

# Resources to Find Experience Teaching English Abroad

## Choosing a Program...

There are several ways to find experience teaching English abroad. Below are some different options of programs available for going abroad. Consider what specifics you may hope to gain from your teaching experience as each program options offer something distinctive.

### ☞ Volunteer Teaching Opportunities

Volunteer teaching abroad is defined by a motivation to serve. Volunteering offers a rich opportunity to help others all over the world, and provides new skills which can be used to gain further work or internship positions.

#### Broad Databases for Volunteer Sites

[www.volunteerabroad.com](http://www.volunteerabroad.com)  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

#### Specific Examples of Volunteer Programs

[www.ifrevolunteers.org](http://www.ifrevolunteers.org)  
[www.orphanage-outreach.org](http://www.orphanage-outreach.org)  
[www.i-to-i.com/volunteer-teaching-english.html](http://www.i-to-i.com/volunteer-teaching-english.html)  
[www.projects-abroad.org/projects/teaching/](http://www.projects-abroad.org/projects/teaching/)

### ☞ Teaching Internships

The internship focus is usually closely related to the intern's field of study. It offers the opportunity to experience a career from a part-time and learning position. The position may or may not be paid, depending on the program. The focus of an internship is either to gain school credit or valuable experience in the field. Certain internship programs, usually paid, require minimum qualifications such as previous experience or specific skills. Some of the major benefits of internships are training, hand's on experience and professional feed back.

#### Broad Databases for Internship Sites

[www.internabroad.com](http://www.internabroad.com)

#### Specific Examples of Internship Programs

[www.crosscultural solutions.org](http://www.crosscultural solutions.org)  
[www.leapnow.org](http://www.leapnow.org) (best for several month study)  
[www.allianceabroad.com/ob/teach/spain\\_01.htm](http://www.allianceabroad.com/ob/teach/spain_01.htm)  
[www.wdi.umich.edu/Resources/Internships](http://www.wdi.umich.edu/Resources/Internships)

### ☞ Teaching Opportunities with Compensation

Compensation may include pay, room & board, and/or transportation. Qualifications required will vary by the employer. Specific teaching programs offer the best chance for you to earn your way abroad, though there are up-front costs for program fees, airfare and initial spending money. It is best to contact the employer for a clear understanding of what is expected. Earnings can be good in the relatively wealthy countries of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. In China, Eastern Europe, Russia and the Newly Independent States, pay may be high by local standards but not sufficient for savings. Africa and Latin America are primarily served by volunteer organizations. Western Europe presents dim prospects for Americans (with some notable exceptions, such as Austria, Finland, France, Germany, and Spain for which there are official placement programs), because of the competition of British and Irish teachers who do not need work permits as members of the European Union. In general, if your main motivation is to make a lot of money, you will likely be disappointed. In some cases, the experience may even cost you more than what you can earn, but this will usually still be far less than the cost of studying or traveling abroad. *Note: Educational loans can sometimes be deferred during volunteer work; inquire through your loan and program sponsors to see if you qualify for loan deferment.*

#### Broad Databases for Paid Teaching Sites

[www.tefl.com](http://www.tefl.com)  
[www.umabroad.umn.edu/index.html](http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/index.html)  
[www.aallianceabroad.com/ob/programsob.html](http://www.aallianceabroad.com/ob/programsob.html)

# Certification Requirements for Teaching English Abroad

Teaching English Abroad may require specific qualifications, most often a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate. There are also other certificates available, such as the TESOL certification, which will qualify you as both a TEFL and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) teacher. These certifications are usually most essential to those going abroad for a year or more at a time. To evaluate which certificate is best for you, look into the desirable job position and its qualifications. Most often students prefer summer jobs, which mostly consist of volunteering. These positions will have fewer requirements. Nevertheless, it is good to acknowledge that taking a certification course increases your chances of being hired and it improves one's teaching ability. Even a short introductory course can contribute methods of making class lessons more interesting and is accommodated with many helpful tactics to the novice teacher. Along with the certification, TEFL training centers provide many resources to language schools abroad.

## ☞ Options for TEFL Certification

There are several different ways to earn a TEFL or equivalent certification. Courses can range from 60 hours to 4 weeks or up to several months depending on the program you chose. Taking an online course at the comfort of your home usually takes less time but might not have the best learning resources. An in classroom course usually lasts up to four weeks and allows you the convenience of hands on learning. There is also the fabulous option of going abroad to earn your certificate. It is best to look into the agency you wish to work for and acquire information on what sort of certification and training you are required to have, this will help selecting the right course.

Here are two specific examples, of many, TEFL certification courses. Be sure to compare to other sources.

### Online Course

[www.teflcorp.com/tefl\\_certificate.htm](http://www.teflcorp.com/tefl_certificate.htm)

Approximately 60 to 100 hours

Cost: \$190

### Abroad Course

[www.teflcourse.com](http://www.teflcourse.com)

Four week course, 120 hours of instruction and hands on practice.

Cost: \$1390 - \$2290, flights are not included and depending on location and program there might be an additional charge for accommodations.

Location: 19 countries including Italy, Costa Rica, Spain, Thailand, China, India, Czech Republic and Philippines and many more.

## ☞ Teaching Without a Certification

As people worldwide rush to acquire the new lingua franca of international commerce, diplomacy and higher education, your "credential" is simply being a native speaker of the English language and that may be all you need to obtain a job and a work permit in areas such as Asia and Eastern Europe. Such job positions are usually done though volunteer or possible internships but many options can be done through thorough searches. Susan Griffith book "Teaching English Abroad" has significant information for individual countries. Located at the Career Center.

## ☞ Web Links on TEFL Sources and Teaching

These sites will provide you with information on teaching materials, job listening, TEFL certifications, teacher discussion boards and more. We encourage you to search through them for a better understanding of teaching certifications.

[www.internationalcenter.umich.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu)

[www.cactustefl.com](http://www.cactustefl.com)

[www.daveseslcafe.com](http://www.daveseslcafe.com)

[www.tefl.com](http://www.tefl.com)

[www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

[www.onestopenglish.com](http://www.onestopenglish.com)

[www.oxfordtefl.com](http://www.oxfordtefl.com)