

TEFL.IE



# The Independent TEFL Job Hunter's Guide

A Collection Of Tips & Advice for finding  
that perfect job abroad

“One important key to success is self confidence. An important key to self confidence is preparation.”

– Arthur Ashe



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# Chapter 1: The TEFL Market

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## The English Language Teaching Market

### “The World Is Your Oyster”

This saying has never been more true than for those who have gained a TEFL certification.

However, before you going jumping on the first plane out to tropical sands and eastern countries, there are some important things that you need to think about.

The first thing to think about is where you are planning to teach. If you are planning to travel and teach in far flung countries you may start with Google or any other regular search engine online. You might just be click happy and search through jobs and internships online and that's okay.

Globally TEFL is growing at an incredible rate all the time and schools all over the world are crying out for teachers. While money may be the furthest thing from your mind, it's good to have an idea of what you are getting yourself into on job boards. Make sure you read a lot of jobs first, as it'll be a mix of levels - some postings will be specifically for experienced teachers and some positions will be for amateurs. Most schools will gladly give you an idea of how far your salary will stretch. You can compare this information to cost of living guides online, leisure and food costs.

Once you have an idea of what your take home pay will be, stop and think about any financial commitments you may have at home.

Will you need to send money back?

Pay off any contracts?

Continue paying bills and other expenses while you're away?

The last thing you want is to work hard and find you don't have enough money to live on. As a rule you shouldn't spend more than a third of the salary you earn on rent, if you cannot find suitable accommodation within this percentage then consider looking at a different school, city, or even country as the remaining salary will unlikely be enough for you to buy the essentials, wherever you are.



# Where to go?

It isn't possible to do more than give you a brief overview of each country but let's look at some of the most popular destinations for language teachers and some of the key points to keep in mind when travelling and considering your journey teaching and travelling.

## European Union

There has been a demand for teachers in Europe for as long as English has been the primary language of international communication. With the expansion of the EU, there is a greater need and demand for people to learn English in order to travel and move across country borders.

If you are an EU citizen, you are entitled to the same rights and benefits as a citizen of your new country from the day you start working there.

Your employer should be able to organise any paperwork you need and there is always resources and guides to help you along the way. Do not be afraid to communicate to a new employer that you need certain documents filled out or that you need them to do some paperwork for you. There is no reason why a genuine school would not be prepared to help out a new teacher in getting any legal or personal paperwork organised and in order.

In most schools you are required to have a recognised qualification and/or a degree with a TEFL certification especially in the Republic of Ireland.

# Eu - Continued

You do not need a visa to work in the EU but you will be required to pay taxes like any other worker. You may also need to pay social security in order to have access to health insurance or if you have a travel health insurance card this may also be helpful in case you fall ill while abroad.

Be sure to ask your school what your gross and net pay will be in comparison to what hours you will be working, if your health insurance for travel reduces your end salary it may be difficult to survive.

Generally speaking, schools will pay you a good salary. Low-paying schools soon find their best teachers have been taken away by better paying schools around the corner, so even less reputable centres tend to pay reasonably and so on.

Non-EU/EFTA (European Free Trade Association) nationals will find that many schools are reluctant to consider applications from outside the EU due to visa, administration and paperwork conflicts.

That said, there are many American, Australian and other non-EU teachers working legally, so don't cross off this option yet. If you are a non-EU citizen contact the embassy for the requirements necessary for teaching. You may find that that without a degree or any qualifications the possibility of gaining a job can be low. If you were born outside of the EU but if you have relatives connected with the EU then you may be entitled to the option of a visa. Your embassy will help you with this.

Most new teachers can find themselves working at private language schools. These can be a few rooms in a private house or an office block converted to classrooms. They usually would have good resources but in public schools you may find less resources so remember to be adaptable!

Normally you will start by teaching lower levels and will have a mix of classes. The largest and most important market for most schools in Europe is young learners so you will probably have a high number of young students.

You will probably have one or more groups of adult learners depending on the schools and your weekly schedule too. This is good because teaching different levels and different age groups is good for gaining experience. This gives you the opportunity to gain more experience and to develop a broader range of teaching skills and helps you figure out where your strength lies in teaching.

