Teaching English Abroad—Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
International Studies Career Event
October 23, 2012

--Where the jobs are

- Asia (China, S. Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand)
- Europe—
  - countries in the EU, preference given to EU passport holders;
  - Croatia and Turkey are hiring teachers and are not yet part of the EU;
  - other European countries—jobs may not pay well enough to live
- Middle East (mostly in the Gulf countries—UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia)
- Africa
- Latin America

--Some well-known programs

- Fulbright English Teachers
- Peace Corps
- English Language Fellows
- Teach for Africa
- Teaching Chile
- Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme
- Council for International Schools (for those holding a public school teaching certification)

--Some job websites (by no means exhaustive)


Australia Academic Circle (AAC), www.aacircle.com.au, is a portal for teaching English in Taiwan, Korea, Japan and China as well as Europe. This site provides job boards and country profiles which discuss visa information, accommodations, taxes. (seemed to have good basic information)


TEFL ASIA, www.teflasia.com, is an excellent portal for Asian ESL jobs, articles and resources.

Dave’s ESL Café, www.eslcafe.com is a website that has information about teaching ESL, either abroad or in the U.S. as well as job databases.
**Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships**, [www.us.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org). This is a program for recent university graduates to serve as English Teaching Assistants in Belgium/Luxembourg, France, Germany, Hungary, Korea, Taiwan, and Turkey.

**Peace Corps**, [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) is one of the largest work-abroad programs for U. S. citizens. It provides some of the best-paid teaching opportunities in less-wealthy regions such as Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and even Eastern Europe and the former USSR.

**TEFL Professional Network**, [www.tefl.com](http://www.tefl.com) has a huge on-line database of ESL jobs—probably the largest number of ESL jobs abroad; also has city cost comparison guides


**Teach Koreans**, [www.teachkoreans.com](http://www.teachkoreans.com) tells about salary, length of contracts, getting there

**Teaching in Korea**, [www.teaching-in-korea.com](http://www.teaching-in-korea.com) lists a variety of jobs, preschool and older

**Gone 2 Korea**, [www.gone2korea.com](http://www.gone2korea.com) gives good information about the work, expectations, and about benefits

**Transitions Abroad**, [www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com) provides a lot of different types of information for working, studying and living abroad.

**From Ryan Ohlerking**—link to Soon Chun Hyang University, where he taught:

[http://home.sch.ac.kr/english/index.jsp](http://home.sch.ac.kr/english/index.jsp)

And here is the link to the contact info for the Study Abroad office: [http://home.sch.ac.kr/english/index.jsp?menuID=2007083015530949231](http://home.sch.ac.kr/english/index.jsp?menuID=2007083015530949231)

**From William Davies**

**English First** (this is a jobs site)


**Wall Street Institute** (this is their general Indonesia site)

[http://www.wallstreet.ac.id/en](http://www.wallstreet.ac.id/en)

**Indonesia job clearing house**


**database of schools**

[http://www.eslbase.com/schools/indonesia](http://www.eslbase.com/schools/indonesia)
From Ryan Kaduce

-The following information about considering locations for teaching abroad comes from http://www.totalesl.com/EvaluatingTeachingJobOffers.php. It contains some important points to consider.

When considering where in the world you want to teach, the big 3 for EFL jobs are:

**Asia:** Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia are the popular spots because they have so many ESL jobs available, but there are always positions coming up infrequently in places like Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia though you must be a qualified teacher to obtain these. You may even find positions for Cambodia and Laos but you should look at the reputation of employers carefully due to lack of a solid legal system for recourse.

**Europe:** Everyone dreams of teaching in Greece, Italy, France or Spain but unless you are an European Union (EU) citizen it is difficult to obtain these positions. The more frequent positions are available in Eastern Europe in places like Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and Russia. These positions don’t pay very well but they provide a lot of opportunity for travel while not teaching.

**The Middle East:** Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) are the most common with Bahrain, Yemen and Qatar occasionally having openings. Now there are also more teaching positions available in Iraq. The Middle East is popular for the money paid for teaching positions but don’t expect much of a social life due to cultural restraints.

