

# A Guide to Teaching English Abroad

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## Questions to Ask Yourself

*Before you embark on your journey to teaching abroad, here are a few questions to ask yourself!*

Am I up for the challenge?

- Moving to a new country comes with many challenges. Depending on the teaching program, you may receive minimal support in terms of housing, adjusting to the local culture, language barriers, etc. However, there are also many programs out there that will pick you up from the airport, provide an orientation for new teachers, set up housing, etc. The level of support desired or independence required is important to consider when applying for different jobs.

Am I willing to pay for a program?

- There are generally two routes for teaching abroad: finding a program that places you in a school, which sometimes requires a fee; or, finding a teaching job on your own that provides compensation. Often, the programs that require a fee are non-profit organizations and sometimes include some sort of teaching certification. However, there are many teaching abroad programs that do not require fees or search sites that can help people find jobs abroad.

Can I afford to teach abroad?

- There will most likely be some upfront costs when it comes to teaching abroad. This may include the flights, passports and visa(s) (if applicable), accommodations, health insurance, or a teaching certificate. When considering teaching abroad, do not forget to consider the initial costs you may have to pay.

Do I want to save money or am I willing to break even?

- For programs that provide compensation, teachers will either earn savings or break-even. In many countries, teachers will be receiving large compensations, and may even include housing and airfare. In Asian countries like Thailand, China, and Korea, where the cost of living is cheaper, teachers can earn some savings. However, some European countries like Paris, Spain, and Turkey where the cost of living is much higher, teachers are more likely to break-even in those locations.

Will I take a certification course?

- Many schools and institutions look for their teachers to be qualified in TEFL/TESOL/CELTA. There are online and in-person options for these certifications. These courses will provide you with a better understanding and set of skills in teaching English as a foreign language. The certification can range from \$1000 USD (online) to \$3000 USD (in-person). While there are many programs/schools that do not require a certification, it can be helpful to make you a more competitive candidate, especially if you do not have an education background.

How long do I want to live abroad?

- Every teaching program has different placement commitments. Some programs require at least a one (academic) year contract, while others have a few weeks or monthly options. Consider different factors (i.e. family, finances, holidays, etc.) in deciding how long you want to live in a foreign country.

Where will I live if I go abroad?

- Some schools and companies will provide housing for their teachers. These may be single apartments or shared. However, for some teaching jobs, you may be responsible for finding your own accommodations. Many countries have similar websites like Craigslist that may help with your apartment search.

How will my social identity(ies) come into play in teaching abroad?

- When considering teaching abroad, it is important to take into account your different social identity(ies) (i.e. race, gender, sexuality, religion). Remember that every country has their own set of values and cultural norms which are different and may be less “politically correct” than the U.S. Before moving to the abroad, it is important to do your research on the local customs and laws.

## Popular Program Highlights

*Below you will find a list of popular programs that are accredited and well-reviewed. This is certainly not an exhaustive list of English teaching programs abroad, but rather a starting point for you to conduct your own research into existing opportunities.*

### Asia

**JET** (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) Program: <http://jetprogramusa.org/>

- Program Fee: n/a
- Time commitment: 1 full year
- Student population: public & private; elementary, junior high, & senior high
- Teaching qualifications: Strongly recommended
- Benefits: stipend, paid holidays, round trip flight

**EPIK** (English Program in Korea): <https://www.teachaway.com/teach-english-korea/epik-english-program-korea-public-school-jobs-korea>

- Program Fee: n/a
- Time commitment: 1 year
- Student population: public; primary & secondary schools
- Teaching qualifications: Not required
- Benefits: stipend, free single housing (furnished); 9-day training in Korea; paid vacation; roundtrip flight

**Chattaris Educational Foundation**, Hong Kong: <http://www.chatteris.org.hk/>

- Program Fee: n/a; deposit required—reimbursement upon completion of program
- Time commitment: 9 months
- Student population: Public; primary, secondary, post-secondary
- Teaching qualifications: Not required

