TEACHING ENGLISH OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.
How to Use This Guide

This guide offers a starting point for students interested in exploring options to teach English outside the United States. This guide is best used as a compliment to each individual’s ongoing research tailored to his or her specific needs and parameters.

Clarify Your Search

English schools and programs exist throughout the world and greatly vary. Before searching online for potential programs, clarify what intentions and parameters you bring to your teaching job search. These questions will help you narrow the scope of your search and assist in preparing strong applications.

- **What teaching experience do you have?**
The CDC recommends that candidates gain experience tutoring and teaching prior to applying to full-time positions to teach English outside the United States. Visit MC2 for job and internship opportunities. The Civic Engagement Center can also assist students in connecting to volunteer teaching and tutoring positions.

- **Why do you want to teach English outside the United States?**
Individual goals for teaching abroad vary. Some people want to teach to fund their travel, some want a specific means to work in a specific country, whereas others hope to develop their own foreign language proficiency while teaching English.

- **Who do you want to teach?**
Programs offer opportunities to teach across the lifespan. Do you want to teach young kids, high school students, college students, or adults?

- **What environment do you want to teach in?**
Do you want to teach in a state-sponsored school? A privately owned school? A school with few other English teachers? Or a community of teachers?

- **What environment do you want to live in?**
Programs range from highly dense, urban areas to very rural settings.

- **What geographic region are you most interested in teaching? Why?**
Searching for teaching programs anywhere in the world invariably leads to an overwhelming process. Begin by prioritizing geographic regions and interests.

- **What are your financial and living parameters?**
Students should identify financial obligations they will have while living outside the United States, and desired monthly income from teaching. Common obligations include but are not limited to medical insurance, student loans, travel, rent, medical considerations, and savings for emergency/contingency plans.

- **How can you connect this teaching experience to future potential plans?**
Some candidates wish to use teaching as a gap experience before applying to graduate school. Depending on schedule and preferences, some teachers also volunteer, work in another capacity, or do conduct research to strengthen graduate school applications.
Teaching Certifications

There are several different types of teaching certifications available. Being certified is not required for teaching positions, but it is helpful and can improve the chances of obtaining work. The most common types of certification are TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language), CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), and they all function in similar ways. CELTA is more common in the UK, and TEFL/TESOL are more common in the US, but all are recognized and available worldwide.

There are different ways of obtaining TEFL/TESOL/CELTA certification, and a large range of price and length of commitment. Generally speaking, programs will include coursework as well as a certain number of hours of classroom experience. Courses can also occur online. At the end of the successful program completion, certification is given.

Resources:
TEFL/TESOL:
http://esl.about.com/od/eslteachertraining/g/tefl.htm
http://internationalcenter.umich.edu/swt/work/teach/teaching-english-abroad/where-to-start.html

CELTA info:

Teaching With and Without Certifications

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pros Of Teaching with Certification</th>
<th>Cons of Teaching with Certification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can offer teaching placement, greater flexibility of teaching options</td>
<td>Certification can be expensive, takes additional time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates obtain more knowledge of teaching, which can make the process of going abroad to teach more comfortable</td>
<td>Some TEFL/TESOL programs are not as well regarded as others -- it is important to beware of program reputation and research scams</td>
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Program Types

There are two distinct types of programs through which people can teach English abroad: via government-sponsored programs or via recruitment agencies.

*Please note: Due to the dynamic nature of teaching programs and offerings, this guide offers examples of programs but does not offer a comprehensive list of programs. Macalester’s Career Development Center also does not endorse specific programs.*
Government-Sponsored Programs

Overview: Teaching programs sponsored by the government of a country, sometimes in conjunction with the U.S. government. Because they are government institutions, they are well-funded, and often aimed at recent college graduates. Often programs are very competitive, although this is dependent on the country and how well-known the program is.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no fees</td>
<td>more competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>easy to verify legitimacy of organization</td>
<td>less choice regarding in-country location/school</td>
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<tr>
<td>paid positions</td>
<td>less flexibility on length of commitment</td>
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Requirements: Usually no prior experience or TEFL certification is required. Most programs will require you to be a native speaker of English.