As the year progresses, you may be offered the opportunity to take on some exam classes or perhaps one-on-one teaching lessons or perhaps even company classes depending on the school you are in. Think twice before you turn this down. You would be surprised at how much you would enjoy one type of group over another.

## Russia

Russia is a vast country and offers many opportunities for TEFL teachers. There are some teachers who work without having completed a TEFL certification, however this is not recommended as you will find you will end up working more hours with less pay and fewer options to move on and expand your horizons in the teaching industry. Some TEFL teachers travel to somewhere like Russia to teach within private language schools; these may be privately run which we will look at in more detail in the next chapter.

Other options to consider though perhaps not immediately obvious are teaching in business schools or one-on-one tutoring. These options certainly will help you gain a higher amount of wages and schools usually take care of any requirements and there is the potential for meals included.

This is an attractive option for TEFL teachers as it means you can simply land and teach. Pay in Russia varies depending on location and the package being offered.

Many schools offer free accommodation and some include utilities, flights and other incentives for people to take jobs in outer region areas. Take a couple of comparison pay rates and make sure you aren't selling yourself short. Apply this research to any country you are thinking of going to.

# Japan

Japan is a densely populated island nation. If your dream job involves a laid-back, easy going approach to life then Japanese cities are not the place for you. However, don't be fooled into thinking that the whole country is one big city - the countryside in Japan offers a totally different experience. There are plenty of opportunities to work in Japan in a wide range of areas so it should be on your career checklist. In recent years the number of jobs postings has diminished but the work is still there if you look for it: Business English and Teaching Young Learners and private lessons. The list is long if you know what to look for.

Don't expect to find a fancy apartment. Japan doesn't have much living space left so apartments are tiny by Western standards and the furnishings are basic. Some contracts provide an opportunity of an apartment as part of the contract but may take the rent from your pay.

So called 'expat' apartments usually cost more but are fully equipped. Be expected to work hard and to keep professional standards and manners as the pay is higher in Japan than in other countries.



# The Middle East

In the last few years there has been an opening up of the market of the oil rich countries and this has seen a wider field of opportunity for the TEFL teacher. However, salaries have dropped even in the traditionally high paid areas including Saudi Arabia. Some of the international chains of schools have opened schools across the region and will normally offer the easiest route for the less experienced TEFL teacher.

Schools in this area tend to prefer teachers with experience; this should not come as a surprise, as higher paid jobs have higher requirements. Pay in this kind of region is generally higher than anywhere else you go. However the salary range can be vast. If you are looking for a salary over \$50,000 or more plus benefits you will most likely need over two years experience of teaching or a Masters in linguistics or a related field. You may need to commit to a two year contract or more for a position that has perks and benefits plus a high salary.

## South Korea

A former economic backwater turned international centre of excellence, South Korea draws huge numbers of teachers to its towns and cities every year. South Koreans are justly proud of their country's progress and have not lost sight of their proud culture and history.

American teachers are much sought after in South Korea but don't let that put you off if you're a non-US national. Many South Koreans are aware of the importance of exposing learners to as many accents and languages of English as possible and try to hire as broad as a range of nationalities in the teaching industry. You do need a recognised degree to obtain a visa.

# China

With half a billion English students China has an insatiable appetite for TEFL teachers. It is not uncommon to see advertising looking for several hundred teachers at one time in China in the early-to-mid stages of opening up to TEFL. You will find many of the jobs are in more developed towns and cities such as Beijing, Kunming, Yinchuan and Shanghai. When thinking about cities in China, think BIG! Shanghai has an amazing urban atmosphere!

Should you find that you have the opportunity of a rural job don't be discouraged rural jobs can be just as exciting and the towns just as big as the more popular destinations. Recruitment takes place year-round for China and contracts run from one month to a full year. Visa have been an issue recently. Make sure the school in question will provide you with the nearest Chinese embassy to confirm your working documents should you need to. Your job should be an experience of a lifetime.

