



## TEFL Jobs in Greece



### Country overview

The following section provides useful, practical information about your destination country. It includes heaps of information about the local cuisine, cultural taboos and travel safety, so that you can make the most of your overseas teaching experience.

### Basics

The cradle of Western thought, literature, art, architecture and democracy, Greece gave birth to such treasures as Homer's The Iliad, Sophocles' Oedipus the King, the teachings of Plato and Socrates, the Parthenon, the Delphic Oracle, the Olympics and yes, even a recent Eurovision song contest winner.

Having exported chaos, drama, tragedy and democracy before most nations were staying up late enough to want souvlaki, Greece boasts an unrivalled legacy. But don't expect a visit there to be a sober study of the ancient world - the Greek propensity for partying dates back to Dionysos.

From sometimes smoggy Athens to blindingly bright islands, ancient fragments abound - the navel of the cosmos at Delphi, fallen columns galore on the sacred island of Delos, frescoed Minoan palaces on Crete and even - as some might believe - the remnants of Atlantis at Santorini.

### Food and Drink

You'll find that menu's in Greece are filled with familiar dishes (though the language barrier can distract from this at first). Salads, olives and feta cheese are clear favourites with tourists but don't let your love of the familiar distract you from all the tasty flavours that can be found here!

Appetizers (mezédhes) are eaten at any time of the day. They are usually served family style and may be hot or cold. Some of the most popular include dolmáldes (grape leaves stuffed with rice, currants and pine nuts), melitzanosalata (grilled eggplant and herb puree), taramosaláta (fish roe and potato puree), spanokopita (flaky pastries stuffed with spinach and feta cheese) and tzadziki

(dip made from yogurt, cucumber, garlic and mint). Also served as appetizers are plates of kalamaria (deep fried squid) and oktopodi (marinated octopus). The typical Greek salad (choriátiki) is a mix of cucumbers, red onions, tomatoes, olives, feta cheese and olive oil sometimes dressed with capers and lemon. Bread (psomi) will be served with most dishes.

Yogurt is very popular in Greece and it is quite delicious, even taking the place of dessert. As the yogurt is made it is hung in cheesecloth to drain off excess moisture. The result is a very firm creamy consistency - so much so that you may confuse bowls of it on a breakfast buffet to be cream cheese or whipped cream. It is often topped with dark honey, fruit or nuts. There are "milk shops" like ice cream shops which serve it to be eaten there or taken home.

Fish (psári) or any other seafood is a staple of the Greek diet. The fisherman is revered, and it is a valued profession. In many restaurants the fish will be on display on ice or in a glass case so that you can choose which one you'd like. The most popular fish are barbouni (red mullet) or ksifias (swordfish). The price is determined by the weight of the fish. For smaller portions and budgets, enjoy a fish appetizer dishes such as marídhēs (pan fried smelt).

Lamb (arní) is the most common meat in Greece and you will find it grilled, roasted or cooked on a spit. Souvláki (Shish kebab) is often pork but may also be beef, chicken or lamb, and is very popular. Try keftédes a savory fried meatball or the traditional meat dish called kléftiko. It is a meal of goat meat baked in foil with potatoes and vegetables and baked.

### **Transportation**

During the past few decades the transportation network of the country was modernised and impressively upgraded and, as a result, Greece today has an integrated public transport network allows for fast and safe travel across the country. Constant improvements are being made, so travel in Greece becomes easier year by year.

The operation of the Rio-Andirrio Bridge (connecting the western Peloponnese with western Central Greece), the longest cable-stayed suspension bridge in Europe, is of great importance for the improvement of road transportation in Greece. Parts of the closed motorway of "Egnatia Odos" in Northern Greece (total length 680 km) are still under construction, while interventions for the development of PATHE - the central road axis connecting the cities of Patras, Athens, and Thessalonica - are extremely important.

The airports of the country were radically modernised, and so was the railroad network, where existing lines were upgraded, new ones created and highly modern and fast-rolling stock was introduced.

### **People**

By far the greatest numbers of people in Greece are ethnic Greeks, but there is growing migrant foreign population with thriving communities from Albania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania. Many recently arrived African migrants are also visible in larger Greek towns and cities. North-eastern Greece is home to a sizeable Turkish-speaking Muslim community and smaller Slav-speaking communities along the borders with Bulgaria and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### **Religion**

According to the constitution of Greece, the religion of the country is Greek Orthodox. The majority of Greek citizens (98%) are baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and most of them celebrate at least the main religious feasts, especially Pascha (Greek Orthodox Easter).