Eligibility: Depending on the program or country there may be citizenship requirements or restrictions (i.e. for the French Teaching Assistantship program, dual citizens of France and the U.S. are not eligible). Some programs may have age restrictions, although most are aimed at recent graduates.

Example Programs:


Teach and Learn with Georgia: [http://www.tlg.gov.ge/](http://www.tlg.gov.ge/)


Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program: [http://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-components/eta](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-components/eta)


German Teaching Assistantship: [http://www.fulbright.de/togermany/grants/ta/](http://www.fulbright.de/togermany/grants/ta/)

Recruitment Agencies/Placement Organizations

Overview: A recruitment agency is an organization that connects teachers to in-country schools. Recruitment agencies can run the gamut from legitimate and well-established, to legitimate but unhelpful, to money-stealing scams. You should never pay for a recruitment agency unless it is to pay for TOEFL training and certification -- they are hired by schools to find teachers, and it is the schools who will pay them, not you.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tr>
<td>More flexibility regarding placement/location</td>
<td>Contracts must be negotiated individually with school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positions often offer benefits</td>
<td>Research scams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary can be higher (depending on country)</td>
<td>Have to navigate and figure out paperwork (i.e. visas, tickets) on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>More independence regarding curriculum/teaching methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possibility of travelling away on weekends/vacations (depending on host country)</td>
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Requirements: Depending on the country or the program, some will require or highly recommend TEFL certification and/or prior experience.

Eligibility: As long as requirements are met, most everyone is eligible.

Example Organizations:

**Reach to Teach:**
*Reach to Teach* is a recruitment organization that has overwhelmingly positive reviews on teaching sites and forums. They offer positions teaching in Taiwan, China, South Korea, Georgia, Chile, the United Arab Emirates, and Thailand (with a stronger focus on Asia). They are a free service for teachers. Various levels of experience required depending on the country. For Georgia and South Korea, no certification or experience is required (although minimal experience is always recommended). The website is helpful, and has both general and country specific information: [http://www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com/](http://www.reachtoteachrecruiting.com/)
**Adventure Teaching:**

*Adventure Teaching* is a recruitment agency that is focused solely on South Korea. They are free for the teacher to use, and have a majority of good reviews on teaching sites. No certification is required. [http://www.adventureteaching.com/](http://www.adventureteaching.com/) They place students in schools and contracts generally cover airfare and housing.

**Oxford Seminars:**

Oxford Seminars offers both TESL/TEFL/TESOL certification and in-country placement. Although there is a fee, this fee covers all of your certification and training, and they offer job placement help as well in a variety of countries.  

**Advice on identifying programs:**

You should never pay for a program unless it is to pay for TEFL certification (and even then, do your research and check what kind of TEFL certification you are getting -- in classroom experience? how well known is the program? how many hours?).

**Additional Resources:**

**MC2**  
Visit Macalester’s Career Connection to see current postings to teach outside the United States  
[http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/](http://www.macalester.edu/cdc/)

**University of Michigan’s International Center’s Teaching Abroad info**  
Comprehensive information on teaching with and without certification.  

**Dave’s ESL CAFE:**  
Renown site for comprehensive teacher prep reviews, job postings and teaching resources.  

**Spotlight on Careers**  
Explore this career resource for liberal arts students with particular info for teaching overseas.  
Next Steps:

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<td>• Prepare for Interviewing</td>
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Networking & Professional Identity:
• Tools to access Mac alumni
• Social media inventory
• LinkedIn profile review

Complimentary CDC Guides
• Resume & C.V. Guide
• Writing Professional Letters
• Job Search Skills
• Talking about your Skills Workbook

Guides available for download [Macalester.edu/cdc/guides](http://Macalester.edu/cdc/guides)

**Need help? Questions?**
• Scheduled 30- or 60-min. appointments
• 15-min Drop-in Appointments: M-F: 2-4pm
• Appointments also via phone, email & Skype

**Connect with the CDC!**

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