# South And Central America

This is a large region and we can provide a general overview of the countries and working conditions. Many US Canadian nationals find they are the first pick for schools here. Most schools will tend towards using US textbooks and therefore like, where possible, to have American and Canadian teachers. Just as with many places though, schools have come to realise that it is good for students to hear a broad range of accents and experience a broad range of cultures. They therefore hire from the English-speaking world.

Visa restrictions vary widely and the best course of action is to ask the school what you need and whether or not they will help you obtain the correct working papers. Beware of any school that tells you to fly out without papers. It can be ok but check with the local embassy before signing up to anything. Of course, TEFL boards online are a great source of information for newbie teachers.

Generally speaking, you will find rates of pay in this region to be low by international standards. However, as with all TEFL destinations, a school should pay you a good local salary and ensure you are included in the national health and tax system. Should a school not be able to do this, walk away and look elsewhere.

Ensure you do your research into the cost of living and that you will not have to pay more than a third of take home pay on rent. Ask the school if they can provide a subsidised apartment. Perhaps they have contacts locally which they can use to negotiate a reasonable rent for you.

# Thailand

With an amazing reputation of being an excellent travel destination and exotic destination, Thailand offers the TEFL teacher a wonderful opportunity to be immersed in a rich, colourful and exciting culture.

Contracts vary in Thailand but most teachers opt for 12 month contracts. With a high demand for teachers, the opportunities are tremendous. Mass tourism may have the effect of overcrowding and watering down the Thai culture in some of the big tourist spots, recently there is an increase in the number of primary and secondary schools looking for native speaker teachers. Recruitment agencies are a popular way for teachers to get jobs at both state and private schools in Thailand. You do not need a degree to work legally as a teacher in Thailand. Working without one may be possible in very remote places but caught without a visa is a bad idea!

Don't forget, any school prepared to hire someone without the correct legal papers probably won't be too concerned about your welfare if you are taken away in a police van. This is true for any country you work in!

Pay rates in Thailand are best quoted in Thai Baht as the exchange rate within Thailand may differ to that found on international currency.

# Contracts

Your school should always offer you a legal contract. This should include information on the number of hours you will work and general terms and conditions. It should also mention the date you start and the date you finish working and the amount of notice either you or the school must give you to break the contract. As with pay, contracts can vary widely across the globe. In southern Europe private language schools generally hire from the start of September until the end of May or June (Most teachers find summer work in the UK, Ireland or Malta to fill this gap for this period of time)

Schools in other regions of the EU may offer twelve contracts or a nine month contract with the option of some form of summer work, perhaps at the summer camp. If you work part time at a school make sure you are legal and allowed to work elsewhere to make up a full month's salary.

It is up to you to check that the contract is valid and that you are happy with it. Some schools will provide an English translation of the contract you are signing and the vast majority of schools abide by their contracts. If in doubt as to the accuracy of the contract you can go to the expense of getting the translation checked, but it is most likely easier to decline the offer and look elsewhere. After you have received a few offers of employment you will quickly see the common denominators in school contracts and should one not contain the obvious elements, it is probably not a good contract.

## Things To Consider Before You Choose A Destination

### Health

Will you be covered in the event of illness or accident?

Would it be wise to take out private health insurance? Look around it can be costly!

Do you require medication? Can you take this with you? Are there restrictions on it?

### Taxes

Are you liable for tax in your new country? Some countries do not tax teachers, other do but offer a rebate at the end of the year, reclaiming you tax can help pay for your flight home after a hard year of teaching.



## Salary

How much will you be paid before and after tax?

What do you get paid for exactly?

Will the school pay you even if students don't turn up or if lessons are cancelled?

How many hours will you have to teach for this pay?

Is there an overtime rate for extra hours or working weekends?

Will you get paid a higher hourly rate if you are asked to take exam classes or business classes?

## Qualifications

What qualifications do you need to teach at a school?

Does the school pay more if you have higher qualifications?

Do qualifications affect the type of visa you will be able to apply for?

## Paperwork

Will you have to bring paperwork with you?

