THE TEFL INSTITUTE OF IRELAND · RESEARCH TEAM

The State of TEFL 2026

Q4 edition · November 2026

The global English-teaching market, the government programmes that publish their pay, the qualifications employers can verify, and what teachers can expect to earn and keep. Every figure dated and sourced.

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How to cite this report is on the last page.

SECTION 1

Executive summary

> **In one paragraph.** The English language training market was worth US$89.5 billion in 2024 and is forecast by Market.us to reach US$181.1 billion by 2034, a 7.3% compound annual growth rate, with Asia-Pacific holding 42% of it. About 1.5 billion people are learning English, on the British Council's estimate. Only four government teaching programmes publish a pay scale: Japan's JET (¥4.02 million in year one), South Korea's EPIK (2.2 to 2.8 million won a month), France's TAPIF (€1,010.67 a month gross) and Spain's NALCAP (€800 to €1,000 a month); every other salary figure in circulation, including the ranges in this report, is a market estimate from job listings. The qualification employers can check is a regulated one: Ofqual-listed Level 5 diplomas carry a qualification number that can be searched on a public register.

This edition keeps the European and Irish framing of the March report: what the market looks like from Ireland, where EU work rights change the calculation, and what Irish graduates can expect to earn and keep.

The first edition of this report was published in March 2026. This Q4 edition re-dates every figure, corrects the errors listed in Section 10, and adds the official programme pay and qualification reference blocks.

What is new in the Q4 edition

- **Official programme pay and application windows** (Section 3), verified on the programmes' own pages on 17 October 2026 and shown in local currency and US dollars.
- **Regulated qualification references** (Section 4): the two Ofqual qualification numbers, guided learning hours, total qualification time and awarding body, confirmed by hand against the register on 1 September 2026.
- **Every market-size, salary and survey figure now carries its source and its date**, and figures that could not be sourced have been removed rather than carried forward.
- **A corrections ledger** (Section 10) listing what the March 2026 edition got wrong and what this edition says instead.

Five numbers to carry

Figure	Value	Source and date
Global ELT market, 2024 → 2034	US$89.5bn → US$181.1bn, CAGR 7.3% (2025–2034)	Market.us, ELT Market report, published 26 August 2025
People learning English worldwide	About 1.5 billion	British Council (LearnEnglish, language table); British Council *Future of English* puts total speakers to some level at 2.3 billion
Highest official programme pay	JET, Japan: ¥4.02 million in year one, about US$2,120 a month	CLAIR, via JET Program USA, verified 17 October 2026
Teachers who say the job is frequently stressful	77% (and 68% say it is overwhelming)	Pew Research Center, survey of 2,531 US public K-12 teachers, 17 Oct–14 Nov 2023, published 4 April 2024
Young workers for whom purpose matters to job satisfaction	89% of Gen Zs, 92% of millennials	Deloitte 2025 Gen Z and Millennial Survey, 14 May 2025

SECTION 2

The global TEFL market in 2026

How big is the market? Market.us valued the global English language training (ELT) market at US$89.5 billion in 2024 and forecasts US$181.1 billion by 2034, a 7.3% compound annual growth rate over 2025 to 2034. On that path the 2026 figure is roughly US$100 billion; no published 2026 actual exists yet. Asia-Pacific held 42% of the 2024 market, US$37.4 billion, and China alone was US$35.6 billion, forecast to reach US$62.56 billion by 2034 at 5.8% a year.

CANONICAL DATA BLOCK · MARKET SIZE

Checked against the publisher's own report page on 1 November 2026.

