

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Bolivia

A guide for aspiring & qualified teachers — how teaching in Bolivia works, the routes and requirements, the work visa, pay, and how to find the right role.



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

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.

SOUTH AMERICA'S MOST AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE MARKET

Bolivia is one of **South America's most affordable and accessible** markets — TEFL-first (a degree isn't required), with growing demand and stunning Andes-to-Amazon scenery. Paid work is growing alongside volunteering. Roles span **language schools, international schools, and volunteering**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, the work visa, and pay**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find roles.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Bolivian rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Bolivia's immigration authorities and each employer**. K12 Academics does not run or endorse any specific program — use the K12 Academics directory to find and compare your options.

Understand Why Teachers Choose Bolivia

WHAT TO KNOW

Bolivia offers **South America's lowest costs, accessible (TEFL-first) requirements, growing demand, welcoming communities, and extraordinary Andes-to-Amazon scenery** — an affordable, adventurous market that welcomes non-native speakers.

BY THE NUMBERS

Most affordable

in South America

Accessible

TEFL-first, non-natives OK

Andes to Amazon

scenery

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Bolivia's **affordability and accessibility** against modest pay and a smaller market — for immersion, adventure, and an easy entry, it's a rewarding choice.

WATCH OUT

Bolivia is one of **South America's cheapest countries** and welcomes **non-native speakers** — an accessible, immersive market.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **private language schools** (the main entry, in urban centres), **international schools** (the best pay, for licensed teachers), **private tutoring** (~\$10–15/hour — a useful supplement), and **volunteer programmes**. Demand is highest in **La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba**. Browse and compare options in **the K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

main entry

Int'l schools

best pay (licensed)

Tutoring / volunteer

~\$10–15/hr / board

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a language school for entry, an international school if licensed, or tutoring and volunteering — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

Find and compare **specific language schools, international schools, and programmes** in the K12 Academics directory — this guide stays program-neutral.

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

An **accredited 120-hour TEFL is required** (by schools and for the work visa) — being unqualified isn't really an option — but a **degree isn't mandatory**. **International schools** want a **degree, licence, and experience**. Native English is favoured, but **fluent non-native speakers are welcomed** (with a solid grasp of grammar and pronunciation).

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

required (also for the visa)

Degree

not mandatory

Non-natives

welcomed

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — an **accredited 120-hour TEFL** is required (a degree isn't mandatory); international schools want a degree, licence, and experience, and non-native speakers are welcomed.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **degree isn't mandatory**, but a TEFL is essential — it's needed for both jobs and the work visa.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

Teaching legally requires an **employer-sponsored work visa**, and your **TEFL certificate is required as part of the process**. Reputable schools handle it. Some teachers begin on other statuses, but a proper work visa is the secure route. Secure a job first, and work with your employer on the paperwork. Confirm current rules with Bolivia's immigration authorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work visa

employer-sponsored

TEFL

required for the process

Secure

the job first

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — an employer sponsors your **work visa**, and your TEFL is required as part of the process; secure the job first and let a reputable school handle the paperwork.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your **TEFL certificate is required for the work-visa process** — another reason it's essential in Bolivia.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Salaries are **modest** — but Bolivia's **very low cost of living** means they cover expenses comfortably. **International schools pay the most**; language-school pay is more basic; and **private tutoring (~\$10–15/hour)** is a useful supplement. Many teachers combine school hours with tutoring to build a comfortable schedule.

BY THE NUMBERS

Salaries

modest

Int'l schools

pay the most

Tutoring

~\$10–15/hr (supplement)

HOW TO HELP

Set expectations — modest salaries that the very low cost of living covers comfortably (international schools pay most); private tutoring (~\$10–15/hour) is a useful supplement.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many teachers **combine school hours with private tutoring** — to build a comfortable schedule.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

International schools offer the **fullest packages**; language schools are the accessible entry. Confirm **hours, pay, and work-visa sponsorship** (your TEFL is needed for it). Weigh pay against Bolivia's very low costs, and consider tutoring to supplement. Favour reputable schools and written terms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Int'l schools

fullest packages

Confirm

work-visa sponsorship

Supplement

with tutoring

HOW TO HELP

Read every offer for **hours, pay, and work-visa sponsorship**, weigh it against Bolivia's very low costs, and consider tutoring to supplement; international schools bundle the best packages.

