Teach English Abroad

Why teach abroad?

Teaching abroad is a great way to gain international experience and explore your passion for education. Launch your career by developing skills that are in high demand for employers, such as cross cultural communication, and adaptability. Even if teaching long-term is not your goal these skills are relevant in virtually any career.

Where can I teach?

There are opportunities all around the world. Factors that you should consider when choosing a location include job availability, salaries, and work visas. There are more opportunities in major cities and fewer in rural areas. Latin America, for instance, has fewer requirements for teaching English than other regions which attract students.

"My time in China enriched my academic career immensely. As a former global studies student I was able to gain first-hand experience on the ways in which other cultures work and interact. It helped me develop a global perspective on things as I can now see what a Chinese person's opinion might be on multiple issues in addition to just my own American one."

Kyle Mery, Teach in China- Buckland Group

Is a work visa required?

Almost all countries require you have a work visa, although the process and requirements will vary from country to country. In Asia and parts of the Middle East, work visas are more available compared to Western Europe, Africa and Latin America, where work visas may be difficult to secure.

What are the qualifications?

In most cases a bachelor's degree and some experience volunteering or working in an educational setting is adequate. However, some employers may want more advanced training and certifications.
Requirements may include:

- **TESOL certificate** (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), or referred to as TESL, TEFL or ESL certification
- **MATESOL degree** (Master's in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

The best preparation is a master's degree, however, if you are just interested in teaching for a couple years then this may not be necessary. Experience in teaching or tutoring English Language Learners (ELL) is helpful preparation. Look for opportunities with local nonprofit and community organizations to get started.

Is a foreign language required?

No, in most cases there is no language requirement. However, teaching abroad does offer itself a great opportunity for you to start learning a new language. Many schools offer social activities and classes to help teachers familiarize themselves in the local culture and language.

How do I get started?

Explore and get involved locally! The information to the right is a great starting point. Any internship, volunteer experience, or tutoring ELL students will strengthen your application.
Things to think about when considering teaching abroad: Where do I want to teach? How long would I like to teach? What audience would I like to teach? Which environments would best suit me?

PAID PROGRAMS HIRING NEW GRADUATES

- Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship
- Peace Corps
- Teach in China-Buckland Group
- Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET)
- CIEE Teach in Spain, Thailand and China
- Central European Teaching Program
- Princeton in Asia, Africa and Latin America
- English Program in Korea (EPIK)
- Hess International Education Organization
- Serendipity Russia Program
- AEON Japan
- French Cultural Exchange through the French Ministry of Education
- The English Opens Doors Program of the Ministry of Education of Chile

RESOURCES

- **Transitionsabroad.com:** Provides resources on how to work and study abroad
- **TeachAbroad.com:** Directory of teaching positions around the world
- **GoOverseas:** Lists ELL/ ESL Teaching jobs and other resources

For further information and resource listings visit UW's website for prospective teachers:
https://depts.washington.edu/engl/advising/teaching/tchabroad.php

CONTACT

Global Initiatives
Student Success Center, UW1-160
uwbworld@uw.edu

- Appointments:
  http://wco.uwb.edu/secure/