



TEFL Jobs in Honduras



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.

Basic Facts

Honduras is the second largest of the Central American countries and has a wide variety of habitats, from beautiful beaches and islands to waterfalls and various national parks. It is also one of the poorest of the Latin American countries, with an estimated 50% of the population below the poverty level. Following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which killed about 5,600 people and caused approximately \$2 billion in damage, the country is trying to rebuild. The capital of Honduras is Tegucigalpa, also known by the locals as Tegus. San Pedro Sula is the other major city in Honduras and you may have to travel here to get to other destinations. The Honduras economy is based on textiles, wood products, bananas (chief export), coffee, shrimp, corn and beans.

Combined with the slow pace of life and welcoming nature of the locals, it makes Honduras one of the undiscovered gems of the continent.

The tourist industry is beginning to grow, however, so the need for English teachers is higher than ever. Although salaries aren't high, no degree is required and you'll be making a real difference to ordinary Hondurans while living in the scenic, bustling capital of Tegucigalpa.

Society and Culture

Hondurans are very friendly and by the time you leave you will probably feel like part of the family. However Hondurans do not like to tell visitors what to do and so you will need to be proactive if you wish to get involved in an activity or introduce something new. If you speak some Spanish you will get more out of your time in-country. If you are working with children as a teacher or in a similar

position of responsibility please dress appropriately. Please make sure you do not smoke in front of the children or turn up to classes smelling of alcohol. Hondurans are big on appearances and personal hygiene so please make sure you shower at least once daily.

Tattoos are associated with gangs in Central America, so please ensure you cover up any tattoos if working with children. The same applies if you have any body piercing (including nose, eyebrows etc). Male teachers are also requested to remove any earrings because this is also associated with the gang culture. Lesbian and gays are tolerated in Honduras, but as a general rule Hondurans do not like public displays of homosexuality. As with the rest of Latin America, machismo plays a big part in the male culture. Men are often expected to fit into a traditional stereotype and undertake the labour intensive jobs.

Don't expect things to happen as quickly in Latin America as they might in your home country! Please be open-minded and tolerant of the ways things are done in Honduras. The sewage system is not always able to cope with toilet paper and so sometimes you will have to place in rubbish bins/bags by the toilet.

Communications

There are internet cafés in Tegucigalpa and La Esperanza and all the major towns as well as the main tourist areas and beaches. Prices range from US\$1 – US\$3 per hour. However on the Bay Islands prices are much higher and using the internet can cost as much as \$10 per hour.

There are public telephones all over the country and you can buy international calling cards in supermarkets and small shops. It is often cheaper for you to call home from internet phones, which are easily located.

The Honduran postal system can be very unreliable so mail may take quite a long time to reach its destination.

Food and drink

The staple diet in Honduras consists of rice, plantains and beans - for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Don't expect too very much variety.

On the Caribbean Coast there is plenty of fish to eat as well. Local fruits like mangoes, papaya, bananas, pineapple and oranges are available in most places to buy.

It is possible to get pizza, fast-food, Chinese etc. in the large towns and tourist places, but a small town or village will not have any fast food restaurants. Tap water in Honduras is generally not safe to drink, so you should make sure you buy bottled water and that the seal is intact. Also be careful of ice cream and ice in drinks. It is recommended to have some water purification tablets just in case you are unable to get clean water.

Transportation

There is a good public bus network in Honduras. It is best to arrive early to avoid having to stand or not getting a place when seats are allocated. Please also note that buses will leave early when full. Therefore if all the tickets have been sold half an hour before the departure time then it will leave. Similarly if there are tickets left at the departure time then they will wait until they have been sold.

When taking a taxi agree the price beforehand or ask them to use the meter. It is common to bargain with the taxi driver over the price, you can always ask locals what is an acceptable price. It does help if you speak a little Spanish!

There are no street addresses in Honduras. People describe the location of their house by the surroundings. For example, the green house, 100 metres north of the supermarket, opposite the church. Towns tend to be built on a grid system, and Hondurans will refer to blocks as '100 metros'. So 150 metres is a block and a half.

Climate

The dry season runs from mid-November to mid-April and the wet season runs from mid-April to mid-November. The Caribbean Coast is the hottest, most humid and wettest area of the country. In the highlands, in particular La Tigra and La Esperanza, the weather can get very cold and at night.

Travel safety

Nowhere in the world can be described as completely safe, and Honduras is no exception. Unfortunately it has a reputation for petty theft, so it is important for travellers to have their wits about them and not do things abroad that they wouldn't do at home. Caught up in their new exciting surroundings, it's easy for travellers to let their guard slip, which is when most thefts occur.

