

K12 ACADEMICS — TEACHING ABROAD SERIES

Teaching in Senegal

A guide for aspiring & qualified teachers — how teaching in Senegal works, the routes and requirements, visas, 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.

A FRENCH-SPEAKING MARKET WITH RISING ENGLISH DEMAND

Senegal is a **French-speaking** West African country with **rising demand for English** as it pursues trilingual education. The English market is smaller (a few language schools, international schools, and volunteering), centred on Dakar. 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. Rules, pay, and requirements change and vary by employer. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with Senegal'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 Senegal

WHAT TO KNOW

Senegal offers **rising demand for English (a trilingual push)**, a **stable and welcoming culture**, an **affordable cost of living**, and a **vibrant coastal capital** — a smaller, French-speaking market with real, growing opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Rising

English demand

French

official

Vibrant

coastal capital

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Senegal's **rising English demand and culture** against a smaller, French-dominant market — for something off the trail with growth, it's worth a look.

WATCH OUT

Demand for English is **rising** as Senegal pursues a **trilingual** vision — a growing, if smaller, market.

Understand the Types of Teaching Roles

WHAT TO KNOW

Route types include: **private language schools and academies** (the main entry), **international schools** (the best pay, for licensed teachers), **elementary and secondary schools**, and **volunteering**. Most roles are in **Dakar**. Browse and compare options in the **K12 Academics directory**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Language schools

main entry

Int'l schools

best pay (licensed)

Volunteering

+ schools

HOW TO HELP

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

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Check the Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Private schools often want a **TEFL and around two years' experience**; **volunteers** may not need a TEFL. **International schools** require a **degree, licence, and experience**. Native or near-native English is favoured, but **fluent non-native speakers can find work**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Private schools

TEFL + ~2 yrs

Volunteers

TEFL not required

Int'l schools

degree + licence

HOW TO HELP

Line up your credentials — a **TEFL and around two years' experience** for private schools (volunteers need less), and a degree, licence, and experience for international schools.

GOOD TO KNOW

Volunteer roles are the **most accessible** — they may not require a TEFL, unlike private schools.

Understand the Visa & Work Authorization

WHAT TO KNOW

Teaching legally requires an **employer-sponsored work visa**, arranged by your school or programme with your documents; **volunteer programmes** typically arrange the appropriate permits. Secure a role first, and confirm current rules with Senegal's immigration authorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work visa

employer-sponsored

Volunteer

permits arranged

Secure

a role first

HOW TO HELP

Know your route — an employer or programme sponsors your **work visa** with your documents; secure a role first.

GOOD TO KNOW

Reputable schools and **organized volunteer programmes** arrange the permits — a help for newcomers.

Know the Pay & Benefits

WHAT TO KNOW

Salaries are **modest**, with **international schools paying the most**; language-school pay is more basic, and **volunteer roles** offer board rather than a salary. The **affordable cost of living** means paid work covers expenses, though substantial saving is unlikely.

BY THE NUMBERS

Salaries

modest

Int'l schools

pay the most

Affordable

covers expenses

HOW TO HELP

Set expectations — modest pay (international schools most; volunteer roles offer board); the affordable cost of living covers expenses.

GOOD TO KNOW

The affordable cost of living means paid work **covers expenses comfortably**, though substantial saving is unlikely.

Understand Contracts & What to Watch For

WHAT TO KNOW

Clarify whether a role is **paid or volunteer (board only)**, and check **hours, pay, and permit support**. International schools offer the fullest packages. Favour reputable schools and established programmes, and confirm terms in writing.

BY THE NUMBERS

Clarify

paid vs volunteer

Int'l schools

fullest packages

Favour

established programmes

HOW TO HELP

Read every offer for **whether it's paid or volunteer, hours, and permit support**, and favour reputable schools and established programmes.

GOOD TO KNOW

For private-school work, note the **TEFL and experience** expectation; for volunteering, favour established programmes.

Get Qualified & Prepared

WHAT TO KNOW

Earn an **accredited TEFL** and (for private schools) build **experience**; a **degree and licence** open international schools. Some **French** is very useful in daily life and helps you settle. Prepare your documents, and decide between **paid work and a volunteer placement**.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEFL

+ experience (private schools)

Degree + licence

for int'l schools

French

very useful

HOW TO HELP

Get an **accredited TEFL** and experience for private schools (a degree and licence for international schools), and note that some French is very useful.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some **French** is very useful for daily life and settling in — Senegal's official language.

Plan the Hiring Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

International and private schools recruit **ahead of the school year**; **language centres, NGOs, and volunteer programmes** hire more **year-round**. Because much hiring is local or programme-based, reaching out directly helps. Allow time for the work permit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Int'l schools

ahead of the year

Language/volunteer

year-round

Reach out

directly

HOW TO HELP

Plan around the calendar — international and private schools recruit ahead of the year, language centres and programmes year-round — and reach out directly.

GOOD TO KNOW

Much hiring is **local or programme-based** — reach out to schools and programmes directly.

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

You **don't need French to teach** (classes are English-only), but it **helps enormously in daily life**. Most roles are in **Dakar**, a vibrant coastal capital famous for its music and culture. Senegal is stable, welcoming, and affordable, with beaches and a rich Sahelian heritage.

BY THE NUMBERS

French

helps enormously

Base

Dakar

Vibrant

& affordable

HOW TO HELP

Prepare practically — teach in English (French helps enormously in daily life); most roles are in Dakar, a vibrant, affordable coastal capital.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dakar is a **vibrant coastal capital** — famous music, rich culture, and beaches, at an affordable cost of living.

Find Your Role & Thrive

WHAT TO KNOW

Once you know your route, **find and compare specific schools, language centres, and recruiters in the K12 Academics directory**. Reach out directly, verify each contract and work-permit sponsorship, and build toward international schools. Confirm current rules with the local 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 schools, language centres, and recruiters, reach out directly, verify each contract and work-permit 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 Senegal: The Essentials

A snapshot — program-neutral. Confirm details with Senegal's immigration authorities and each employer.

The market

A French-speaking West African country with rising demand for English (a trilingual push); the English market is smaller but real — language schools, international schools, elementary/secondary schools, and volunteering, concentrated in Dakar.

The routes

Private language schools and academies (the main entry), international schools (the best pay, for licensed teachers), elementary and secondary schools, and volunteering — find and compare in the directory.

Requirements

Private schools often want a TEFL and around two years' experience; volunteers may not need a TEFL; international schools require a degree, licence, and experience; native or near-native English is favoured, but fluent non-native speakers can find work.

Visa

Teaching legally requires an employer-sponsored work visa, arranged by your school or programme; volunteer programmes typically arrange the appropriate permits; secure a role first.

Pay & move

Modest (international schools most; volunteer roles offer board rather than a salary); the affordable cost of living covers expenses; French helps enormously in daily life (Dakar).

YOUR TEACHING-IN-SENEGAL 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 →