Perhaps an original copy of a birth certificate or a verified copy of university transcripts will be required for your residency papers?

What about your driving licence? Will it be accepted in your new country or will you need to change it if you drive?

## The School

Is the school reputable? You can go online and ask if any teachers out there know the school or have taught there.

What facilities will you have? A good school should provide you with a staff room. This should have sufficient resources to plan lessons.

# Schedule

What will your schedule look like? Will you have your lessons blocked into times such as 4pm to 6pm or will you have a timetable with gaps inbetween? **If you have gaps inbetween classes this can be less tiring. Remember teaching work can be tiring so think carefully before opting into a contract with spread class times or not.**

# The Location

Research the area you will living and working in. If you like to live near the sea then a school 50 km from the coast is going to present problems. Think about population density, the size of the village, the town or the city. Would you be happier finding yourself in a small town with a small amount of public transport at the weekends or in a large bustling city with endless nightlilfe?

Perhaps more importantly, consider your safety. It can be difficult for a new arrival to know the do's and don'ts. Ask on the boards about the location you are travelling to or considering travelling to.

# Culture Shock

Jet lag wears off in a few days but culture shock can last a while longer. You may have read widely on your location of choice and learned some of the language, however well-prepared you are, culture shock can still hit you. Things you don't even think about in the day to day life suddenly come to the forefront and you realise how different the rest of the world can be. Everything from buying a loaf of bread to trying to figure out how to use a cash dispenser can suddenly make you feel five years old.

In Spain, it is not acceptable to pick and pack your own mushrooms in the supermarket as there is someone paid to do this. In Turkey, a tisk of the tougue with a backward tilt of the head is a polite way to say no.

Be kind to yourself. Take time to gather all the new and wonderful experiences. It will take time but before you know it you will have gone 'native'.



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## Chapter 2: Best Foot Forward

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## TYPES OF EMPLOYER

So now we know what's out there. Before we look at how to approach a potential employer, let's look more closely at the types of employers you may work for.

In the first chapter we looked at some places you may consider for work. Below is a closer look at the types of schools and companies that hire TEFL qualified teachers.

## PRIVATE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES

Some schools are small but part of larger chains. The majority are profit making businesses. As a rule of thumb, small centres are normally owned by one or two people.

Sometimes they are a family business. The advantage of working for a small centre like this is that the owners need to ensure that their teachers are happy in their workplace. Unhappy teachers make unhappy students and that equals no profit.

One of the big advantages of working at a larger centre is the opportunities which present themselves during the year. Many of the centres have broad ranges of classes on offer so you may have the chance to boost your employability and pay by taking on exam classes, one-to-one teaching or company work. This will help you when negotiating next year's pay or when looking to move to another centre or country.

## UNIVERSITIES

As you would expect getting work in a university can be difficult. Most will require you to have considerable teaching experience and be highly qualified. If you want to work in a university, plan your career accordingly. Universities will in general have better conditions, pay and holiday entitlements.

## COMPANIES

Many companies around the world employ freelance teachers to teach their staff English. Some teachers assume they are out of the picture here if they have no experience in business. Think again! A large engineering company will require its engineers to not only to be able to talk about technical subjects but to also train people too. Every company will have a first point of contact such as a receptionist. These also require training in using the telephone correctly in English.

Many language centres have a percentage of their classes booked by businesses. Think about what you can bring to the classroom and what valuable experiences you can gain from it.

## PRIVATE WORK

Private work is an attractive option for many teachers. This does not always mean you have to give up working at your school, it could be that you take on one or two private students in your own time. Students will often ask teachers for extra lessons outside of school times. The advantages of doing this requires some different skills to group teaching.

A word of wisdom here. NEVER steal students from your school. Employers have invested heavily in finding students and will not like teachers stealing them. In many cases schools will instantly dismiss a teacher for doing this.