Measure	Value	Period	Source
Global ELT market value	US$89.5 billion	2024 (base year)	Market.us, *English Language Training (ELT) Market*, 26 Aug 2025
Global ELT market forecast	US$181.1 billion	2034	Market.us, same report
Growth rate	7.3% CAGR	2025–2034	Market.us, same report
Asia-Pacific share	42%, US$37.4 billion	2024	Market.us, same report
China ELT market	US$35.6 billion → US$62.56 billion, 5.8% CAGR	2024 → 2034	Market.us, same report
Online learning share of ELT by method	48%	2024	Market.us, same report
K-12 and higher education share by end-user	41%	2024	Market.us, same report

Other published estimates

Different research houses define the market differently, and the spread between them is the honest picture. The Business Research Company projects US$122.7 billion by 2030 at 6.6% a year. Research and Markets forecasts the digital English language learning segment growing from US$12.25 billion in 2025 to US$25.47 billion by 2030; that pair of endpoints implies about 15.8% a year, not the 18% quoted in the March edition, which is corrected here. The same publisher puts the online one-to-one tutoring platform segment at US$2.9 billion in 2025, rising to US$6.34 billion by 2030 at 16.9% a year. These three figures were compiled for the March 2026 edition from the publishers' summary pages and have not been re-verified for this edition; readers who need them for their own work should check the source directly.

Segment	Value	Projection	CAGR	Source (March 2026 compilation)
ELT market overall	US$89.5bn (2024)	US$181.1bn (2034)	7.3%	Market.us (re-verified 1 Nov 2026)
ELT market overall, alternative	—	US$122.7bn (2030)	6.6%	The Business Research Company

Segment	Value	Projection	CAGR	Source (March 2026 compilation)
Digital English language learning	US$12.25bn (2025)	US$25.47bn (2030)	15.8% implied (March edition said 18%)	Research and Markets
Online one-to-one platforms	US$2.9bn (2025)	US$6.34bn (2030)	16.9%	Research and Markets

Figures other than Market.us were compiled in March 2026 and are not re-verified in this edition.

Regional picture

Region	Share	What drives it	What it means for an applicant
Asia-Pacific	42% of the global market (Market.us, 2024)	Government programmes, private academies, exam preparation	The largest volume of salaried posts; housing often included; a degree and a work visa required in the main markets
Europe	No reliable published share; the March edition's ~30% of the online segment was a LinkedIn estimate and is withdrawn	Corporate training, adult programmes, language assistant schemes	EU citizens need no work visa inside the EU; pay is lower than East Asia and the Gulf
Middle East	No published share	Tax-free salaries, international schools, economic diversification	Highest cash pay; degree plus TEFL and often a teaching licence required
Latin America	No published share	Business English and academy demand; low cost of living	Lower pay; no government publishes academy wages, so the legal minimum wage is the floor to check an offer against

SECTION 3

Government programmes that publish their pay

Which programmes publish an official salary? Four. Japan's JET Programme pays ¥4.02 million in year one, rising to ¥4.14 million in year two. South Korea's EPIK pays 2.2 to 2.8 million won a month on its main scale, with a furnished apartment, severance pay and airfare. France's TAPIF pays €1,010.67 a month gross, about €810 net, for up to 12 hours a week from October to April. Spain's NALCAP pays €800 to €1,000 a month for 14 to 16 hours a week. No other route has an official scale; the rest of the market is priced by individual schools and recruiters.

CANONICAL DATA BLOCK · OFFICIAL PROGRAMME PAY AND WINDOWS

Verified on each programme's own page on 17 October 2026. US dollar conversions at European Central Bank reference rates of 16 October 2026. Application windows as published on that date; check the programme page before applying.

