



TEFL Jobs in Taiwan



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

Taiwan's total land area is only about 3,6000 square kilometres; it is shaped like a tobacco leaf, i.e. it's narrow at both ends. It lies off the south-eastern coast of mainland Asia, across the Taiwan Straits from Mainland China- a solitary island on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. To the north lies Japan and Okinawa, to the south is the Philippines. Many airlines fly to Taiwan, helping make it the perfect travel destination.

Taiwan lies on the western edge of the Pacific "rim of fire," and continuous tectonic movements have created majestic peaks, rolling hills and plains, basins, coastlines, and other wonders. Taiwan sees climates of many types: tropical, sub-tropical, and temperate, providing clear differentiation between the different seasons. There are about 18,400 species of wildlife on the island, with more than 20% belonging to rare or endangered species; among these are the land-locked salmon, Taiwan mountain goat, Formosan rock monkey, Formosan black bear, blue magpie, Mikado pheasant, Hsuehshan grass lizard, and many more.

The government has established 6 national parks and 13 national scenic areas to preserve Taiwan's best natural ecological environment and cultural sites. Take in the splendour and sheer heights of the cliffs at Taroko Gorge; take a ride on the Alishan train--one of only three mountain railways in the world--and experience the breathtaking sunset and sea of clouds; hike up to the summit of Northeast Asia's highest peak, Jade Mountain. You can also soak up the sun in Kending, Asia's version of Hawaii; stand at the edge of Sun Moon Lake; traipse through the East Rift Valley; or visit the offshore islands of Kinmen and Penghu. It's fun in capital letters as well as an awesome journey of natural discovery!

The cultural aspects also not to be missed. The blending of Hakka, Taiwanese, and mainland Chinese cultures has produced a rich plethora of cultural and social colour. Whether it is religion, architecture, language, living habits, or food, it's just one big exciting melting pot! Food is the best representative of this cultural mixing and matching. Aside from cuisines from different parts of the mainland such as Zhejiang, Hunan, Guangdong, Yunnan, Shanghai, Beijing, Sichuan, and others, there is also the local Taiwanese cuisine as well as the local delicacies of each area.

Society and Culture

Taiwan's mainstream culture is primarily derived from traditional Chinese culture, with significant influences also from Japanese and American cultures, especially in the areas of politics and architecture. Fine arts, folk traditions and popular culture embody traditional and modern Asian and Western motifs.

After the retreat to Taiwan, the Nationalists took steps to preserve traditional Chinese culture and suppress the local Taiwanese culture. The government launched a program promoting Chinese calligraphy, traditional Chinese painting, folk art, and Chinese opera.

Since the Taiwan localization movement of the 1990s, Taiwan's cultural identity has been allowed greater expression. Identity politics, along with over 100 years of political separation from mainland China, 50 of which were under Japanese colonial rule, has led to distinct traditions in many areas, including cuisine, opera, and music.

Taiwan's culture is a blend of its distinctive Chinese heritage and Western influences. Fine arts, folk traditions, and popular culture embody traditional and modern, Asian, and Western motifs. One of Taiwan's greatest attractions is the Palace Museum, which houses over 650,000 pieces of Chinese bronze, jade, calligraphy, painting, and porcelain. This collection was moved from the mainland in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Party (KMT) fled to Taiwan. The collection is so extensive that only 1% is on display at any one time.

Climate

Taiwan is sub-tropical but the climate varies from hot and humid in the south tempering to cooler in the north and inland mountainous region. All over the country sudden rain showers frequently occur, making rainwear an essential part of a visitor's luggage. The driest time of year is autumn (September and October), which is followed by a short generally damp and chilly winter with snow on the

island's mountain peaks. Summer temperatures can reach 90°F (35°C) at the coast. Summer is also typhoon season.

Food and Drink

There are several different variations of Taiwanese cuisine... In addition to the following representative dishes from the Hoklo (Hō-ló) ethnicity, there are also Aboriginal, Hakka, and local derivatives of Chinese cuisines (one famous example of the last is beef noodle soup).

Taiwanese cuisine itself is often associated with influences from mid to southern provinces of China (Canton, Fujian, etc. due to proximity) along with Japan (due to historical occupation).

Traditional Chinese food to be found in Taiwan, alongside Taiwanese and Hakka-style dishes, includes dishes from Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Shanghai, Hunan, Sichuan and Beijing.

Pork, rice, soy are very common ingredients, as with many Chinese cuisines. Beef is far less common and some Taiwanese (particularly the elderly generation) still refrain from eating it. This is in part due to a traditional reluctance to slaughter precious cattle needed for agriculture and an emotional attachment to such beasts of labour.

Taiwan's cuisine has also been influenced by its geographic location. Living on a crowded island, the Taiwanese had to look aside from the farmlands for sources of protein. As a result, seafood figures prominently in their cuisine. Seafood available here ranges from large fish such as tuna and grouper to sardines and even tiny fish the length of a thumbnail. Crustaceans, squid, and cuttlefish are also eaten.

Because of the island's sub-tropical location, Taiwan has an abundant supply of fruit, such as papayas, melons and citrus.