## SUMMER CAMPS

Teaching contracts often run only for the busy school period. Teachers may find themselves without work for up to three months of the year. Be prepared for this. Do not wait until the last minute to fill your financial gap. Schools and camps can be very rewarding places to have fun and work at the same time. Some schools run their own summer camps and offer work to their staff, though usually for less pay and less hours. Most summer camps are run in English speaking schools, so keep an eye out for advertisements on job sites for summer work advertisements.

Summer camps and schools are usually operated by businesses in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malta. They can be residential or non-residential. Think carefully about which to apply for.



If you are looking for work in a summer camp where you have no accommodation arranged, it is usually more profitable to take a resident position. Yes you will have to be available weekends or evenings or afternoons but your entire paycheck will be yours; most centres offer free accommodation and food as part of the contract.

You can save a lot by having free accommodation and food. Just remember that you will have to support yourself for the first month when you return to your old job abroad or take up a new post. You will also have to pay for flights.

## **Present Yourself In The Best Light**

Language centres receive dozens or even hundreds of applications in reply to every offer of employment. Some are instantly dismissed, other filed for future reference and the remaining considered carefully, only a handful will ever receive an offer of an interview and it may be that only one candidate is offered a job.

### **So what makes that one stand out?**

Perhaps it is easier to start with those that are dismissed or filed away. Usually the employer has noticed something so obvious that he or she will not waste time looking at the application any further. This may be a poorly written resume or cover letter or a combination of both. Let's look at some tips for a good cover letter. The sole purpose of the cover letter is to convince a prospective employer that your CV is worth looking at. It is not a CV in itself and should not run on about how great you are.

### **Tips for a good cover letter**

Keep it short

Ensure that each cover letter is written with each individual position in mind

Refer to your resume in the body

Check spelling and punctuation

Match yourself with some of the requirements of the post

Be polite and formal

Use names where known

# CV TIME

Now it's time to turn our attention to your resume or CV. What is a resume? It's briefly a record of who you are, what you've done and what you've achieved so far in your life. It's also the most important document in your hunt for a good job so it's worth spending some time making it the best that it can be.

There are many formats and it is largely a matter of taste which one you use. Some people may prefer a classic, more formal style while others like a more modern design.

This is what we suggest that you should include:

Name

Address

Contact details (do include online details such as Skype)

Date of Birth

Citizenship

Visa Status

Gender

Marital Status

## Education

Include secondary school education, university details and any other training and qualifications that you may have attained. Put dates next to each of these.

Certification and Accreditations

Professional Qualifications

Computer Skills

Awards

These may simply be awards from school from good pupils or perhaps from your local community centre.

## Job advertisement example

Below is an advertisement for a job posted on a well-known TEFL website. It is followed by adapted samples of real cover letters received for this job.

We are currently looking to hire a new teaching member of staff for the coming year. The position begins in septemeber 1st.

Job Specification

Location: XXXXXX, Spain.

This position is a full-time (teaching 25 hours per week) Monday to Friday. 4pm to 10pm. Teaching general english classes.

Experience teaching teenagers and young learners is required with the accompanying qualifications.

Please email your CV, certificates and photo to :  
XXXXX@school.gmail.com

We want:

- a native speaker preferred
- university degree holder
- 1 year work experience
- EU Citizen preferred
- Excellent use of English
- Essential knowledge of Spanish

Conditions:

- pay : XXXXXXXX
- paid holidays

Before you read, have a pen and paper to hand, it pays off to put yourself in the employer's place so while you read, jot down how you would feel if someone looking for a teaching job wrote these letters to you.

What type of person would this person be?

Do you think this person pays attention to detail?

What's good and bad?



## Job advertisement example

If you can answer these questions about these letters, there's a good chance you can write a winning cover letter to the school of your choice.

### Example 1:

Hi!

I'm writing about the teaching post you mentioned on your website, I'd like to apply for the position and I have attached my resume/CV for you to look at.

Your school looks like a place I could build a good career in teaching and I'm serious about working with you.

Lastly, can I ask about conditions at the school? Will I have to teach teenagers? I would prefer not to but I can if it is part of the contract.

Thank you for considering my application

Respectfully,

Joe Kingly

### Example 2:

Dear Mr Conor,

I would like to apply for the position of teaching staff member posted on your job website.