Programme	Official pay (local)	About, USD	Hours and term	Application status, 17 Oct 2026	Source
Japan · JET Programme Official	¥4.02 million a year in year one; ¥4.14 million in year two	US$2,120 a month (year one)	Full-time, one-year contracts	Open. Closes 5 November 2026 (UK), 13 November 2026 (US and Canada)	CLAIR scale, via JET Program USA (jetprogramusa.org); Embassy of Japan in the UK; JET Programme Canada
South Korea · EPIK Official	2.2 to 2.8 million won a month on the main scale at the levels currently hiring; Chungbuk 2.9 and 3.0 million at two higher levels	US$1,650 to US$2,100 a month	Full-time, one-year contracts; furnished apartment, severance, airfare	Open, rolling, no closing date; Spring 2027 intake reviewed in order of arrival	EPIK salary and benefits page, dated 4 May 2026 (epik.go.kr)
France · TAPIF Official	€1,010.67 a month gross; about €810 net	US$1,137 a month gross	Up to 12 hours a week, October to April	Open 15 October 2026 to 15 February 2027; US$149 application fee; ages 20 to 35; B1 French	Villa Albertine, TAPIF programme page
Spain · NALCAP Official	€800 to €1,000 a month by region	US$900 to US$1,125 a month	14 to 16 hours a week, 1 November to 31 May; medical insurance	Closed. Last call 2 to 30 June 2026; no next date published	Spanish Ministry of Education, programme call
Colombia · legal floor Official	Minimum wage 1,750,905 pesos a month (2026)	US$552 a month	Statutory minimum, not a teaching scale	Not a programme; printed as the floor for an academy offer	Government of Colombia, 2026 minimum wage decree

Two points follow from that table. First, the highest official cash pay is JET's, but EPIK provides the apartment and JET does not, so a teacher who would otherwise be paying city rent in Korea often keeps more of an EPIK salary than of a JET one. Second, TAPIF and NALCAP are part-time assistant stipends, not salaries, and should be read as a funded year abroad rather than as a living wage. The March 2026 edition presented all of these alongside market ranges without distinguishing them; this edition marks every figure as official or as an estimate.

The 17 October 2026 verification also corrected EPIK's lower figure from 2.1 to 2.2 million won: the 2.1 million rate is EPIK's Level 3, and EPIK's own page states that the provincial offices are not currently hiring at that level.

SECTION 4

Qualifications employers can verify

Which TEFL qualification can an employer check? A regulated one. A qualification on the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications carries a qualification number that any employer can search on the public register, together with its guided learning hours, total qualification time and awarding body. The Level 5 Diploma in TEFL (610/1571/4) and the Level 5 Advanced Diploma in TEFL (610/1573/8), both awarded by Highfield Qualifications, are regulated in this way. A 120-hour certificate without a regulator behind it cannot be verified beyond the provider's own word.

CANONICAL DATA BLOCK · REGULATED QUALIFICATION REFERENCES

Confirmed by hand against the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications on 1 September 2026. The register is at gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification; it blocks automated checking, so it is named rather than linked.

Qualification	Qualification number	Level	Guided learning hours	Total qualification time	Credits	Awarding body
Level 5 Diploma in TEFL	610/1571/4	RQF Level 5	180	382 hours	—	Highfield Qualifications, Ofqual recognition number RN5219
Level 5 Advanced Diploma in TEFL	610/1573/8	RQF Level 5	300	542 hours	54	Highfield Qualifications, Ofqual recognition number RN5219

The two diplomas are separate specifications and are not to be combined. The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 5 is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework at Level 5; the EQF is used by the 27 EU member states and a further group of participating countries. The March edition's claim that Level 5 is "recognised across 39 countries" is withdrawn in this edition because no single source supports that number as a statement about employer recognition.

Learner levels used in job advertisements

Employers in most markets describe learner groups by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: A1 and A2 (basic user), B1 and B2 (independent user), C1 and C2 (proficient user). The levels are defined by the Council of Europe using "can do" descriptors, and the definitions were checked live on 1 September 2026.

Minimum requirements by region

Region	TEFL hours usually asked for	Degree	Background check	Other
East Asia (China, Japan, Korea)	120 hours minimum	Bachelor's degree, any field, required for the work visa	Yes	Health check; apostilled documents
Southeast Asia	120 hours preferred	Preferred; enforcement varies by country	Yes	Varies by country
Middle East	120 hours or more	Bachelor's degree, often in a relevant field; teaching licence for schools	Yes	Medical; experience usually required

Region	TEFL hours usually asked for	Degree	Background check	Other
Europe, EU citizens	120 hours	Not usually required	Yes (Garda vetting in Ireland; DBS in the UK)	EU citizenship is sufficient for work rights
Europe, non-EU citizens	120 hours	Usually required for a visa	Yes	Employer sponsorship needed
Latin America	120 hours preferred	Not usually required	Varies	Spanish helpful
Online platforms	TEFL certificate	Varies by platform	Some platforms	Equipment and a demo lesson

Compiled March 2026 from provider and recruiter guidance (GoOverseas, Teach Away); not official rules. Check the employer and the embassy.

