

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in France

A guide for aspiring teachers & educators — how teaching in France works, the routes and requirements, visas, pay, contracts, and how to find the right program.



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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.

STRONG DEMAND, WITH A GOVERNMENT ROUTE FOR NON-EU TEACHERS

France has **strong demand for English teachers** and an unmatched cultural setting, though **non-EU access is competitive**. A **government-run language-assistant program** is the main non-EU route, alongside **academies, international schools, corporate training, and tutoring**. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, visas, pay, and contracts**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find programs.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. French rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer and region. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the French Ministry of Education, French immigration/consulate, 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 France

WHAT TO KNOW

France offers **strong demand for English**, an unmatched cultural and lifestyle experience, a **government route that sponsors non-EU teachers**, and well-paid international schools — deeply rewarding, though saving is modest and non-EU access is competitive.

BY THE NUMBERS

Strong demand

+ culture

Gov't route

sponsors non-EU

Int'l schools

best pay

HOW TO HELP

Weigh France's **culture and government route** against competitive non-EU access and a high cost of living — for the experience (and a supported entry route), it's a classic choice.

WATCH OUT

Because of EU labour rules, **a government-run assistant program is the main sponsored route** for non-EU teachers — a reliable way in.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: a **government-run language-assistant program** (part-time in public schools — the main non-EU route), **private language academies** (the most common employers), **international schools** (best pay, for licensed teachers), **universities, corporate/business-English training, summer camps and kindergartens**, and **private tutoring**. Browse and compare specific options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Gov't assistant

public schools (main non-EU route)

Academies

most common

Int'l schools

best pay

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — a government assistant program for a sponsored entry, an academy for full-time TEFL work, or an international school if licensed — then find options in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Requirements vary: a **TEFL/CELTA certificate** is required (a higher-level Level 5 helps for competitive roles); a **bachelor's degree** is required for most roles (a master's for some school posts); **native or fluent English**; some **French (about B1)** helps for assistant programs and daily life; international schools require a **teaching license and experience**.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL/CELTA

required (Level 5 helps)

Degree

most roles

French

~B1 helps (assistant)

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — a **TEFL/CELTA**, a **degree**, native/fluent English, and some French (about B1) for assistant programs; international schools need a teaching license.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can teach **without a degree only in limited routes** (a language-assistant program or a summer camp, with TEFL) — most roles require one.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens work freely. For **non-EU citizens (including UK post-Brexit)**, an employer-sponsored work visa is **rare**, so the main routes are: a **government-run language-assistant program** (which sponsors a visa), a **student visa** (permitting limited part-time teaching), or the bureaucratic **freelance/auto-entrepreneur visa**. Working-holiday visas exist for some nationalities. Confirm with French immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA/Swiss

work freely

Non-EU

assistant program / student / freelance

Employer visa

rare

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — **EU citizens work freely**; non-EU teachers typically use a **government assistant program** (sponsored), a student visa, or the freelance route, since employer-sponsored work visas are rare.

WATCH OUT

For most non-EU teachers, a **government-run assistant program** is the most reliable sponsored route into France.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Pay depends on the route (gross monthly): **private language academies ~€1,200–2,000**; **public schools ~€1,700–2,500**; **international schools ~€2,500–4,000** (the highest); a **government assistant program** pays a part-time stipend (~12 hours/week). France's **cost of living is high** (especially Paris), so saving is modest, but many supplement with tutoring.

BY THE NUMBERS

Academies

~€1,200–2,000

Int'l schools

~€2,500–4,000

Assistant

part-time stipend

HOW TO HELP

Set realistic expectations — academies mid-range, **international schools highest**, assistant stipends part-time; France's high cost of living means modest saving, topped up by tutoring.

GOOD TO KNOW

Assistant-program roles are **~12 hours/week**, leaving time for tutoring or study — but the stipend alone is modest.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Contracts vary, so check: **hours (academy work can include evenings and weekends)**, **pay (gross vs net)**, **contract length**, and **visa route**. Note that a **language-assistant visa usually doesn't allow separate secondary employment**, so confirm what supplementary work is permitted. Favour written terms and clear visa-sponsorship commitments.