- Use a hidden money belt or body pouch to carry your money, and carry a reasonable proportion of your funds in travellers' cheques, which can be refunded if necessary.

- When on day excursions, for example, it is probably best to carry as little cash / as few cards / bags with you as possible. Think – do I really need to take all this with me? Try to avoid walking around with large sums of cash - try to take what you believe you will need and no more. Consider taking old credit cards that you can use as decoys if you have to leave your belongings in an unsafe location.
- Be careful about obvious shows of wealth such as expensive jewellery, which can sometimes be easily ripped away from the body.
- Be aware of scams involving groups of thieves where one might try to distract you whilst another steals, and always try to carry your rucksack on your chest where you can see it clearly. The kind of tricks thieves will use can be very elaborate so it is important that you are alert and know what can happen before you go.
- The Postcards section of the online Lonely Planet guide contains very useful information on travel safety and common scams. It is important to keep these kinds of matters in perspective though and to realise that preparation matched with vigilance goes a long way towards increasing your safety whilst travelling.
- Write down your travellers' cheques' serial numbers, plane ticket numbers, and important telephone numbers, bank account info etc. and leave one copy at home. Take another copy with you to use in emergencies. Do this with your passport as well. You may also want to leave these details in an email that you can access through your internet email account.
- Most of the areas that attract tourists in Honduras are safe to travel in. However other remote areas may be less so and in light of this, travellers should exercise discretion and be aware of possible risks before venturing further a-field.

Money and budgeting

The local currency in Honduras is the lempira. For an up-to-date conversion please use the following website www.xe.com US dollars are easy to change in Honduras and you can change them at the local banks. If you bring travellers' cheques they should be in US dollars and not Sterling. American Express is the most widely accepted brand. However sometimes it can be difficult to change travellers' cheques and it may be easier to take money out using ATM machines. Pound Stirling is NOT accepted in Honduras. Visa and American Express are the most widely accepted cards, and can be used at ATMs or to obtain money over the counter in the banks. Check with your bank about charges for using your card overseas.

There are banks and ATM machines in all the major towns and some smaller ones across the country. Many of the ATM machines are 24 hours. Small beach or mountain villages will not have banks but if they are main tourist areas you may be able to change dollars in the hotels or internet cafés.

Festivals and holidays

Please be aware that Semana Santa (Easter Week) is a time of huge celebration in Latin America and therefore it may well affect the amount of work you have to do on your project.

Navidad / Año Nuevo Christmas / New Year

Semana Santa Holy Week

May 1st Labor Day

April 14th Day of the Americas

September 15th Honduras Independence Day

What you can expect in Honduras

- **Salary:** Up to \$500(USD) / £300 / €445 / CAD\$620 / AUD\$695 / NZD\$835 per month based on an average 30 hour week, after satisfactory completion of an initial 2 week training course.
- **Accommodation:** Assisted by in-country coordinator to find accommodation.
- **Arrival:** Meet and greet service at the airport plus orientation and transfer to school, followed by 2 weeks of training in the school's methodology.
- **Locations:** Capital City Tegucigalpa or San Pedro Sula in North Honduras.
- **Contract lengths:** 3 (February, March, May, June, August and November), 6 (February and August) and 9 months (November)
- **Departure dates:** February, March, May, June, August and November

Requirements

- Native English speaker - must be a holder of a native English passport e.g. UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian, South African or any Native English Speaker from holding a EU Passport.
- TEFL qualification (Essential TEFL Plus course included)

Frequently Asked Questions

- Application
- Pre-departure
- Honduras - Employment | Teaching

Application

1. What are the application requirements?

- Native English speaker, TEFL qualified.
- You do not need to be a university degree holder.

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

- CV/Resume
- Covering letter
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Passport photograph
- Health Certificate

2. Can I apply with someone else?

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

3. Can I choose where I teach?

If you have a strong preference on location, please specify this in your covering letter; however, it is best to be as flexible as you can.

4. When are the start dates?

There are monthly start dates in most cases. It is suggested you apply as far in advance as possible.

5. What is the project length?

3, 6 or 9 months

6. When should I apply?

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

7. How do I apply?

Call your nearest i-to-i office or www.onlinetefl.com/jobs and apply now.

8. 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?

Tourist Visa given upon arrival. No working visa is needed to work at the school as they have a special permit to hire only foreign teachers - this is an agreement the school has with the government.

