

## **ESL CERTIFICATIONS & TEACHING ABROAD**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Teaching English as a second language (TESL) jobs abroad are still plentiful in certain parts of the world if you are a native English speaker and hold a Bachelors degree in any subject. More and more, programs abroad are seeking candidates who have experience and/or a certificate in TESL. Certificate programs are typically 4-6 weeks in duration. There are many reputable certificate programs available through traditional classroom settings as well as online distance learning. Those with a Master's degree in TESL, available through a one or two-year program at many universities, can teach just about anywhere in the world. Master's degrees are required to teach ESL in community colleges in the States.

### **ADVANTAGES OF CERTIFICATION**

There are several key advantages for becoming a certified TESL teacher for overseas positions. You will be:

- Better prepared to help students learn English by gaining knowledge of English grammar and understanding issues of second language acquisition.
- More confident in your ability to teach---learn to set objectives and create teaching materials.
- More marketable and land better ESL job opportunities. A Bachelor's degree plus TESL certification is becoming standard in some parts of the world, such as Europe.

### **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM RESOURCES**

As of now, there are no standards for accreditation for certificate programs. Some certificate programs are recognized worldwide such as CELTA and some programs are affiliated with a university or college. Listed below are a few reputable programs:

#### **School of Teaching ESL-affiliated with Seattle University**

9620 Stone Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98103  
(206) 781-8607  
Certs & M.A.  
[www.schooloftesl.com](http://www.schooloftesl.com)

#### **Washington Academy of Languages**

2 Nickerson St., Suite 201  
Seattle, WA 98109  
(206) 682-4463  
[www.wal.org](http://www.wal.org)

**Cambridge CELTA Programs** exist all over the world and are affiliated with Cambridge University, England. Here are a few in the United States:

(The certificate is often preceded by RSA, Royal Society of Arts, and is another reference to it.)

**St. Giles International San Francisco**

785 Market Street, Suite 300

San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 718-3552

[www.stgiles-usa.com/](http://www.stgiles-usa.com/)

**International House, Portland**

200 SW Market Street, Suite 111

Portland, OR 97201

(503) 224-1960

**School for International Training**

Kipling Road, P.O. Box 676

Brattleboro, VT 05032-0676

(800) 257-7751

[www.worldlearning.org](http://www.worldlearning.org)

**Master's Programs in WA State**

Seattle Pacific University

3307 3<sup>RD</sup> Ave West

Seattle, WA 98119

(206) 281-2000

[www.spu.edu](http://www.spu.edu)

Seattle University

901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

PO Box 222000

Seattle, WA 98122

(206) 296-6000

[www.seattleu.edu](http://www.seattleu.edu)

Gonzaga University

502 East Boone

Spokane, WA 99258

(800) 986-9585

[www.gonzaga.edu/](http://www.gonzaga.edu/)

Central Washington University

400 East University Way

Ellensburg, WA 98926-7643

(509) 963-1111

[www.cwu.edu](http://www.cwu.edu)

## FINDING A TEACHING JOB OVERSEAS

Please see the excellent websites listed below for job seekers who wish to teach ESL abroad. One way to find an overseas teaching position is to apply through a US- based organization. Or another strategy is to write directly to overseas language schools. Sometimes they want to interview you in person so it may be difficult to land a job while here in the States. A third strategy is to become certified through a recognized TESL program and receive help with job placement from that school or organization.

## INTERNET TESL RESOURCES

**Cambridge CELTA** (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults)

This website includes job search information and resume tips.

[www.english-international.com/CELTA.html](http://www.english-international.com/CELTA.html)

**Dave's ESL Café** is a wonderful resource of job postings and resources for teachers.

[www.eslcafe.com](http://www.eslcafe.com)

**Transitions Abroad** is a comprehensive website with job postings and discussion forums.

[www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

**Work Abroad ESL** is a source for ESL jobs and news.

[www.workabroadesl.com](http://www.workabroadesl.com)

**Escape Artist** focuses on living abroad and also features job postings.

[www.escapeartist.com](http://www.escapeartist.com)

**TESOL** (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Placement Bulletin. If you join as a student you get a discounted membership, [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org).

**WAESOL** (Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages) is the Washington State affiliate to TESOL. [www.waesol.org](http://www.waesol.org).

### Additional Sites:

USC Resources [www.usc.edu/academe/faculty/learning/usc\\_resources.html](http://www.usc.edu/academe/faculty/learning/usc_resources.html)

Crossroads Europe [www.crossroadseurope.com](http://www.crossroadseurope.com)

Friends of World Teaching [www.fowt.com](http://www.fowt.com)

Fulbright Teaching Assistantships [www.iie.org/fulbright](http://www.iie.org/fulbright)

Global Routes: Teaching Internships [www.globalroutes.org](http://www.globalroutes.org)

ISS Directory of Overseas Schools [www.iss.edu](http://www.iss.edu)

Japan Exchange Teaching Program (JET) [www.jet.org](http://www.jet.org)

Mobility International, USA [www.miusa.org](http://www.miusa.org)

O-Hayo Sensei: Teaching Jobs in Japan Newsletter [www.ohayosensei.com](http://www.ohayosensei.com)

Peace Corps. [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

TeachAbroad.com [www.teachabroad.com/search.cfm](http://www.teachabroad.com/search.cfm)  
Teaching English as a Foreign Language Cert. [www.itc-training.com](http://www.itc-training.com)  
U.S Dept. of State <http://www.state.gov/>  
UN International Year of the Volunteer [www.iyv2001.org](http://www.iyv2001.org)  
UNI Overseas Placement Services [www.uni.edu/placement/overseas](http://www.uni.edu/placement/overseas)  
Volunteer International [www.volunteerinternational.com](http://www.volunteerinternational.com)  
Volunteers in Asia [www.volasia.org](http://www.volasia.org)  
World Teach Volunteer Programs [www.worldteach.org](http://www.worldteach.org)  
X-Cultural Solutions: Volunteer to Teach Abroad [www.crossculturalsolutions.org](http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org)  
WWU China Teachers Program <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~ctp/main.html>  
Bretheren Colleges Abroad: Internships [www.bcanet.org](http://www.bcanet.org)  
Work Abroad Search Engine [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

### **EVERGREEN AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES**

Check with faculty who teach culture and languages of the countries you are most interested in applying to. They may have some resources regarding job leads or language schools and additional tips about living in that country. The Career Development Resource Library also contains some books and articles about teaching jobs overseas. Come visit us in L2151 for help with your resume too!

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Career Development Center  
The Evergreen State College  
Phone: 360-867-6193  
Email: [careerdevelopment@evergreen.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@evergreen.edu)