

Landing a Teaching Job Abroad

A guide for aspiring teachers & educators — how to find, apply for, and secure a teaching job abroad, verify employers and contracts, and avoid common pitfalls.

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

FROM CREDENTIALS TO CONTRACT, STEP BY STEP

Landing a teaching job abroad comes down to a few things done well: the **right credentials, a strong application, the right search channels, careful interviews, and a verified contract**. This program-neutral guide walks through **each step — from getting your documents ready to spotting red flags** — and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find programs, schools, and recruiters.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Hiring norms, visa rules, and contract terms change and vary by country and employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with each employer, recruiter, and the relevant immigration authority**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Decide Where and What to Teach

WHAT TO KNOW

Start by narrowing **where** (region and country) and **what** (role type — language school, public school, international school, business English, tutoring). Different markets reward different profiles and pay very differently. Use our **Teaching in [Country] guides** and **the K12 Academics directory** to compare markets before you apply.

BY THE NUMBERS

Where

region & country

What

role type

Compare

markets first

HOW TO HELP

Begin with a target — choose a **region, country, and role type** that fit your credentials and goals, using the country guides and the K12 Academics directory to compare markets.

GOOD TO KNOW

Different markets reward different profiles — match your credentials to the right destination before applying.

Get Your Credentials & Documents Ready

WHAT TO KNOW

Line up the basics most employers and visas require: an **accredited TEFL certificate**, usually a **bachelor's degree**, and prepared **documents (often apostilled and translated)**, a **background check**, and **references**. Having these ready lets you **apply and start the visa quickly** once you get an offer.

BY THE NUMBERS

Credentials

TEFL + (often) a degree

Documents

apostilled + background check

Ready

to apply & start the visa

HOW TO HELP

Prepare early — an **accredited TEFL**, a **degree**, and **apostilled documents (plus a background check and references)** let you move fast once an offer arrives.

GOOD TO KNOW

Apostilling and translating documents **takes time** — start before you apply so you're ready for the visa.

Build a Strong CV & Cover Letter

WHAT TO KNOW

Tailor your CV and cover letter to each role: lead with your **TEFL, degree, and any teaching or tutoring experience**, keep it clear and concise, and reference the specific school and market. Some regions expect a **photo and personal details** on a CV; others don't — follow local norms. A strong, specific application stands out.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tailor

to each role

Lead with

TEFL, degree, experience

Follow

local CV norms

HOW TO HELP

Make each application specific — tailor your CV and cover letter to the school and market, leading with your credentials and experience, and follow local CV conventions.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **tailored, specific application** beats a generic one — reference the actual school and role every time.

Search the Right Channels

WHAT TO KNOW

Look in the right places: **the K12 Academics directory** (to find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters), **school and program websites**, **reputable recruiters**, **direct outreach** to schools, and **teacher networks and social-media groups**. Applying through several channels at once widens your options.

BY THE NUMBERS

Directory

programs, schools, recruiters

Direct

school websites & outreach

Networks

teacher groups

HOW TO HELP

Search broadly — use **the K12 Academics directory**, school websites, reputable recruiters, direct outreach, and teacher networks together to widen your options.

WATCH OUT

Many roles aren't widely advertised — combine the directory with direct outreach and teacher networks.

Understand Recruiters vs Direct Applications

WHAT TO KNOW

Recruiters can streamline the search, handle paperwork, and open doors to vetted schools — but a reputable one **never charges the teacher a placement fee**. **Direct applications** give you more control and a direct relationship with the school. Many teachers use both; either way, **verify the school itself**, not just the recruiter.

BY THE NUMBERS

Recruiters

streamline (no teacher fee)

Direct

more control

Either way

verify the school

HOW TO HELP

Weigh the routes — **recruiters** streamline the search (and shouldn't charge you), while **direct applications** give more control; verify the actual school regardless.

GOOD TO KNOW

A reputable recruiter **never charges the teacher a placement fee** — employers pay recruiters, not you.

Prepare for Interviews

WHAT TO KNOW

Interviews may be **remote (video) or in person**, and often include a **short demo lesson**. Prepare examples of your teaching, research the school, and come with **your own questions** — about hours, pay (gross vs net), housing, visa support, and contract length. Interviewing the employer is as important as impressing them.