SECTION 5

Salary guide 2026: official scales and market estimates

How much do English teachers earn abroad in 2026? The only figures a teacher can hold an employer to are the four official programme scales in Section 3. For everywhere else, market estimates compiled from job listings in March 2026 put the Gulf at US$2,200 to US$5,500 a month tax-free, East Asia at roughly US$1,200 to US$3,000, Southeast Asia at US$1,000 to US$2,000, Europe at €800 to €2,200, and Latin America at US$800 to US$1,100. Housing, tax and flights change the real value of those numbers more than the headline does.

Highest-paying destinations

Country	Monthly pay (USD)	Tax	Housing	Cost of living (USD/month)	Degree required	Basis
UAE	$3,500–5,500	Tax-free	Often included	$1,200–1,900	Yes	Market estimate
Saudi Arabia	$2,200–5,000	Tax-free	Usually included	$800–1,400	Yes	Market estimate
Kuwait	$2,600–4,000	Tax-free	Usually included	$700–1,200	Yes	Market estimate
South Korea	$1,650–2,100 on EPIK's main scale; private academies vary	Taxed	Provided on EPIK	$800–1,200	Yes	Official (EPIK) / Market estimate (academies)
Japan	$2,120 on JET year one; private schools vary	Taxed	Own cost on JET	$1,000–1,500	Yes	Official (JET) / Market estimate (private)
Taiwan	$2,000–3,000	Taxed	Not included	$700–1,000	Yes	Market estimate
China	$1,200–2,600	Taxed	Often provided	$500–1,000	Yes	Market estimate
Vietnam	$1,500–2,000	Low	Not included	$500–800	Preferred	Market estimate
Thailand	$1,000–1,500	Low	Not included	$600–900	Preferred	Market estimate
Cambodia	$1,000–1,500	Low	Not included	$400–700	No	Market estimate
Colombia	$800–1,100; legal minimum wage $552	Taxed	Not included	$500–700	No	Market estimate / Official (minimum wage)

Market estimates compiled March 2026 from GoOverseas, International TEFL Academy and ESLstarter listings; not re-verified for this edition. Official rows verified 17 October 2026.

European destinations

Country	Monthly salary	Monthly cost of living	Savings potential	Work rights for EU citizens	Teaching season	Basis
Spain	€900–1,500 (academies); NALCAP €800–1,000	€800–1,200	Low to moderate	No visa needed	September to June	Market estimate / Official (NALCAP)
France	€1,100–1,800 (schools); TAPIF €1,010.67 gross	€1,000–1,500	Low	No visa needed	October to May	Market estimate / Official (TAPIF)
Germany	€1,200–2,200	€900–1,300	Moderate	No visa needed	Year-round	Market estimate
Italy	€1,000–1,600	€900–1,300	Low to moderate	No visa needed	September to June	Market estimate
Czech Republic	€900–1,400	€600–900	Moderate	No visa needed	Year-round	Market estimate
Poland	€800–1,300	€500–800	Moderate	No visa needed	Year-round	Market estimate
Portugal	€800–1,200	€700–1,000	Low to moderate	No visa needed	September to June	Market estimate
Turkey	€700–1,200	€400–700	Moderate	Visa required	Year-round	Market estimate

Market estimates compiled March 2026; euro figures for comparison with home living costs. Specialist roles (business English, exam preparation) pay above these ranges.