### **Climate**

Greece is perfect for those who enjoy the sun, as for over two thirds of the year the country basks under clear, sunny skies. Temperatures do vary, however. Winters are mild and rainy, with temperatures sometimes dropping to freezing point, especially in the north. Summers are long and dry, with extremes of 37°C (99°F), making the yearly mean temperature about 17°C (63°F). For those not overly fond of the heat, the mountainous areas offer some respite as they receive more rain in summer, and even snow in winter.

Rainfall figures vary, depending on the region. Thessaly is very dry, receiving around 38mm (1.5in). Portions of the western coast paint a different picture, however, receiving about 1,270mm (50in) of rain.

### **Travel Safety**

Bar scams continue to be an unfortunate fact of life in Athens, particularly in the Syntagma area. The basic scam is always some variation on the following theme: solo male traveller is lured into bar on some pretext (not always sex); strikes up conversation with friendly locals; charming girls appear and ask for what turn out to be ludicrously overpriced drinks; traveller is eventually handed an enormous bill. Fortunately, this practice appears confined to Athens at this stage.

Crime, especially theft, is low in Greece, but unfortunately it is on the increase. The worst area is around Omonia in central Athens - keep track of your valuables here, especially on the metro and at the Sunday flea market.

The vast majority of thefts from tourists are still committed by other tourists; the biggest danger of theft is probably in dormitory rooms in hostels and at camping grounds. Make sure you do not leave valuables unattended in such places. If you are staying in a hotel room and the windows and door do not lock securely, ask for your valuables to be locked in the hotel safe - hotel proprietors are happy to do this.

### **Local Health Conditions**

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 6 months of age coming from infected areas.

### **What you can expect in Greece**

- Salary: up to \$950(USD) / £480 / €720 / CAD\$1,095 / AUD\$1210 / NZD\$1380 per month, net of National Insurance, based on a 25 hour week. You will also receive a bonus of approximately one third of one month's salary at Christmas and Easter.
- Accommodation: During your orientation and practical training, self-catering accommodation will be arranged for you. This will cost €25 per night (for your first 3 nights). After this, the majority of teachers will transfer straight to their school where accommodation will be provided - in some cases this will be free (excluding bills), in others you will pay rent of approximately €200 per month. Occasionally there is the opportunity to spend up to 3 weeks in Greece between the orientation and starting work. In this case, accommodation in a dorm in a budget hostel should cost approximately €25 per night.

With shared accommodation-is it always with other teachers, and if so how many teachers in the house, also age group?

Most of the accommodation is not shared. When it is shared, it's usually an apartment shared by two teachers, normally in their early- to mid-twenties.

- Arrival: You will be met at Athens airport and transferred to your accommodation in Corinth. The following day you will start your 2 day orientation which will include practical teaching tips. On completing your orientation you will be taken to the airport, train or bus station where you will take public transportation to the town of your school. You will be met by a representative of the school on your arrival in the town.
- Locations: Schools are located throughout Greece.
- Contract length: 9 months starting in September.
- Departure dates: For September 2007 placements arrive 13th August or 17th September 2007 to commence the orientation. Most teachers will then transfer straight to their school although some may have 2 or 3 weeks free before starting work.

## Requirements

- Native English speaker with EU nationality.
- TEFL qualification (Essential TEFL Plus course included)
- University degree holder

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Application
- Pre-departure
- Greece - Employment | Teaching

## Application

### 1. What are the application requirements?

- Native English speaker, TEFL qualified.
- You need to be a university degree holder.
- You need to be an EU passport holder

Following your initial application, you will need to submit the following documents:

- CV/Resume
- Covering letter
- Scanned copy of your University degree certificate
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Passport photograph

2. Can I apply with someone else?

Yes, in most cases - It's occasionally possible for us to place applicants in the same accommodation and in the same school for Greece.

3. Can I choose where I teach?

No

4. When are the start dates?

There are start dates in August and September only. It is suggested you apply as far in advance as possible.