- Benefits: stipend, organized social activities

## Europe

**TAPIF** (Teaching Assistant Program in France):

<http://highereducation.frencheducation.org/teach-in-france>

- Program Fee: \$60 USD application fee
- Time commitment: at least 7 months
- Student population: Elementary or secondary school
- Teaching qualifications: Strongly recommended; must have intermediate proficiency in French
- Benefits: Stipend, health insurance, orientation sessions

**North American Language & Culture Assistants in Spain:**

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/eeuu/convocatorias-programas/convocatorias-eeuu/auxiliares-conversacion-eeuu.html>

- Program fee: n/a
- Time Commitment: 8 months (Oct-May)
- Student population: K-12 system and Foreign Language Schools
- Teaching qualifications: n/a
- Benefits: Monthly allowance of EUR700, orientation, medical insurance, official certificate

**The English Camp Company** (in Italy and Austria):

<http://www.theenglishcampcompany.com/tutor-information.html>

- Program fee: n/a
- Time commitment: June – September (tutors can specify how long they can work for)
- Student population: 6-14 years
- Teaching qualifications: n/a
- Benefits: orientation, housing (homestay) with all meals provided

## South America

**English Open Doors Program** (Chile): <http://www.centrodevoluntarios.cl/>

- Program fee: n/a
- Time commitment: one semester-year
- Student population: all grade levels
- Teaching qualifications: n/a
- Benefits: health insurance, travel to and from placements, food and accommodations through host family, small allowance (70,000 CLP/month) for supplies, online Spanish course, orientation, Chilean bank account

## Africa

**Seed Madagascar:** <http://madagascar.co.uk/get-involved/english-programme>

- Program fee: depends on length of program, but a donation is required

- Time commitment: at least 2 weeks; up to 1 year
- Student population: grade level and adults
- Teaching qualifications: n/a
- Benefits: airport pickup, homestay with meals (short-term appointments)

### **Programs with Multiple Locations around the World**

**CIEE** (a program that places you in a school, helps with contracts, language & intercultural training, visa assistance, orientation): <https://www.ciee.org/teach>

- Teach or volunteer teach (no compensation) in Chile, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam
- For volunteers, homestays with meals provided, along with airport pickup and insurance
- Requires a program fee (\$800-\$2,800 USD), depending on program type/location, which includes excursions, networking events, and workshops; TEFL certification included for programs
- Student population: age 3 to adults (depending on location)

**WorldTeach** (an organization that partners with governments and other organizations in developing countries to provide volunteer teachers to meet local needs):

<http://www.worldteach.org/>

- Volunteer teach in Samoa, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, the Caribbean's, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Namibia, Thailand, Morocco, Nepal, Poland, or South Africa (year or summer)
- Program fee: depends on the country. Some require a fee (includes visa support, orientation training, housing, professional development, some meals, etc.) ranges from \$500-\$4,590 USD). Some are funded by the local government but require a deposit

**Language Corps:** <http://www.languagecorps.com/>

- Onsite TEFL certification program in locations in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa.
- Includes job search assistance to find paid teaching position.
- Program fee: depends on the program.

**Greenheart Travel:** <http://greenhearttravel.org/programs/adult/teach>

- Teach in a Homestay
  - Participants teach homestay family English for 15 hours/week, while exploring everyday life in the country; 1-3 month placements; requires a program fee
  - Locations: Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Italy, Spain, Thailand
- Teach in a School
  - Paid and volunteer positions; benefits include assistance in finding housing & basic language courses, depending on location.
  - Locations: China, Colombia, Italy, Myanmar, South Korea, Thailand
- Program fee: depends on the country.