BY THE NUMBERS

Check

hours, gross/net pay

Assistant visa

limits secondary work

Favour

written terms

HOW TO HELP

Read every contract for **hours, gross vs net pay, and visa terms** — note assistant visas often limit secondary work — and favour written terms and clear sponsorship.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **language-assistant visa usually restricts other employment** — check exactly what supplementary work (like tutoring) is allowed.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited TEFL/CELTA certificate** (a higher-level Level 5 helps for competitive roles). Prepare your **degree and documents (apostilled/translated)**, a **background check**, and a **strong CV**, and build **some French** (helpful for assistant programs and life). Business-English and young-learner skills improve prospects.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL/CELTA

Level 5 helps

Documents

apostilled/translated

Some French

helps

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL/CELTA**, prepare apostilled documents and a background check, and build some French — business-English and young-learner skills boost prospects.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some **French (about B1)** is helpful for assistant programs and daily life, even though classes are taught in English.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

Timing matters: **government language-assistant programs** have **set application windows (often winter, months ahead)**; **international schools** hire **January–May for a September start**; and **private academies** hire most in **August–September and January**. Apply early, especially for the sponsored assistant route.

BY THE NUMBERS

Assistant programs

winter application windows

Int'l schools

Jan–May

Academies

Aug–Sept & Jan

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — assistant programs have winter deadlines, international schools hire Jan–May, academies Aug–Sept and Jan — and apply early for sponsored routes.

GOOD TO KNOW

Government assistant-program deadlines fall **months before the start date** (often over winter) — plan well ahead.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need French to teach** (classes are English-only), but **French (about B1) helps** for assistant programs, bureaucracy, and daily life. Popular bases include **Paris (the biggest market), Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux, and Aix-en-Provence**. Costs are high (especially Paris), but the cultural experience is the real draw.

BY THE NUMBERS

French

not needed to teach

Some French

helps

Bases

Paris, Lyon, Toulouse

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English, but build **some French** for assistant programs and daily life; popular bases are Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, and Bordeaux, with high costs (especially Paris).

GOOD TO KNOW

France's **cost of living is high** (especially Paris) — the draw is the cultural experience more than the savings.

Find Your Program & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific programs, language academies, and international schools in the K12 Academics directory**. Apply early (especially for sponsored assistant routes), verify each contract and visa route, and build experience toward higher-paid international-school or corporate roles. Confirm current rules with French immigration.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

programs & schools

Apply

early (sponsored routes)

Build

toward higher pay

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare programs, academies, and international schools, apply early, verify each contract and visa route, and build toward higher-paid roles.

WATCH OUT

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

Teaching in France: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with the French Ministry of Education, immigration, and each employer, and find specific options in the K12 Academics directory.

The routes

A government-run language-assistant program (part-time public schools, the main non-EU route), private language academies (most common), international schools (best pay), universities, corporate/business-English training, camps, and tutoring — find and compare specific ones in the K12 Academics directory.

Requirements

A TEFL/CELTA certificate is required (Level 5 helps); a bachelor's degree for most roles (master's for some school posts); native/fluent English; some French (~B1) helps for assistant programs; international schools require a teaching license and experience.

Visa

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens work freely; for non-EU (including UK post-Brexit), employer-sponsored work visas are rare, so the main routes are a government assistant program (sponsored), a student visa (limited part-time), or the freelance/auto-entrepreneur visa.

Pay

Gross monthly: private academies ~€1,200–2,000; public schools ~€1,700–2,500; international schools ~€2,500–4,000; government assistant programs pay a part-time stipend (~12 hrs/week); high cost of living means modest saving.

Timeline & move

Government assistant programs have winter application windows; international schools hire January–May; academies August–September and January; some French helps (Paris, Lyon, Toulouse).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-FRANCE 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 →