What you keep, not what you are paid

Dublin's average monthly rent is above €2,100 (March 2026 compilation; the figure is not an official statistic and is not re-verified for this edition). Against that, a teacher on EPIK in Seoul pays no rent, a teacher in Dubai is usually housed or given an allowance and pays no income tax, and a teacher in Ho Chi Minh City or Bangkok rents for a few hundred euros. The practical comparison is the net position after rent and tax, which is why this report prints housing and tax columns beside every salary and why it refuses to rank destinations by headline pay alone. The March edition's claim that first-time teachers in Asia "save 30 to 50% of their salary" came from a provider's marketing page and is withdrawn.

SECTION 6

Who is teaching English abroad in 2026

Who is entering the profession? Younger applicants, and more of them. Teach for America, the US education non-profit, reported a 43% rise in incoming corps members over three years and welcomed 2,300 new teachers for the 2025-26 school year (Fortune, 12 January 2026). Deloitte's 2025 survey of Gen Z and millennial workers found that 89% of Gen Zs and 92% of millennials consider a sense of purpose important to their job satisfaction and wellbeing. Neither statistic measures TEFL directly; both describe the generation now applying to it.

CANONICAL DATA BLOCK · THE APPLICANT POOL

Each figure checked against the publisher's own page on 1 November 2026.

Figure	Value	Population measured	Source and date
Rise in incoming Teach for America corps members	43% over three years; 2,300 new corps members in 2025-26	US, one programme	Fortune, 12 January 2026, confirming TFA's own data; also The Guardian, 2 January 2026
Purpose important to job satisfaction	89% of Gen Zs, 92% of millennials	Global survey, 44 countries	Deloitte 2025 Gen Z and Millennial Survey, 14 May 2025
Teachers who find the job frequently stressful	77%	2,531 US public K-12 teachers, 17 Oct–14 Nov 2023	Pew Research Center, 4 April 2024
Teachers who find the job overwhelming	68%	Same survey	Pew Research Center, 4 April 2024
Teachers who find the job frequently fulfilling	56%	Same survey	Pew Research Center, 4 April 2024

The March edition described a demographic shift with a table of 2020 and 2026 profiles (career changers rising from about 12% to about 20% of new entrants, online-only teachers from about 15% to about 30%, Level 5 holders from about 20% to about 35%). No source supported those rows and they are withdrawn. What can be said from the sources above is narrower and more useful: the people now applying are younger, they say purpose matters to them, and the profession they are entering reports high stress alongside a majority who still find it fulfilling.

Why the housing market matters

Both editions of this report take the same view of the strongest push factor: the cost of a home. A graduate paying Dublin rent has a direct incentive to spend a year somewhere the employer provides the apartment, and the destinations that do so, Korea and the Gulf above all, are the ones where the net position in Section 5 is strongest.

SECTION 7

AI in English language teaching

> **Is AI replacing English teachers?** Not on the evidence available. The peer-reviewed study most often cited on the question, published in ScienceDirect in 2025, found that combining ChatGPT with teacher feedback improved EFL learners' argumentative writing, and that the teacher's feedback was the component that made the difference. The tools in use are assistants for planning, differentiation, feedback and pronunciation practice; the market data in Section 2 shows the training market growing, not shrinking, through the period in which those tools arrived.

Application	Typical tools	What the teacher still does	Effect on the lesson
Adaptive practice	Duolingo, Busuu, Babbel	Sets the curriculum; assigns practice	Pace and difficulty adjust to the learner
Pronunciation	ELSA Speak, SpeechAce	Coaches; checks the feedback	Immediate feedback on individual sounds
Writing feedback	ChatGPT, Grammarly, Write & Improve	Validates the feedback; analyses errors	Faster first-pass correction
Assessment	Pearson Versant, ETS automated scoring	Interprets results; tracks progress	Consistent, rapid grading
Lesson planning	ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini	Curates; adds the creativity	Faster material creation
Conversation practice	Chatbots and role-play tools	Designs the scenario	Low-pressure speaking practice

Descriptive table; no usage statistics are asserted because none with a stated method was found.

Source: ScienceDirect, *ChatGPT and EFL argumentative writing* (2025), doi reference in Section 11. The March edition's statements that "RAND surveys show AI tools are especially popular among teachers serving English learners" and that "COVID-19 was the major catalyst" are not supported by a figure and are withdrawn.

