

## HOW TO BECOME A TEACHER WITH TEACHER PLACEMENT

Not everyone is fit to be a teacher. Not everyone should be given the responsibility of leading a class. Too many people decide they want to teach English abroad only because they want a plane ticket somewhere for a year to play and have fun. Teaching doesn't even register with them as the primary responsibility.

Teacher Placement receives between dozens of applications per day

From these applicants, we are determined to find the best teachers and the most sincere, caring individuals to represent as part of the exclusive Teacher Placement team. Our reputation is staked on providing the best teachers in the industry. Do you have what it takes to become one of our teachers?

If you want to join one of the most elite groups of ESL teachers overseas, here are a couple hints:

1. **Be sincere.** People who care are usually good at whatever they do. You are going to have to work on marking and planning and researching on your own time. Are you this kind of person? Are you willing to work hard?
2. **Be organized.** This is represented in the emails you send to us, in your resume, in your cover letter and in the professionalism and organization of your application. Are there typos in your emails or resume? Do we have to request things from you more than once? Are we chasing you or are you chasing the opportunity to teach abroad?
3. **Be committed.** We are looking for people who want to work with us. We don't want to waste our time or your time. If you want to chase a job in Mexico and apply in Korea and apply in Chile and apply in Japan and see what happens please go waste someone else's time. If you want to sit down and chat about ALL these countries and then take time to consider which one would be best for you, we welcome the opportunity to chat with you. If you know where you want to go we can help you get there. If you're not quite sure where you want to go and trust our judgment, we can lead you to some wonderful places. But if you're just going in circles, please don't make us tag along!

## HOW DOES THE EXCHANGE RATE AFFECT MY SALARY?

When you're teaching overseas this will be one of the few times you will want your home currency to hit the dumps in terms of currency value. The less your home country currency is worth, the more of it you get with your teaching salary. Make sense?

Exchange rates fluctuate daily and can be a source of incredible frustration for a teacher living and working overseas. When should you send money home? How can you play the exchange rates to make money on your money? How can you send money home? What if you HAVE TO send money home? Good questions!

If you don't have bills to pay at home you can rest easy knowing your money is still worth the same in the country you are working in. The only thing that affects your buying power is inflation and in most cases this is relatively safe from dramatic spikes.

So comes the question... when is it best to send money home? For the most part you should keep your money in a local bank; once you have a work permit you can open an account locally. Transferring funds overseas can be time-consuming and expensive. Try to keep some money at home to pay your bills at home; that's the best way to go.

Go here to check on the daily rates of your Yen, Baht, or Peso:

- Currency Exchange Rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

But for the most part your teaching salary is always equivalent to at least a middle-class income in your host country. If you can eat like the natives, drink like the natives, sleep like the natives and travel like the natives, you will find your salary stretches quite nicely.

## VACCINATIONS & YOUR HEALTH

The World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control are the two best places to check to see what shots you should have and what pharmaceutical supplies to take with you.

The links to these sites are:

- <http://www.who.int/en>
- <http://www.cdc.gov>

### General Shot Recommendations:

- [Hepatitis A](#)
- [Hepatitis B](#) - a 3 shot series. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- [Rabies](#)
- [Typhoid](#) - good to have if you go to rural areas
- As needed, booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria and measles.

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### Tips to Stay Healthy

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles.
- Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.
- If you will be visiting an area where there is risk for malaria, take your malaria prevention medication before, during, and after travel, as directed. (See your doctor for a prescription.)
- Protect yourself from mosquito bites:
  - Pay special attention to mosquito protection between dusk and dawn. This is when the type of mosquito whose bite transmits malaria is active.
  - Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
  - Use insect repellents that contain DEET (diethylmethyltoluamide).

- Do not put repellent on wounds or broken skin.
- Use bed netting at night; don't rely on window screens that may not stay closed all night!
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.
- Always use latex condoms to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

## **GETTING YOUR VISA**

Visa requirements vary from country to country, and they are constantly changing! Our trained & experienced staff will have the latest updates on visa requirements for you before you enter the country where you plan to teach. Please follow their instructions completely & accurately. If you haven't got your passport yet, make sure you apply for one immediately! If you do have your passport already, make sure it has *at least* six months left on it before it expires. Some countries will not let you enter, or exit, on a passport with less than six months left on it.

## **WHERE AM I GOING TO TEACH?**

There are several different venues where you can use your ESL skills.

### **International Schools**

Got your teaching license? Do you have any teaching experience? If you do, you can get a great teaching job in an international school overseas! Teacher Placement can offer placements to certified teachers in great international schools in Asia, primarily China, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong.

International schools are generally schools that provide an English-medium education for children ages 3-18 in countries where English is not the native language. These schools were traditionally populated by children of diplomats or those parents who were working with major multi-national companies.

For many reasons there are more ex-pats living abroad now and as a result, there are many more international schools. Where before you had to have years and years of teaching experience, one or two years will now suffice and you can get a great job in an international school.

Most international schools will follow American or British curriculum but there are more and more international schools that are drawing from Canadian curriculum or from other countries. As a certified teacher, getting experience in an international school or in a public school is a fantastic resume/portfolio builder as this is relevant transferrable experience for you.

## **Types of International Schools**

- **Independent International Schools**

Independent International Schools may be operated by a single corporation or sponsored by the United Nations and their affiliated agencies. Some may be religious or proprietary schools with boarding facilities, but the majority of these schools are private, non-profit institutions with considerable parental involvement in their governance. All Independent International Schools offer instruction in the English language and there are usually American, Canadian, British, Australian, and/or New Zealand trained teachers represented on the faculty.

With the exception of corporation-affiliated schools located in hardship settings, where salaries and benefits are often extremely generous, most schools tend to pay staff teaching abroad sufficient to provide both an opportunity for saving and a reasonable standard of living in the host country.

Resources at these schools vary from school to school as do the facilities. Some are incredible with pools and huge athletics departments while others are simple 5 room buildings that focus exclusively on education.

- **Department of Defense Dependents Schools**

The U.S. Department of Defense operates around 200 elementary and secondary schools located primarily in NATO countries, usually on American military bases in Europe, Great Britain, the Mediterranean area, Japan, Korea, The Philippines, Cuba, Panama, Canada and other Atlantic region locations. Teachers and administrators for DoDDS schools are hired in the United States and candidates must have American training and certification.

Once hired to teach abroad in a DoDDS school, you will be a U.S. government employee and most likely represented by a union. Your students will be the children of military and civilian personnel working on the base. Salaries are very competitive with those in the U.S. and the benefits are excellent. As federal employees, DoDDS teachers teaching overseas pay all federal and social security taxes required of citizens living within the United States.

- **U.S. Department of State Affiliated Schools For Teaching Overseas**

There are nearly 200 American overseas schools recognized by the U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Schools. Located in many of the world's capital cities, most were established to serve the families of American citizens working abroad and offer a great option for teaching overseas.

Over the years, rapidly changing political and economic factors in many countries have had a strong impact on teaching abroad in these schools. Many are now educating children from many different countries. Several studies indicate that in the last ten years the typical American overseas school has experienced a drop in its American population from two thirds of the student body down to one-half or one-third of the total student enrollment. Thus, teaching overseas often means teaching international students.

- **British International Schools**

Like American International Schools, British International Schools are located in many cities around the world. They follow the British education system and generally offer the International general Certificate of Secondary Education, currently the most popular international qualification for adolescents including progression to IB Diploma Programme (an internationally recognized education programmer that serves as a university entrance course)