**Peace Corps** (volunteer program run by the US government that sends Americans to countries in need): [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

- Volunteer teach in countries with great need
- Minimum 2 year commitment
- Benefits: training, student loan forgiveness, paid vacation days, monthly living and housing allowance

## Finding a Teaching Job / Volunteer on Your Own

*You may decide that you would like to find teaching jobs not associated with a program. Below, you will find links to sites where you can search by region or type of job.*

GoingGlobal : <http://online.goinglobal.com/>

- Access through DePaul ID

Dave's ESL Café <http://www.eslcafe.com/>

Footprints Recruiting: <http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/>

## Myths Debunked

“Teaching is easy—it’s just English!”

- Teaching is one of the hardest jobs out there. Throw in environmental factors and cultural differences and it is anything but easy. Teachers should be able to articulate their own philosophy on how learners learn and understand what teaching styles work for their own personal approach. Teachers should also be able to implement their knowledge, skills and abilities to help all types of learners. Teachers need to be patient, creative, organized, and have classroom management skills. For example, even though English is your native language, are you able to explain grammatical nuances to a foreign learner? Talk to a current teacher to learn more about their pedagogical philosophy to inform your own ways of teaching and learning.

“I have to know the local language of the country to teach”

- Many countries do not require teachers to know the native language. Especially in Asian countries, not knowing the native tongue can be seen as an advantage. However, in other countries, for example Spanish-speaking countries require a working knowledge of the language.

“I need to have an education background”

- Not necessarily! Many programs and schools only require that you have completed at least your Bachelor’s Degree and that you are a native English speaker. A TEFL/TESOL/CELTA certification can definitely be advantageous if you do not have an education background.

“If I teach English abroad, I have to teach grade level students”

- While it is true that schools are the main market for English teachers, there are many universities and English centers that need teachers. There is also a high demand for business English teaching, especially for individuals with business degrees.

## Finding the Job- Useful Tips

Do your research!

- Things to consider when teaching abroad: salary, livability, and time commitments

#### Create a CV

- When looking for a job in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or Asia, expect to submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) rather than a resume
- Check out our CV guide [here](#).

#### Talk to others about teaching and moving abroad

- Study Abroad Office; [abroad@depaul.edu](mailto:abroad@depaul.edu) 312.362.6962
- Career Center's ASK ([Alumni Sharing Knowledge](#)) [ask@dpaul.edu](mailto:ask@dpaul.edu), 312.362.8281

#### Take a quality TEFL/TESOL/CELTA certification course

- Although you may find schools or institutions that do not require a TEFL/TESOL/CELTA certification, it certainly can help in finding a job in a reputable institution. The certifications will provide you with the knowledge and skills to become a professional level English teacher abroad. You may find courses online or in-person.
- TEFL = Teaching English as a Foreign Language/TESOL = Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages;
  - Price- several hundred - \$3000 USD
  - Course length: varies; online tends to be more flexible
  - Both TEFL and TESOL are used interchangeably; no significant differences between the two
- CELTA= Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
  - Price- \$1500-4000 USD
  - Course length: Full time- 4-5 weeks; Part time- 2-3 months
  - All courses are affiliated with and accredited by Cambridge University; sometimes viewed as the more prestigious certification because of this affiliation

#### Find a country/program/school that matches your needs.

- Think about the "Questions to Ask Yourself" and consider what programs will match your answers. Moving abroad is a major step and you want to make sure that you are finding what best fits you and your needs.
- The Top Ten Countries to Teach for Recent Grads (Source: GoOverseas.com)
  1. Spain
  2. Costa Rica
  3. Vietnam
  4. Chile
  5. Turkey
  6. Czech Republic
  7. U.A.E. & Other Persian Gulf Countries
  8. China
  9. Japan
  10. Korea

#### Need more advice?

Career Center  
2320 North Kenmore Ave. Suite 192  
[careercenter@depaul.edu](mailto:careercenter@depaul.edu)  
773.325.7431

Study Abroad Office  
990 W. Fullerton Ave, Suite 1200  
[abroad@depaul.edu](mailto:abroad@depaul.edu)  
312.362.6962