SECTION 8

Visas and work permits, 2026

Where can a teacher work without a visa? An Irish citizen can live and work in all 27 EU member states, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, without a work visa, and has Common Travel Area rights in the UK. Everywhere else, the employer sponsors a work visa and the visa, not the employer, sets the minimum qualifications.

Destination	Visa route	Typical processing (compiled March 2026)	Key requirements	Note
EU member states	None for EU citizens; national work visa for others	Immediate for EU citizens	EU citizenship, or employer sponsorship	No change in 2026
United Kingdom	Skilled Worker; Graduate Route for recent UK graduates	4–8 weeks	Degree; employer sponsor	Graduate Route shortens to 18 months from January 2027 (UK government policy, compiled March 2026)
South Korea	E-2	4–6 weeks	Bachelor's degree; TEFL; apostilled documents	Stable
Japan	Instructor or Specialist in Humanities	4–8 weeks	Bachelor's degree; employer sponsor	Stable
China	Z visa plus work permit	6–10 weeks	Bachelor's degree; TEFL; two years' experience or a master's	Tighter enforcement
Vietnam	Work permit plus temporary residence card	4–8 weeks	Bachelor's degree preferred; TEFL	Degree enforcement varies
Thailand	Non-B visa plus work permit	4–8 weeks	Bachelor's degree; TEFL	Stable
UAE	Employment visa	2–4 weeks	Bachelor's degree; TEFL; employer sponsor	Stable
Saudi Arabia	Work visa (iqama)	4–8 weeks	Bachelor's degree; TEFL; experience	Stable
Australia	Working Holiday (subclass 417) for eligible nationalities	2–4 weeks	Age limits apply by nationality	Check the Department of Home Affairs for current age limits
Canada	International Experience Canada working holiday	4–12 weeks	Age 18–35 for most partner countries	Reduced migration targets announced to 2027
Colombia	Work visa; tourist entry for short stays	Varies	TEFL preferred; degree not required	Stable

Compiled March 2026 from embassy and provider guidance; processing times are indicative. Rules change; confirm with the embassy before relying on a row.

SECTION 9

Where the market is going

> **What grows fastest to 2030?** On the published forecasts, the digital and online segments: digital English language learning at roughly 16% a year (Research and Markets, 2025 to 2030) against 7.3% for the market as a whole (Market.us, 2025 to 2034). Specialised English (business, exam preparation, academic and medical English) is where private rates are highest, and government programmes in Asia and Europe remain the only part of the market with published, dated pay.

Trend	What it is	Evidence	Opportunity
Digital delivery	Online and hybrid teaching as a permanent share of the market	Online learning was 48% of ELT by method in 2024 (Market.us)	Teaching from home across time zones; specialist niches
Specialised English	Business, IELTS and academic English	Highest advertised private rates (March 2026 listings compilation)	Premium rates for specialist certification
Government programmes	National schemes in Japan, Korea, France, Spain, Taiwan	The only published pay scales (Section 3)	Structured, verifiable employment
Corporate training	B2B language services	Research and Markets forecast (March 2026 compilation, not re-verified)	Higher rates; business focus
New markets	English tied to economic mobility in Africa and Central Asia	Named in the March edition; no market-size data found	Development and project roles
AI-assisted teaching	Planning, feedback and assessment tools	Section 7	Faster preparation; teacher judgement remains the value

SECTION 10

Corrections ledger: what the March 2026 edition got wrong

This report is published with a standing corrections policy. The following statements in the March 2026 edition were checked for this edition and are corrected or withdrawn.