Most Western nationals need not apply for a visa to enter Honduras. They will receive a tourist visa for 30 (US) or 90 (UK) days for no cost on arrival, which they can extend once they are in the country. Our contact will help to arrange extensions to their visa once you are in Honduras. You can go to immigration in Tegucigalpa and extend your stay for a small fee (\$18 per month).

2. Which airport should I fly into?

Tegucigalpa

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. For citizens from outside of the UK, please visit: www.statravel.com.

5. Do I need vaccinations?

We strongly recommend that you visit your GP or specialist travel clinic before you start your course of inoculations. They will give you professional advice particular to your circumstances and the latest

health recommendations. You should also arrange a general health check-up before you go.

Inoculations

The following list of inoculations is based on information from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and should be used in conjunction with your doctor or travel clinic.

1. Yellow Fever (recommended)
2. Tetanus (recommended)
3. Typhoid (recommended)
4. Hepatitis A (recommended)
5. Hepatitis B (sometimes recommended)
6. Rabies (sometimes recommended)
7. Diphtheria (sometimes recommended)

Malaria is prevalent in all areas. Consult your doctor for recommended medication 8 weeks before departure.

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?

As with all Latin American countries, the more Spanish you can learn before your teaching placement, the more you will get out of it. Here are some basic words and phrases to get you started:

English	Espanol
Hello	Hola / Que tal
How are you ?	Como esta usted ?
My name is..	Me llamo...
What is your name ?	Como te llamas ?
Do you speak English ?	Habla ingles ?
I speak English	Yo hablo ingles
I understand little Spanish	Yo entiendo un poquito Espanol
I'm well	Muy bien
Thanks	Gracias
Please	Por favor
Sorry	Lo siento
You	tu / usted
Us	Nosotros
Bank	Banco

Hospital	Hospital
Police Station	Estacion de Policia
I am from..	Yo soy de...
I live / stay in England	Yo vivo / vengo en Inglaterra
Here	aqui
There	ahi
I am looking for..	Estoy buscando a..
Food	Comida
Drink	Trago (alcoholic)
	Refresco (non alcoholic)
Help	Ayuda
Please show me where..is	Me puede decir donde esta..
No	No
Yes	Si

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.

Honduras: Employment

1. How much will I be paid?

Up to \$860(USD) / £440 / €660 / CAD\$1000 / AUD\$1100 / NZD\$1230 per month based on a 23 hour week.

If you live in subsidized accommodation this will cost approximately \$85 per month (including bills, except for the telephone) while normal rent could be twice as much as this. Other basic living expenses, including food, could be expected to cost around \$300 per month.

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

A return ticket (up to a limit and subject to guidelines) will be reimbursed on completion of your 12 month contract. For those working in Bogor half of your flight cost will be reimbursed after 1 month, the remainder on completion of the year.

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

You will receive 22 paid holidays, 10 to 13 of which must be taken over Christmas or for Muslim holidays.

4. What are my working hours?

Typically teaching hours will be 23 hours per week in the afternoon and evening, with occasional morning classes. You will work 6 days a week with 18 Saturdays off per year.

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?

The total cost of your visa to the school is approximately \$1000 - if you break your contract you will need to return a proportion of this money e.g. if you leave after 6 months you will pay approximately \$500. Also, your flight costs will not be reimbursed if you do not complete your contract.

Honduras: Teaching

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

From 5yrs up, although there aren't many young children. The average age of the students is mid- 20's to 40's.

The school offers a summer school for younger students (5 to 17) and special tutoring after school. There are also a lot of University students.

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

Class sizes will vary from 1 to 1, up to 15

3. How long are the classes?

1.5 or 2 hours long Monday to Friday with 4 hour classes on a Saturday.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes, there are a range of teaching resources available. A training course is provided before you start teaching to show you how to teach with the school's materials. There is a program to follow but there is also plenty of opportunity to be creative and apply your own teaching techniques.

You may also like to take photos and pictures of your home country, family and friends, along with authentic materials such as magazines or newspapers for your classes.

5. Will I be teaching alone or team teaching?

You will be teaching alone after having taken the additional course mentioned above.

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

Private. This is a well established school which was opened in Honduras in 2000 and has other schools around Central America.

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 to find out more or call/email us at:

UK & the world: +44 (0)113 205 0077 tefljobteam@i-to-i.com

Ireland: 058 400 50 ireland@i-to-i.com

North America: 800 985 4864 usca@i-to-i.com

Australia: 1300 556 997 australia@i-to-i.com

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.

Plus:

- Honduras - CV / cover letter / passport

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!