

One Step at a Time: How to Have a Successful Working Experience Abroad

Step 1: Reflect on why you're seeking a teaching opportunity abroad

- Why do you want to work abroad?
- What type of teaching opportunities are you seeking?
- What skills do you already have that will assist you in your teaching efforts?
- What skills are you seeking to gain through your teaching efforts?
- How might this experience contribute to your education/career/life?
- Use the Career Center's [Education](#) and [Working Abroad](#) pages to explore your options, as well as [TESOL's Career Center](#).

Step 2: Research teaching opportunities

- Decide on the country or countries in which you would like to teach and assess each teaching position critically.
- *I highly recommend using <https://www.tefl.org/teach-english-abroad/> to inform your research*
- Important Considerations:

Finances

- Prepare a budget that accounts for the expenses of the job you select- travel costs, living expenses, touring time outside the position, etc.
- What does the position pay?
- What will airfare/travel cost?
- What are visa costs? Any required/recommended immunizations?
- What would be your living situation? Will you be living in a city or rural community? How will you get from your home to work?

Personal Safety

- How safe is the area in which you will live?
- Do other folks from your nationality work/live in the same area?
- Will your job responsibilities put your health or safety at risk?
- Safety and accessibility are also important factors. [If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community](#), you want to ensure that the job you have is somewhere where you can feel safe and legally protected. If you have a disability, also, it's crucial to find work that has [accessibility legislation in place](#) and suits you. (TEFL.org)
- Safety: It's important [to follow the news](#) in the country you're thinking of moving to. Your safety is paramount – consider any conflicts, political upheaval, medical concerns, acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community and of people with accessibility needs. (TEFL.org)
- Register with the US Embassy and find out more safety information at www.travel.state.gov.

- For more information, you can browse the [US Department of State's Travel Advisories](#). Keep in mind, the information on this page is from a federal perspective.

Job Responsibilities

- What will you be responsible for? Is this clearly defined?
- Are the expectations reasonable for someone with your skills and level of education?
- To whom will you report?
- How many days of the week and hours of the day will you work?
- What is the work culture?

Cultural Experience

- Does the amount of cultural immersion you will have meet your expectations?
- Is it necessary to speak a language other than English?
- Do you have sufficient linguistic and pedagogical knowledge to teach? (Being a native speaker of English is not enough to teach English!)

Other Questions to Consider

- Take note of the job's mission and purpose- does this align with your personal values? Are you comfortable promoting this school/business/institution?
- From what aspects of the job will you benefit the most? What is it about this job that appeals to you?

Step 3: Access internal and external resources

- Check with [Global Education](#) to see if there are students at CC who have traveled to the country or may be from there and want to share their experiences, or with [the Career Center](#) to see if there are any known alumni who have worked in that country/city.
- Consult with the [Office of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse \(CLD\) Education](#) to learn more about opportunities
- Research applicable coursework, jobs, or volunteer opportunities at CC that may improve your readiness
- Consider a TEFL/CELTA certification program, if necessary

Step 4: Choose a teaching position

- Apply to the job
- When accepted, review any contract(s) before signing
- Register with the US Embassy

Step 5: Teach!

- Teach abroad and have a great time!
- Keep a journal to reflect on your experiences and draw from after your experience has ended