5. What is the project length?

9 months

6. When should I apply?

It is best to apply as early as you can to ensure the success of your application. We recommend applying a minimum of three months in advance. (However, depending on availability it is possible for us to fast-track applications in 4 weeks.)

7. I haven't finished my degree yet, can I still apply?

As long as you have completed your degree and have got your certificate prior to departure, you are still eligible to apply. Please include a letter from your University supervisor / academic advisor with your application to confirm this.

8. How do I apply?

Call your nearest i-to-i office or [click here](#) to apply now.

9. What happens if I apply but don't get accepted?

We have a 90% success rate for applicants who meet the basic application criteria. If however, you are not accepted, you will be refunded the full project fee.

## Pre-departure

### 1. How do I get my visa?

These positions are only open to EU nationals, who are entitled to work in Greece with out a visa. However, you will need to have a simple medical when you arrive in Greece.

### 2. Which airport should I fly into?

Athens

### 3. When and how should I book my flights?

Please wait to book your flights until you are advised by our in-country agent to do so.

### 4. Do I need to take out travel insurance?

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance for the entire duration of your stay. For details of travel insurance for UK citizens, please visit [www.endsleigh.co.uk](http://www.endsleigh.co.uk). For citizens from outside of the UK, please visit [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com).

### 5. Do I need vaccinations?

Please consult your doctor or nurse to determine what vaccinations you require for your travel. You may also find [www.masta.org](http://www.masta.org) useful. As a rule no vaccinations are needed for Greece.

### 6. How much money should I bring with me?

We recommend that you bring approximately £500 / USD \$900 / €750 to cover all initial costs until your first payday. (You may be required to pay a bond on your apartment.) Always have access to emergency funds (Monies that can be transferred to you at short notice from home)

### 7. Do I need to be able to speak the local language?

No, but learning some simple phrases will be very useful.

#### *Phrases in Greek*

Excuse me:

Signomi

Thank you:

Efharisto (better: Efharistoomay)

Do you speak...

Milatay...?

English:

Ag-glika?

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How far is it?:	Posso makria eenay?
Excuse me, where is...:	Signomi, poo eenay...?
How much is this?:	Posso Kanay Afto?
Do you have a toilet?:	Eheeyete Too-aletta?
That's fine:	Andaxi
OK:	Andaxi
It's good (food, anything):	Oraya
Good morning/good day:	Kalimera
Good Afternoon/Evening:	Kalispera
Good night:	Kalinihxta
See you/Hello/Hi:	Yassas
How are you:	Ti-kanis
Well/good:	Kala
I do not understand:	Den katalave'no
What is your name?:	Pos se le'ne?
Nice to meet you:	He'ro poli'
Do you accept credit cards?:	Pe'rnete pistotike's ka'rtes
Where is ...?:	pou i'ne
How much is the fare?:	Po'so ka'ni to isiti'rio
One ticket to ..., please:	E'na isiti'rio gia, parakalo'
Where are you going?:	Pou' pa'te
Where do you live?:	Pou' me'nis

8. Is there a dress code?

Smart casual / Work casual

9. How long will it take to complete the TEFL training?

The course can be completed in a minimum of 2-3 weeks. Most people finish the course in 4-6 weeks. You have a maximum of 6 months to complete the course. You will be sent your certificate, letter of reference and hard copy of the course within 21 days of completion of all components of the course. (TEFL course outline)

10. What happens when I arrive?

You will be met at the airport / train station of your teaching destination and transferred to your accommodation. You will have two orientations: one to prepare you for teaching and one to show you around the school and city.

## Greece: Employment

### 1. How much will I be paid?

You will be paid up to \$950(USD) / £480 / €720 / CAD\$1,095 / AUD\$1210 / NZD\$1380 per month based on a 25 hour week.

This salary should be enough to support a comfortable standard of living. For example, you might expect to pay €5 for a fast-food meal, €4 for a beer in a bar and around €7 for the train fare to Athens.

You can claim your tax back after you have left the country but there is not usually anything to claim back.

### 2. Will I receive a bonus or flight re-imbusement?

Yes, there is a bonus equivalent to approximately one third of a month's salary at Christmas and Easter.

### 3. How many holiday days will I receive per year?

You will generally receive 2 weeks of holiday at Christmas, 2 weeks at Easter and national holidays.