GOOD TO KNOW

Weigh pay against Bolivia's **very low cost of living** — modest salaries stretch comfortably here.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited 120-hour TEFL** (required, and needed for the visa); a **degree** opens international schools. Prepare your documents and references, and secure a job to arrange the work visa. Some Spanish helps you settle, network, and pick up tutoring — and Bolivia is a great place to learn it.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

required (+ for the visa)

Degree

for int'l schools

Spanish

helps & easy to learn

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL** (required, and for the visa; a degree for international schools), prepare your documents, and secure a job to arrange the work visa.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some Spanish helps you **settle, network, and find tutoring** — and Bolivia is a great, affordable place to learn it.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

International schools recruit **ahead of the school year**; **language schools** hire more **year-round**; **volunteer programmes** run year-round too. Because much hiring is local, reaching out to schools directly (or arriving to job-hunt in La Paz, Santa Cruz, or Cochabamba) works well. Allow time for the work visa.

BY THE NUMBERS

Int'l schools

ahead of the year

Language schools

year-round

Reach out

directly

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — international schools recruit ahead of the year, language schools and volunteer programmes year-round — and reach out directly or arrive to job-hunt.

GOOD TO KNOW

Finding work is **often a doddle** in the main cities — reach out to schools directly, or arrive to job-hunt.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need Spanish to teach** (classes are English-only), but some helps daily life. Bases include **La Paz (the high-altitude seat of government), Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and El Alto**. Bolivia is very affordable, welcoming, and spectacular — the Andes, the Amazon, and the Uyuni Salt Flats — with deep indigenous traditions. Note La Paz's high altitude.

BY THE NUMBERS

Spanish

not needed to teach

Bases

La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba

Spectacular

& very affordable

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English (some Spanish helps daily life); La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba have the most roles, at South America's lowest cost of living.

GOOD TO KNOW

Beyond the classroom, Bolivia offers the **Andes, the Amazon, and the Uyuni Salt Flats** — spectacular and very affordable.

Find Your Role & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific language schools, international schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Reach out directly (or arrive to job-hunt), verify each contract and work-visa sponsorship, and build toward international schools. Confirm current rules with Bolivia's immigration authorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

schools & recruiters

Reach out

directly

Build

toward int'l schools

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare language schools, international schools, and recruiters, reach out directly, verify each contract and work-visa sponsorship, and build toward international schools.

WATCH OUT

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

Teaching in Bolivia: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with the Bolivian authorities and each employer.

The market

One of South America's most affordable and accessible markets (regularly the cheapest in the region), with growing demand; TEFL-first, welcoming to non-native speakers; paid roles are growing alongside volunteering, in La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba.

The routes

Private language schools (the main entry), international schools (the best pay, licensed teachers), private tutoring (~\$10–15/hour, a useful supplement), and volunteer programmes; demand is highest in the main cities — find and compare in the directory.

Requirements

An accredited 120-hour TEFL is required (by schools and for the work visa), but a degree isn't mandatory; international schools want a degree, licence, and experience; fluent non-native speakers are welcomed.

Visa

Teaching legally requires an employer-sponsored work visa, and your TEFL certificate is required as part of the process (reputable schools handle it); secure the job first and let the school arrange the paperwork.

Pay & move

Modest salaries that Bolivia's very low cost of living covers comfortably (international schools pay most); private tutoring (~\$10–15/hour) supplements; many combine school hours with tutoring; no Spanish needed to teach.

YOUR TEACHING-IN-BOLIVIA JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

Explore our other 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 →

