit organization devoted to promoting cross-cultural awareness through work and volunteer exchange programs. InterExchange Working Abroad offers a wide variety of programs in every corner of the world. Some are teaching jobs in formal classroom settings, while others have a more relaxed structure.

- **Princeton in Asia:** [piaweb.princeton.edu/for-applicants](http://piaweb.princeton.edu/for-applicants)

Princeton in Asia (PIA) is an independent, non-profit organization located at Princeton University. Founded by students in 1898, the program has long been driven by a mission to foster cross-cultural understanding between East and West by giving young people opportunities to live and work in Asia.

- **International Foundation for Education and Self-Help:** [ifesh.org](http://ifesh.org)

Our Education Program goal is to achieve Universal Primary Education by providing quality teacher education and training. Since 1992, we have assigned more than 1,100 volunteer educators to serve in 15 countries directly impacting more than 500,000 African teachers, who in turn, have impacted the lives of millions of students.

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## Programs Sponsored by Governments

- **Peace Corps:** [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

The Peace Corps is always looking for volunteers to work in education. Experience with teaching or working with children is often required. There is a Peace Corps rep who conducts office hours at University Career Services.

- **JET:** [us.emb-japan.go.jp/JET/](http://us.emb-japan.go.jp/JET/)

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, sponsored by the Japanese government, promotes foreign language education in local governments, boards of education and elementary, junior and senior high schools throughout Japan.

- **EPIK:** [epik.go.kr/](http://epik.go.kr/)

Teach through established national programs sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education.

- **French Ministry of Education Teaching Assistant Program in France:**

[highereducation.frenchculture.org/teach-in-france](http://highereducation.frenchculture.org/teach-in-france)

The Teaching Assistant Program in France offers you the opportunity to work in France for 7 months, teaching English to French students of all ages. Each year, over 1,100 American citizens and permanent residents teach in public schools across all regions of metropolitan France and in the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion.

- **Fulbright U.S. Student Program:** [us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants#eta](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/types-of-grants#eta)

An English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) places a Fulbrighter in a classroom abroad to provide assistance to teachers of English to non-native English-speakers. English Teaching Assistants help teach English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for U.S. culture. The age and academic level of classroom students varies by country, ranging from kindergarten to university level.

- **Austrian-American Educational Commission:** [usta-austria.at/](http://usta-austria.at/)

For decades this program has provided college graduates from the United States with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to work as secondary school teaching assistants in communities all over Austria.

- **U.S. Dept. of State:** [state.gov/m/a/os/c/1684.htm](http://state.gov/m/a/os/c/1684.htm)

The Office of Overseas Schools has a list of schools by region.

## Sites to Search for Several Programs

- **Dave's ESL Café:** [eslcafe.com/](http://eslcafe.com/)

Aggregates links to several ESL opportunities and programs.

- **Transitions Abroad:** [transitionsabroad.com](http://transitionsabroad.com)

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

- **Teach Abroad:** [goabroad.com/teach-abroad](http://goabroad.com/teach-abroad)

Search for 190 organizations offering a total of 997 Teach Abroad opportunities.

- **Go Overseas:** [gooverseas.com/teaching-jobs-abroad](http://gooverseas.com/teaching-jobs-abroad)

The #1 resource for finding an English teaching job abroad. New jobs are posted here every day by schools from around the world!

- **ESL Starter:** [eslbase.com/jobs/](http://eslbase.com/jobs/)

TEFL positions posted on this site. Also offer teacher training.

- **TIE (The International Educator):** [tieonline.com](http://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 out serving children of expatriates, but now some of them also enroll children of local families. Certification and experience are usually required, although some schools offer internships.