-Sites that contain job postings (a good place to start):


-TESOL, Inc. student membership is relatively inexpensive and allows access to job postings on the Online Career Center. This will allow you to run searches for jobs based on various criteria and post your resume for prospective employers to see.


It contains some basics in terms of the types of questions to consider before accepting a position abroad. Official contracts should contain the answers to all of these questions, but if some things are missing, it doesn’t hurt to ask about the following:

1. What is the salary?

2. How many months is the teaching contract?

3. Will you sponsor me for all paperwork, including teacher's license, work permit, and visa extension?

4. How soon can you get this paperwork processed?

5. How many hours will I be teaching per week?

6. What kind of medical/travel insurance is offered?

7. When are the starting and ending times for being at the school regardless of whether there is a class?

8. About how many school or community events a month are teachers required to attend outside normal working hours (teachers' meetings, parents' meetings, school festivals, seminars, etc.)?

9. Does the school have/provide ESL/EFL student books or will I be required to make my own worksheets?

10. Does the school have whiteboards or chalkboards?

11. Does the school provide all teaching materials needed? What are the items provided?

12. Does the school require that I attend/teach a summer/winter “camp” or other classes outside of the usual semester?
13. Is there a discipline policy? What is it, and how is it enforced?

14. What are the details of the teaching contract "extras" such as:
   a. Resigning bonuses
   b. Biannual or annual plane tickets to visit home
   c. Housing allowances (if no housing allowance, then ask about help finding accommodations along with cost in the area of the school)
   d. Internet access both in and outside the school
   e. Raise schedules

Not all schools/companies are allowed to provide work visas for teachers, so the availability of sponsorship is something that should be considered early on. Also, be sure to ask about teaching outside of the regularly contracted location. My teaching services were basically rented out to nearby elementary schools due to a vaguely-phrased line in my contract that mentioned “outside teaching” as a possibility. As with any contract, be sure to inquire about any and all unclear stipulations.

-Obtaining a work visa may require taking the necessary entry documents to a consulate. The following is a directory of consulates:

   http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/directory.htm

   Note: Sometimes the documents must be taken to the consulate directly. If you are unable to travel to the city where the consulate is located, there are messenger services that can represent you and deliver your documents for a fee.

-Prior to departure, it is important to be familiar with any vaccination requirements for entry into the country. A series of vaccinations may require a specific timeframe, so it is a good idea to figure out a schedule to get everything in before your intended departure. The CDC website contains valuable information about necessary preparation:

   http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/

   For a one-on-one consultation, UIHC has a Travel Medicine Clinic. The following site provides valuable information about traveler’s health care and allows you to request an appointment for a consultation.

   http://www.uihealthcare.org/Clinic.aspx?id=3667

* From a former student

I am currently a North American Language and Culture Assistant through the Spanish Ministry of Education. I live in Don Benito, Extremadura, Spain and will be working at a high school in the city until the end of the school year. I teach twelve English classes a week to students ranging in age from 11 to
18. My main objective is to help the students improve their listening and pronunciation skills, since most of them have never had contact with a native English speaker before. I’m also here to teach them about American culture. For example, this week I have been teaching all of my students about Thanksgiving, how it is celebrated, and its connection to the history of our country.

*There might be similar programs through ministries of education in other countries. This would be worth looking into.

--Tips to keep in mind when looking for English teaching jobs abroad

- Do your homework—look on the internet at sites that rate schools in various countries—look at black lists, white lists and grey lists, but take them with a grain of salt since dissatisfied people tend to be the ones who post to these sites; [www.daveseslcafe.com](http://www.daveseslcafe.com) has a teachers’ forum that could be helpful
- Beware of programs/schools that are willing to hire you without some sort of interview
- Expect clear and informative answers to your questions
- Ask if you can have email addresses and phone numbers of three foreign teachers currently teaching at the school
- Once you get a contract, go over it very carefully; the websites listed above also have information about what to look for
- Remember that there is no perfect job and that you will be living in another culture; it will be up to you to adapt, not those you are working for or those you are teaching; the more you know before you go will help make the acculturation process a more positive experience.