

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Cambodia

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



Find Your Community
2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

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.

THE MOST ACCESSIBLE MARKET IN ASIA

Cambodia is **one of the most accessible teaching markets in Asia**: a **bachelor's degree isn't legally required**, the E-Class visa is available on arrival, and schools hire year-round with low entry requirements. Roles span **language centres, private and international schools, and tutoring**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, the E-Class visa, and pay**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find roles.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Cambodian rules, pay, and requirements change (enforcement has been tightening) and vary by employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Cambodian Ministry of Labour, 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 Cambodia

WHAT TO KNOW

Cambodia offers **strong, year-round demand, a low entry bar (no degree legally required), a simple visa, a very low cost of living, and warm, welcoming culture** — the most accessible way into teaching in Asia, with Angkor Wat and Southeast Asia on your doorstep.

BY THE NUMBERS

Accessible

no degree legally required

Year-round

hiring, simple visa

Very low cost

+ welcoming

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Cambodia's **accessibility and low costs** against modest pay — for a first teaching job (especially without a degree), it's among the easiest and most welcoming markets anywhere.

WATCH OUT

Cambodia is **one of the few Asian countries where a degree isn't legally required** — a TEFL certificate and native-level English are usually enough.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **private language centres** (the dominant employer — year-round, low entry, young learners to adult professionals, general or vocational English), **private and bilingual schools**, **international schools** (the best pay, usually a degree and 1-2 years' experience), **universities**, and **tutoring or online work**. Browse and compare options in **the K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language centres

dominant (year-round)

Int'l schools

best pay (experience)

Private schools / tutoring

+ universities

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a language centre to start (no degree needed), or an international school if you have a degree and experience — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

The essentials are refreshingly light: a **120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate** (ideally with a practicum) is expected by nearly all reputable schools, and **native-level English** is needed (fluent non-native speakers qualify). A **bachelor's degree is not legally required** — though it (and experience) helps for better-paid roles and is usually needed for international schools.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

120-hr (the key credential)

Degree

not legally required

Int'l schools

degree + experience

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — an **accredited 120-hour TEFL** and native-level English are the essentials; a degree isn't legally required but helps for the best-paid roles.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **TEFL certificate is the key credential** here — it matters to employers more than a degree, which isn't legally required.

Understand the Visa & Work Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

The visa process is among the region's simplest: buy an **E-Class (Ordinary) visa on arrival** (at Phnom Penh or Siem Reap airport), then **extend it without leaving the country** (typically 3, 6, or 12 months). You also need a **work permit** to earn legally. **Don't work on a tourist (T-Class) visa** — it can't be converted. Enforcement is tightening, so stay compliant.

BY THE NUMBERS

E-Class visa

on arrival (extendable)

Also

a work permit to earn

Never

work on a tourist visa

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — buy an **E-Class visa on arrival** and extend it in-country, get a **work permit** to earn legally, and never work on a tourist visa.

GOOD TO KNOW

The E-Class visa is **extendable without leaving Cambodia** — one of the simplest visa setups in the region.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Pay typically runs **~\$700–1,200/month**, and **most teachers are paid by the hour** rather than on a salary; international schools pay more. The cost of living is very low (**~\$500–700/month even in Phnom Penh**), so the salary-to-cost ratio is good — a \$1,100 salary in Siem Reap can afford as much as a higher one in Phnom Penh.

BY THE NUMBERS

Typical

~\$700–1,200/mo (often hourly)

Int'l schools

pay more

Very low cost

good salary-to-cost

HOW TO HELP

Set expectations — **~\$700–1,200/month** (usually hourly; international schools more); the very low cost of living (**~\$500–700/month**) makes it comfortable.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most roles pay **by the hour, not a monthly salary** — factor in your teaching hours when comparing offers.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Because pay is often **hourly**, check **guaranteed hours**, the **hourly rate**, and **whether prep is paid**. Ensure the employer helps with the **work permit** (not just the visa) — enforcement is tightening. Jobs often aren't advertised online, so networking and in-person visits help. Favour reputable schools and written terms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Check

hours, hourly rate, paid prep

Ensure

work-permit help

Network

many roles unlisted

HOW TO HELP

Read every offer for **guaranteed hours**, the **hourly rate**, and **work-permit support**, and network in person — many Cambodian roles aren't advertised online.

GOOD TO KNOW

Get the **work permit sorted**, not just the visa — enforcement is tightening, so stay fully compliant.



Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited 120-hour TEFL certificate (a practicum strengthens it)** — the key credential in Cambodia. A degree and experience help for better roles but aren't essential to start. Many teachers **arrive in-country and job-hunt in person** (knowing their visa rules first). Prepare a strong CV and references.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

120-hr + practicum

Degree

helpful, not essential

Many

arrive & job-hunt in person

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited 120-hour TEFL** (the key credential), and note that many teachers arrive and job-hunt in person — just know your visa rules first.

GOOD TO KNOW

Many teachers **arrive in-country and interview in person** — effective here, as long as you understand your visa rules.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

A big advantage: **language centres and private schools hire year-round**, so you can start on a flexible timeline; **international schools** recruit **ahead of the school year**. Because jobs often aren't advertised, being in-country (or ready to travel) helps you move quickly.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

year-round

Int'l schools

ahead of the school year

In-country

helps you move fast

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — language and private schools hire year-round (flexible timing), international schools ahead of the school year — and being in-country helps.

GOOD TO KNOW

Year-round hiring means **you can start almost anytime** — a rare flexibility among teaching markets.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need Khmer to teach** (classes are English-only), but **basic Khmer helps daily life**. Popular bases include **Phnom Penh (the most jobs)**, **Siem Reap (home of Angkor Wat)**, and **Battambang**. Cambodia is very affordable, warm, and welcoming, with a rich culture and easy travel across Southeast Asia.

BY THE NUMBERS

Khmer

not needed to teach

Bases

Phnom Penh, Siem Reap

Very affordable

+ welcoming

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English, but learn **basic Khmer** for daily life; Phnom Penh has the most jobs, with Siem Reap and Battambang also active and very affordable.

GOOD TO KNOW

Siem Reap pairs teaching with **Angkor Wat and a lower cost of living** — a popular alternative to Phnom Penh.

Find Your Role & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific language centres, international schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Apply widely (or arrive and job-hunt), verify each contract and work-permit support, and build toward international schools. Confirm current rules with the Cambodian authorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

centres & schools

Apply or

arrive & job-hunt

Build

toward int'l schools

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare language centres, international schools, and recruiters, apply widely or arrive to job-hunt, and verify each contract and work-permit support.

WATCH OUT

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

Teaching in Cambodia: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with the Cambodian Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and each employer.

The market

One of Asia's most accessible markets: strong, year-round demand in the booming private-education sector of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Battambang, and a rare place where a degree isn't legally required.

The routes

Private language centres (the dominant employer, year-round, young learners to adults), private and bilingual schools, international schools (best pay, usually a degree and experience), universities, and tutoring — find and compare in the directory.

Requirements

A 120-hour TEFL/TESOL certificate (ideally with a practicum) and native-level English are the essentials; a bachelor's degree is not legally required (but helps for better roles and is usually needed for international schools).

Visa

Buy an E-Class (Ordinary) visa on arrival and extend it in-country (3, 6, or 12 months), plus a work permit to earn legally; never work on a tourist visa (it can't be converted), and enforcement is tightening.

Pay & move

~\$700–1,200/month (usually hourly; international schools more); the very low cost of living (~\$500–700/month) makes it comfortable, with a good salary-to-cost ratio; no Khmer needed to teach (Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-CAMBODIA 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 →

