

Teaching in Ireland

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

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.

A MAJOR ENGLISH- LANGUAGE DESTINATION

Ireland is native-English, but a **major destination for international students learning English**, so its main “teach English” route is **EFL/ELT at ACELS-recognised language schools**. Qualified classroom teaching (via the Teaching Council) is the other route. This program-neutral guide covers the **routes, requirements, visas, and pay**, and points you to the K12 Academics directory to find roles.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or employment advice. Irish rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with ACELS/QQI, the Teaching Council of Ireland, the Department of Enterprise (employment permits), 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 the Ireland Reality

WHAT TO KNOW

Ireland is native-English, but a **major English-language-teaching destination**: international students come to learn English, creating a real **EFL/ELT sector**. The two routes are **EFL/ELT at ACELS-recognised schools** and **qualified school teaching** (via the Teaching Council).

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

real, sizeable sector

International students

come to learn English

Or

qualified teaching

HOW TO HELP

Reframe your goal — in Ireland you can genuinely **teach English to visiting international students** (EFL/ELT) or **teach as a qualified classroom teacher** — the ELT sector is real, unlike most native-English countries.

WATCH OUT

Ireland's **ELT sector is quality-assured by ACELS** (managed by QQI), and demand is strongest in spring and summer when international learners arrive.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **EFL/ELT at ACELS-recognised language schools** (the main route — general and business English to international students), **qualified primary/post-primary teaching** (via the Teaching Council), **university English for Academic Purposes (EAP)**, **international-style schools**, and **private tutoring**. Browse and compare options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

ACELS schools (main route)

Qualified teaching

Teaching Council

University EAP

+ tutoring

HOW TO HELP

Match the **route to your profile** — EFL/ELT if you hold a degree and an ELT certificate, or qualified teaching if you're a registered teacher — then find roles in the K12 Academics directory.

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

For **EFL/ELT** in the recognised sector, you need a **Level 7 qualification (an ordinary bachelor's degree, any discipline)** and an **ACELS-recognised ELT certificate** (such as CELT, CELTA, or Trinity). For **qualified school teaching**, you need **Teaching Council registration** (recognition of your qualifications) and, usually, an Irish teaching qualification (the PME).

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

degree + ACELS-recognised cert

Qualified

Teaching Council + PME

Native/fluent

English

HOW TO HELP

Line up the right credentials — a **degree plus an ACELS-recognised ELT certificate** for EFL/ELT, or **Teaching Council registration** (and usually a PME) for classroom teaching.

GOOD TO KNOW

To teach in Ireland's **recognised ELT sector**, an **ACELS-recognised certificate is essential** — check your qualification's level via QQI/NARIC.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens work freely (a major advantage). **Non-EEA citizens** usually need an **employment permit** (such as the Critical Skills or General Employment Permit) and possibly a visa and immigration registration — and note that **language schools often won't sponsor**, so the path is narrower. Some nationalities can use a **Working Holiday Authorisation**. Confirm with the Department of Enterprise.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU/EEA/Swiss

work freely

Non-EEA

employment permit

Some

Working Holiday route

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — **EU/EEA citizens work freely**; non-EEA teachers usually need an employment permit (schools may not sponsor for EFL), or a Working Holiday Authorisation where eligible.

WATCH OUT

For non-EEA teachers, EFL **language schools often won't sponsor a permit** — so a Working Holiday Authorisation or an already-held work right is often the practical route.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

EFL/ELT roles pay roughly **€1,500–4,000/month** (varying by hours, qualifications, and season); **qualified public-school teachers** earn about **€30,000–45,000/year** and private/international schools **€35,000–50,000+**. Ireland's cost of living is high — especially housing in Dublin — so budget carefully.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

~€1,500–4,000/mo

Qualified

€30k–50k/yr

High cost

esp. Dublin housing

HOW TO HELP

Set expectations — EFL ~€1,500–4,000/month, qualified teaching €30k–50k/year; Ireland's high cost of living (especially Dublin housing) is the main budgeting challenge.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ireland's **high cost of living** — particularly **Dublin housing** — is the **key constraint**, so factor it into any salary.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

For EFL, check the school is **ACELS-recognised** and confirm **hours (often ~25/week, and seasonal), pay, and contract length** — the sector peaks in spring and summer. For non-EEA teachers, confirm the **employment-permit position** upfront. Favour written terms and reputable, quality-assured providers.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL

confirm ACELS-recognised

Hours

~25/week, seasonal

Non-EEA

confirm permit

HOW TO HELP

Read every EFL offer for **ACELS recognition, hours (often seasonal), and pay**, and — if non-EEA — confirm the employment-permit position before committing.