I fell that i would be suitable for this post and I have attached my resume to show this.

I am available for interview anytime and i look forward to hearing from you.

Feel free to contact my referees as I am sure they will provide any information you require.

Regards,

Lilly Withers

## Job advertisement example

If you can answer these questions about these letters, there's a good chance you can write a winning cover letter to the school of your choice.

### Example 3:

Dear Mr Condo,

I should like to apply for the position of teacher, advertised on the job website this morning. I feel I am a perfect candidate for the position as I have at least some of the qualifications and requirements. In my last teaching position I held many roles of responsibility and taught three different levels of students. I also worked more hours than my contract stated and even taught at the weekend.

I am deeply interested in languages and have learned Italian and French and I intend to study Spanish while I am at your school and have made enquiries with the local school of language training.

I look forward to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely,  
Anne Chance

### Example 4:

Dear Mr Conor

I would like to apply for the position of teacher, advertised today on the job advertisement. As you will see from my resume I have attached I have extensive experience with all ages and levels and I also attained an upper-immediate level of Spanish during my two years teaching in Madrid.

At this stage in my career I would like to develop as a teacher and I feel the opportunities offered by your school are second to none. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to forward a letter of reference from my current director of studies.

If you should require any further information about my application, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 060-006-76459 or by return email.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Your sincerely,  
Ima Goodman.

## Job Advertisement Example : Feedback

Here are the comments made by the employer after reading the letters.

Example 1:

This letter was an insult. Why would I waste my time with this person's application? I wouldn't let this person near any students of mine if this is his idea of professional.

Example 2:

Not much better than the first letter, she got my name wrong and then expected me to chase her referees for information? Don't think so! And the spelling!

Example 3:

At least this person made some attempt to write something worthwhile, unfortunately she raised more questions than she answered, Did she really teach the exam classes? Did she read the spanish requirement or trying to portray a willingness to learn.

Example 4:

At last!, someone presented a decent cover letter. It grabbed my attention by mentioning relevant skills and experience, my requirements were met early in the letter and it gave more detail which interested me. She showed willingness to work hard and also sent me a letter from her current DOS.

So there you have it! Take time and read the advertisement throughly and think carefully about what you write. Think like an employer, not a teacher when you write.

Of course there will be jobs that ask for things that you are not qualified in. Don't worry - employers in TEFL are generally good at giving new teachers that first break. Look at what they want and see if there is anything you've done in the past which might be relevant at the job requirements.

An example.

In the advertisement above, the employer stated that experience teaching teenagers would be an advantage. Perhaps you don't have experience teaching teenagers, but maybe you've worked in a youth club as a monitor or as a sports coach? This shows you have the experience necessary to handle teenagers in a learning environment.

The most important thing is to be professional, match your cover letter to the job and show that you are excited about getting this particular job. Do not depend on software to proofread your letter - check it yourself, it will be good practice.



## **Chapter 3: Time To Apply**

## Chapter 3: Time To Apply

We have now covered what we need to have ready for your new country, So how do we go about finding these positions? Most teachers these days find jobs online.

There are many sites out there but beware of the bogus job offers and sites. The rule of thumb is if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

If you see a job you like, then it is worthwhile checking it against other job offers in the same country/region. It may be offering pay above or below the odds. Make sure you do your research. Most likely though you will find the job checks out just fine. Make sure to apply in the correct method stated by the employer.

### The Interview

Congratulations! You have been offered an interview! What do you do next?! As with everything planning is key! Go back and look over your application. Read the notes you made in your internet search, know what the employer is looking for.

Oh wait! What if I've applied for a job in China? Do I need to go there for an interview? No. Often employers will interview over the phone or using a video application such as Skype. You may think that you won't have to get dressed up for this but indeed you will. Why? Because if you dress the part then you will look the part, feel the part and act the part. Isn't it worth it to get that job you always dreamed of?

Some interviews are formal and some informal but no matter what the best approach is to start formal and take the lead of the interviewer, play it safe and remember to be professional with people you have never met.

