

# How to...

Be a Tefl teacher

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First, get yourself qualified.

Some teaching agencies will accept English teachers who have no formal Tefl qualification, but if you want to be taken seriously as a teacher, and broaden your scope of teaching possibilities, the experts recommended you put yourself through a recognised course.

The University of Cambridge English for Speakers of Other Languages (Esol) and Trinity College are the two main exam providers in the profession and their range of qualifications are recognised in language schools and centres worldwide.

For new entrants to the profession, a Cambridge Esol certificate in English language teaching to adults (Celta) or a Trinity certificate in teaching English as a foreign language to speakers of other languages (TESOL) are good starting points.

Both courses can be studied at centres across the globe. The Celta, for example, can be taken at 280 centres in 54 countries. You will find lists of language schools on the Cambridge website. The average price for a course in the UK is £8/900; the price falls about £300 in parts of Europe and Africa.

You will be expected to have at least two A-levels, and possibly a degree to study either course, which include written assignments and practical teaching sessions. These initial qualifications are considered quite intensive. Both are usually taken full-time for four weeks, although some students opt to study them part-time for anything up to a year.

It is important the qualification you choose is recognised worldwide. Before signing up check the course is externally validated by a recognised exam board, that it's 100 hours or more in length and that it has supervised and assessed teaching practice.

Cactus Teachers is an admissions service for internationally recognised teaching qualifications and has a wealth of advice on selecting the appropriate course, so it may be worth having a look at its website.

Once you have the basic qualification under your belt you can then go on to take a Cambridge/RSA diploma in ELT (DELTA) or Trinity College diploma in TESOL.

## **Find a job**

With the world at your feet, now's the time to think about which country you would like to work in - at least to begin with. Jobs can be found in most countries, but obviously salaries and conditions will vary accordingly. To get a flavour of working abroad, read teachers' accounts in our Life in a Day section on this site.

You can search for jobs on this site or look in the Guardian Weekly newspaper's monthly Learning English section. The British Council also advertises jobs online at its language schools, or you can find them in the English Language Gazette.

Saxoncourt recruitment consultancy and Cactus Teachers are also good places to look for work and advice on teaching abroad.

Each year, thousands of overseas students head to the UK to learn English, so you don't have to head to foreign climes to teach. Check out ELFTeachingJobs.com website for UK jobs, particularly over the summer months.