March 2026 statement	Q4 2026 position	Why
"The global ELT market will reach an estimated $95 billion in 2026"	US$89.5bn in 2024, US$181.1bn forecast for 2034, 7.3% CAGR; roughly US$100bn implied for 2026	Market.us publishes 2024 and 2034 values only; the 2026 figure was an interpolation and understated the publisher's own path
Digital ELL "growing at an 18% CAGR" and "three times the overall ELT rate"	US$12.25bn (2025) to US$25.47bn (2030) implies about 15.8% a year, about twice the overall rate	Arithmetic
"2 billion people are currently learning English" (and, elsewhere, 1.5 billion)	About 1.5 billion learning; 2.3 billion speak English to some level	British Council figures; the March edition contradicted itself
"88% of teachers say the job is overwhelming"	68%	Pew Research Center's published figure is 68%; 77% for frequently stressful stands
"9 in 10 Gen Z workers rank sense of purpose above pay"	89% of Gen Zs consider purpose important to job satisfaction; Deloitte makes no "above pay" ranking	Source does not support the comparison
"43% more entering teaching" presented as a TEFL trend	A 43% rise in one US programme's corps members over three years	The figure is Teach for America's, not a TEFL or global measure
TEFL teacher demographics table, 2020 v 2026 (career changers, online-only, Level 5 holders)	Withdrawn	No source
"Recognised across 39 countries" for Level 5	Withdrawn as an employer-recognition claim; the qualification is Ofqual-regulated and RQF Level 5 is referenced to EQF Level 5	No source supports the number as a recognition statement
"Teachers in Asia save 30–50% of their salary"	Withdrawn	Provider marketing claim, no method
"Cambodia" listed among Latin American countries (FAQ 1)	Cambodia is in Southeast Asia	Error
Wellbeing table with 42, 28 and 17 "mentions"	Withdrawn	No stated source or sample
Endnotes 1–42 against a source list of 1–28	One numbered source list (Section 11)	Two numbering systems did not match; several endnotes had no entry
All salary ranges presented alike	Every figure marked official or market estimate, with its date	Only four programmes publish pay

SECTION 11

Methodology and sources

This edition was compiled by the Research Team at The TEFL Institute of Ireland and dated 1 November 2026. Official programme pay and application windows were read on each programme's own website on 17 October 2026, as part of the Institute's fortnightly hiring report. Regulated qualification references were confirmed by hand against the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications on 1 September 2026. Market-size figures from Market.us and the survey figures from Pew Research Center, Deloitte and Fortune were checked against the publishers' own pages on 1 November 2026. Figures carried forward from the March 2026 edition without re-verification are labelled as such wherever they appear, and every figure that could not be traced to a source has been removed. No figure in this report comes from the Institute's own customer data.

Sources

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2. British Council, LearnEnglish, language table (English: 1.5 billion learners); British Council, *The Future of English: Global Perspectives* (2.3 billion speakers to some level). britishcouncil.org
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9. Government of Colombia, 2026 minimum wage decree (1,750,905 pesos a month)
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12. Pew Research Center, *What's It Like To Be a Teacher in America Today?*, 4 April 2024; survey of 2,531 US public K-12 teachers, 17 October to 14 November 2023. pewresearch.org
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14. Fortune, *In an echo of the Great Recession, Gen Z seeks out Teach for America roles*, 12 January 2026; The Guardian, 2 January 2026.
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17. GoOverseas, International TEFL Academy and ESLstarter salary and requirements guides (market estimates compiled March 2026, not re-verified)
18. ScienceDirect, study on ChatGPT and teacher feedback in EFL argumentative writing, 2025. sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S187118712500015X
19. European Central Bank, euro foreign exchange reference rates, 16 October 2026 (used for US dollar conversions)

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confirmed 1 September 2026; market estimates compiled March 2026 and labelled as estimates. Corrections are listed in Section 10 and any later corrections will be recorded on the Institute's editorial standards page.

About The TEFL Institute of Ireland

The TEFL Institute of Ireland (tefl.ie) is an Irish TEFL course provider. Its Level 5 Diploma in TEFL and Level 5 Advanced Diploma in TEFL are regulated qualifications awarded by Highfield Qualifications and listed on the Ofqual Register of Regulated Qualifications. The Institute publishes The Hire Wire, a fortnightly report on TEFL hiring, and The State of TEFL, its annual market report.

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