## The Interview Questions

To help you we have a few questions you may be asked. Think carefully about these and make your answers honest and real. Write them out in full and practise giving the answers.

- Why do you want to teach?
- Do you think you could use your previous work experience in TEFL and how?
- Did you enjoy your TEFL training course? Why?
- What were the key things you learned from it?
- Why are you applying for this job?
- Have you ever lived abroad?
- How did you cope without speaking the language?
- Do you get homesick?
- Do you speak any foreign languages?
- Do you think you would be able to commit to a full year?

It's also a good idea to have a few questions prepared of your own to ask the interviewer. Some people think it annoys the interviewers if they are asked questions. If this is true they shouldn't be interviewing. A good interviewer is looking to be asked questions. Here are some questions that you can ask the interviewer.

Be careful not to ask for any details that have been made available to you.

- What kind of schedule will I be expected to work?
- Will my timetable be blocked or split?
- What time of the day will be teaching?

Note be careful how you phrase these questions as they can be interpreted differently. Look at the following alternative ways of asking questions.

- Do I ever need to work overtime?
- I would like to know more about the shared accommodation - who would I be sharing with?
- Will you help me find somewhere to live?
- Am I covered under the health care system?
- Do I make my way to the school by myself or will someone guide me?
- Questions about Visas, tax and anything legal are perfectly acceptable during an interview.
- It shows you want to do things the right way. If you find an interviewer dodging questions about these issues you may want to be the one to refuse.
- Never work illegally in a foreign country. You have no idea whether it will be taken as a misdemeanour or a serious crime. Any school not prepared to discuss legal questions is not one to be considered.
- Remember a school won't wait around if you cannot decide if you want the job or not. They need a full complement of teachers at the start of the year and a good school usually has plenty to choose from. If you are not successful follow the advice above and keep applying. You will be offered a job eventually. Don't jump at the first job you're offered if you are not sure, it's best to wait until a good job comes around. One possibility for finding work is to go to a recruitment agency.

**Note:**

No reputable recruitment agency will ever ask you for money. They make their money by charging the company so walk away if they ask you for money.



## Chapter 4: Join the club

## Chapter 4: Join The Club

Well done! You landed that much sought after first job! So now you are there you can relax right?

Many teachers do and less dedicated teachers do, should you?

Do you really want to become a run-of-the-mill teacher? For many this is the trap they fall into. It is so easy to just turn up and teach. Take the money and run. Many teachers find that after the first year of teaching they ask themselves should I stay in TEFL or move on?

Let's look at how you might avoid becoming a TEFL statistic. How can you really build a career in TEFL?

Why not check to see if your country has an association of club that you can join? Many schools are members of local associations and you could attend events without joining as a member. The US equal of TEFL is TESOL. Again there are benefits to joining some associations associated with TESOL. You may find people like minded and perhaps people from the same place you are from.

### Qualifications

Of course, events such as these, whilst adding to your professional development won't provide you with the academic qualifications you may need to advance your career over the long term. Some teachers feel they want to stay in the classroom, while others decide they want to move into the role of something more professional. Which direction you may want to go in is entirely up to you.

# What to do after your adventure is over?

Should you decide that TEFL is no longer for you then think about how you might be able to apply the skills you have developed in the classroom to your new role.

Don't forget that you now have finely honed group management skills, you have built communication skills, cultural awareness, a foreign language, contacts worldwide and so on.

Reverse the process you took into TEFL and you will find you are a new person heading into a non-TEFL job market. How many other candidate will be able to converse about working while regaling tales of travel at the same time?

Whatever your career path leads your time in TEFL will always stand to you.





# Plan your adventure abroad - talk to us.

We're here to help you have the best experience and become the best teacher while travelling abroad.

Don't hesitate to contact our team to find out more about our additional teacher jobs or resources.

We have very useful resource ebooks to help you on your journey: Complete Classroom Resource Kit - which includes our: Grammar Guide, Lesson Planning and our popular TEFL Job Hunter's Guide.

We'd love to hear from you!

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