BY THE NUMBERS

Format

remote or in-person

Often

a demo lesson

Ask about

hours, pay, visa, housing

HOW TO HELP

Prepare thoroughly — expect a remote or in-person interview (often with a demo lesson), research the school, and ask about hours, pay, visa support, and housing.

GOOD TO KNOW

Come with **your own questions** — interviewing the employer about pay, visa, and contract is as important as impressing them.



Verify the Employer & Contract

WHAT TO KNOW

Before accepting, **verify the school's reputation** (reviews, current teachers) and get **every important term in writing**: hours, pay (gross vs net), contract length, housing, benefits, and — for non-locals — visa/work-permit support. A trustworthy employer is **transparent and puts commitments in the contract**. Never rely on verbal promises.

BY THE NUMBERS

Verify

reputation & current teachers

In writing

hours, pay, visa support

Never

rely on verbal promises

HOW TO HELP

Do your due diligence — verify the school's reputation and get **every key term (hours, pay, visa support) in writing**; never rely on verbal promises.

GOOD TO KNOW

Get **every important term in the contract** — a trustworthy employer is transparent and puts commitments in writing.

Watch for Red Flags & Scams

WHAT TO KNOW

Be cautious of: **upfront fees** charged to you, **vague or missing contracts**, promises of visa sponsorship that never materialise, pay "too good to be true", and **pressure to commit quickly**. Cross-check the school independently, and if something feels off, **walk away** — there are always other opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Avoid

upfront fees to you

Beware

vague contracts, false visa promises

If off

walk away

HOW TO HELP

Stay alert — **upfront fees, vague contracts, unmaterialised visa promises, and hard-sell pressure** are red flags; cross-check independently and walk away if something feels off.

GOOD TO KNOW

If a role charges you **upfront fees or won't put terms in writing**, treat it as a red flag and move on.

Time Your Applications

WHAT TO KNOW

Hiring windows vary by market: many **language and public schools** hire around **late summer and January**; **international schools** recruit months ahead (often **January–May**) for the next school year; and some markets hire **year-round**. Check each destination's calendar (see the country guides) and apply early, allowing time for the visa.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language/public

late summer & January

Int'l schools

Jan–May (ahead)

Some markets

year-round

HOW TO HELP

Time it right — language and public schools hire around late summer and January, international schools months ahead (Jan–May), and some markets year-round; apply early for the visa.

GOOD TO KNOW

Check each destination's **hiring calendar** in the country guides — and always allow time for the visa.

Apply, Follow Up & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply to **several roles**, follow up politely, and compare offers on the whole package (pay, visa support, housing, benefits), not just salary. Once you accept, complete the **visa steps promptly** and prepare for the move. Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters throughout. Confirm all details with each employer.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply

to several roles

Compare

the whole package

Then

complete the visa

HOW TO HELP

Finish strong — apply to several roles, compare offers on the full package, and complete the visa promptly, using **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare options throughout.

WATCH OUT

Browse **the K12 Academics directory** to find the specific programs, schools, and recruiters that fit your route and goals.

Landing a Teaching Job Abroad: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with each employer, recruiter, and the relevant immigration authority.

The foundation

Line up the basics most employers and visas require: an accredited TEFL certificate, usually a bachelor's degree, and prepared documents (often apostilled and translated), a background check, and references.

Application & search

Tailor a clear CV and cover letter to each role (following local norms), and search broadly — the K12 Academics directory, school websites, reputable recruiters, direct outreach, and teacher networks.

Recruiters vs direct

Reputable recruiters streamline the search and never charge the teacher a placement fee; direct applications give more control; either way, verify the actual school, not just the recruiter.

Verify & watch out

Before signing, verify the school's reputation and get every key term (hours, pay gross vs net, visa support, housing) in writing; avoid upfront fees, vague contracts, false visa promises, and hard-sell pressure.

Timing

Language and public schools often hire around late summer and January; international schools recruit ahead (January–May); some markets hire year-round — check each destination's calendar and apply early for the visa.

YOUR TEACHING-ABROAD JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our Teaching in [Country] guides, and find and compare programs, schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory — among **1,297 free resources**.

tools.k12academics.com →