### 4. What are my working hours?

Typical teaching hours are 25 hours per week in the afternoon and evening. Most schools open Monday to Friday, although some may work on Saturdays.

### 5. Can I renew my contract?

Your contract may be extendable; you would need to discuss this with your school.

### 6. What happens if I need to break my contract?

In case of a genuine emergency, there is no restriction on teachers leaving immediately. Otherwise, if a teacher wants to leave for whatever reason, we ask them to wait for a month until a replacement arrives.

## **Greece: Teaching**

1. What age and level of students will I be teaching?

You will be teaching 11 - 17 year olds at a range of levels, from elementary to advanced.

2. How many students will there be in each class?

The usual maximum per class is 12.

3. How long are the classes?

Classes are usually 50 minutes long.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes. Most lessons are based on course books which are provided.

5. Will I be teaching alone or team teaching?

You will be teaching alone.

6. What kind of school will I be teaching in?

You will be teaching in private language schools.

## TEFL certification

All our TEFL Jobs include the 40 hour Online TEFL course and the 20 hour Grammar and Language Awareness Module. These courses will give you the skills you need to teach English as a foreign language, so you can walk into your first TEFL classroom with the utmost confidence.

You'll be sent details of how to access your courses via email. You will have six months to complete the 40 hour course and extra time after that to complete the Grammar and Language Awareness Module. Both courses must be complete by the time you start your placement.

It's also an idea to take your TEFL certificate with you when you go. Some placements request it – and even if they don't it's always handy to have it with you.

It's not uncommon for applicants to desire extra qualifications to supplement their Online TEFL certification and further develop their skills. That's why we offer a range of specialist certificates that will help you tailor your skills towards a specific area of the TEFL business. As an i-to-i tutee you are entitled to 10% off any of these certificates.

Visit [www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates](http://www.onlinetefl.com/online-tefl/certificates) to find out more or call/email us at:

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## **Surviving culture shock**

Almost everyone experiences some degree of culture shock when they first arrive at their destination - even if they're a seasoned traveller. It may be felt as stress, frustration, anxiety or homesickness and is a perfectly natural reaction to encountering a new culture that looks, sounds and feels different to what you're used to.

Try not to worry if you feel overwhelmed at the start of your placement – just go with the flow and before you know it you'll start to settle in. The following advice will help you to overcome culture shock as quickly as possible.

Doing as much research as possible into your destination will help to reduce culture shock, as you'll be prepared for many of the differences you will encounter. The Lonely Planet and Culture Shock! Guides are good resources to use for this.

Try to arrive at your destination as fresh as possible. Avoid alcohol and caffeine on your flight, eat a light meal and rest as much as possible. This will give you the energy to get through your first day in-country. If you're exhausted when you arrive, everything will seem a lot more challenging.

Take it easy on your first few days, to give yourself time to adjust to your new environment and get over your journey. You don't have to see and do everything in the first few days – that's just the adrenaline talking!

A good tip is to observe the locals and do as they do. They are used to the heat, humidity and altitude and know how best to cope. Watch what they do and adopt their ways.

Remember that if you're finding things difficult at your placement, it may be due to culture shock. Try to keep an open mind and avoid making comparisons with how things are done in your own country – if you wanted everything to stay the same you wouldn't have gone overseas in the first place!

If you're going away for several months, budget for a well-deserved break halfway through your placement. Treat yourself to a night in a comfy hotel and a good meal, then return to your placement feeling refreshed. It's okay to want a few home comforts while you're away – something as simple as watching a movie in English in an air-conditioned cinema can make you feel much better!

## **Checklist for Paid Teaching Placements**

### **We send you:**

- Confirmation email of PTP placement
- Confirmation/login details email of Online TEFL course
- DVD and GAM for TEFL course

### **What you need to do:**

- Send relevant documents to complete application:
- CV/Resume
- Cover letter
- Scanned copy of your University degree certificate or a letter from your university confirming your expected graduation (English translation required).
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Arrange suitable travel insurance.

Documents will be sent to the in-country representative who will contact you about the application. Remember to complete your TEFL course!

### **Once accepted we send you:**

- Terms and conditions to be signed.

### **In-country representative sends:**

- Confirmation of placement contract

### **Next Steps:**

- Once your visa has been accepted and returned, book flights

Enjoy your trip!