GOOD TO KNOW

EFL demand is **seasonal (spring and summer peaks)**, so many roles are fixed-term — confirm the contract length.



STEP 07 OF 10

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

For EFL/ELT, earn an **ACELS-recognised ELT certificate** (CELT, CELTA, or Trinity) and have your **degree ready**. For classroom teaching, begin **Teaching Council registration** and, if needed, a PME. Prepare your **documents, references, and background checks**, and check qualification levels via QQI/NARIC.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

ACELS-recognised cert

Qualified

Teaching Council registration

Check

QQI/NARIC comparability

HOW TO HELP

Get an **ACELS-recognised ELT certificate** (plus a degree) for EFL, or begin **Teaching Council registration** for classroom teaching, and check qualification levels via QQI/NARIC.

GOOD TO KNOW

Confirm your qualification's level via **QQI/NARIC** before applying to the recognised ELT sector or the Teaching Council.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

EFL/ELT demand peaks in **spring and summer** (when international learners arrive) and again in **September**; **qualified school teaching** recruits mainly for a **September start**. Non-EEA teachers should sort work authorisation early. Apply ahead of the summer peak for EFL roles.

BY THE NUMBERS

EFL/ELT

spring/summer + Sept

Qualified

September start

Non-EEA

sort permit early

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — EFL peaks in spring/summer (and September), qualified teaching recruits for September — and non-EEA teachers should sort work authorisation early.

GOOD TO KNOW

EFL demand is **strongest in spring and summer** as international students arrive — apply ahead of the peak.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

As an English-speaking country, there's **no language barrier** (Irish/Gaeilge is official but English is the working language). Most EFL work is in **Dublin**, with Cork, Galway, and Limerick also active. Budget carefully for **housing, which is expensive and in short supply, especially in Dublin**.

BY THE NUMBERS

No language barrier

English-speaking

EFL hub

Dublin (+ Cork, Galway)

Budget

housing (tight in Dublin)

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — no language barrier; most EFL work is in Dublin (with Cork, Galway, and Limerick), and housing is the main challenge — especially in Dublin.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dublin dominates the EFL market but has **expensive, tight housing** — secure accommodation early, or consider Cork or Galway.

Find Your Role & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific ACELS-recognised language schools, international schools, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Verify each role's recognition and (for non-EEA) the permit position, apply ahead of the summer peak, and build toward year-round or qualified roles. Confirm current rules with ACELS/QQI and the Department of Enterprise.

BY THE NUMBERS

Find & compare

schools & recruiters

Verify

recognition & permit

Build

toward year-round roles

HOW TO HELP

Use **the K12 Academics directory** to find and compare ACELS-recognised schools and recruiters, verify recognition and the permit position, and build toward year-round or qualified roles.

WATCH OUT

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

Teaching in Ireland: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with ACELS/QQI, the Teaching Council, and each employer.

The routes

EFL/ELT at ACELS-recognised language schools (the main route, general and business English to international students), qualified primary/post-primary teaching (via the Teaching Council), university EAP, and tutoring — find and compare specific ones in the K12 Academics directory.

Requirements

EFL/ELT in the recognised sector needs a Level 7 degree plus an ACELS-recognised ELT certificate (CELTA, CELTA, or Trinity); qualified school teaching needs Teaching Council registration and, usually, a PME.

Visa

EU/EEA/Swiss citizens work freely; non-EEA teachers usually need an employment permit (Critical Skills or General), and language schools often won't sponsor; some nationalities can use a Working Holiday Authorisation.

Pay

EFL/ELT roles ~€1,500–4,000/month; qualified public-school teachers ~€30,000–45,000/year, private/international €35,000–50,000+; high cost of living (Dublin housing).

Timeline & move

EFL/ELT peaks in spring and summer (and September); qualified teaching recruits for September; no language barrier; most EFL work is in Dublin (with Cork, Galway, Limerick); budget for tight, costly housing.

YOUR TEACHING-IN-IRELAND 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 →