From many of their dishes, the Taiwanese have shown their inventiveness in the selection of spices. Taiwanese cuisine relies on an abundant array of seasonings for flavour: Soy sauce, rice wine, sesame oil, Black beans, pickled radishes, peanuts, chili peppers, parsley, and a local variety of basil ("nine story tower"). The resulting dishes thus combine and form interesting tastes which make Taiwanese cuisine simple in format yet complex in experience.

Transportation

Special deluxe express buses provide excursion services to those who would like to explore other major towns in Taiwan. Buses are regularly scheduled to travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung daily. Bookings should be made a day or two in advance. Tickets may be purchased from the bus companies themselves, although most hotels and local travel agencies can make the necessary arrangements for you.

A vast railroad network monitored by the Taiwan Railway Administration connects Taiwan's major cities and towns. The trains are usually packed. Again, seat reservations should be made beforehand. Commuters are usually advised to book their tickets for first class travel a day or two before departure. Round-trip tickets can be purchased at hand, but reservations for the return trip must be made on arrival at your destination. The best way to get train tickets would be to go through a travel agent as getting tickets on your own would be time-consuming and difficult.

Three choices are available to you when travelling by train:

- Fu Hsing (FH) - air-conditioned and limited express
- Chu Kuang (CK) - first class, air-conditioned, express
- Tsu Chiang (TC) - electrical multiple units and air-conditioned

Taxis are widely available in Taiwan. Simply stand at the side of the curb, hold out your arm and wait for one to pull over. All taxis use the meter system in calculating the fares. Time and distance are counted to determine the fare. However, there is an additional 20% charge if you take a taxi between 11 pm and 6 am. A taxi can be at your service for the entire day of your excursion and the hotel clerk can even arrange a set fee for you.

In smaller towns, taxis have their own fixed rates. Some taxi drivers may overcharge, seeing that you are not local, so do ask around for the correct rates before getting into a taxi.

Communications

Public phones in Taiwan are divided primarily into two types, coin and card. Coin phones accept coins in denominations of NT\$1, NT\$5, and NT\$10. For local calls, NT\$1 buys one minute of phone time. Phone cards are divided into magnetic strip cards and IC cards, and can be used all over Taiwan. Magnetic strip cards sell for NT\$100 each, and IC cards are available in NT\$200 and NT\$300 versions. The cards are sold in railway stations, bus stations, scenic spots, and convenience stores.

More often than not, the easiest way to obtain a cell phone is to purchase a GSM phone in Taiwan or to bring one with you from your home country (ensuring of course that you have the proper MHz capabilities). Once you have the phone, you can go to any convenience store and for as little as NT\$ 600, buy a SIM card. Your SIM card will usually be activated within 24 hours.

National Holidays

Festivals are associated with the traditional lunar calendar whereas official holidays are celebrated according to the western calendar. The lunar festivals developed from the customs of China's past, and to the celebrants, these occasions are a time for recalling one's cultural origins and remembering the wisdom of early ages. Such festivals include the Chinese New Year Festival and the Lantern Festival, all symbolic of discarding the old and ushering in the new; the Dragon Boat Festival, a time for warding off evil and strengthening the body; the Ghost Festival, when the outcasts from the underworld are given salvation; the Mid-Autumn Festival a celebration of the full moon and unity of mankind; and Double Ninth Festival is to remember the elders.

1 January	New Year's Day
2-3 January	New Year's Holiday
17 February	Chinese New Year's Eve
18-20 February	Chinese New Year
29 March	Youth Day
5 April	Ching Ming Festival
1 May	Labour Day
19 June	Tuen Nq Festival
1 July	Bank Holiday
26 September	Mid-Autumn Festival
28 September	Teachers' Day (Birthday of Confucius)
10 October	National Day
25 October	Taiwan Retrocession Day
31 October	Birthday of Chiang Kai Shek
12 November	Birthday of Dr. Sun Yat Sen
25 December	Constitution Day

Frequently Asked Questions

- Application
- Pre-departure
- Taiwan - Language Schools Employment | Teaching
- Taiwan - Private Schools Employment | Teaching

Application

1. What are the application requirements?

- Native English speaker, TEFL qualified.
- You 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 your University degree certificate
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Passport photograph
- Application Form Government Schools only

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 for Taiwan Government Schools.

3. Can I choose where I teach?

In Taiwan please specify in your covering letter which location you would like to be placed in:

Kaohsiung, Keelung, Taichung and Taipei.

4. When are the start dates?

There are monthly start dates.

5. What is the project length?

12 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. 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](#) and 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?

You will need a working visa before you go to Taiwan. For this you will need a medical check, the original of your degree certificate, a valid passport with at least 6 months of validity, 2 passport sized photos plus the letter of invitation and work permit from the hiring school. Our partner will assist you in the visa application process.

2. Which airport should I fly into?

Taipei Airport

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. Please consult your doctor or nurse to determine what vaccinations you require for your travel. You may also find www.masta.org useful. You should also have a general health check-up before you travel.

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.

- Yellow Fever (a certificate is required if you are travelling from an infected area)
- Polio (recommended)
- Tetanus (recommended)
- Typhoid (recommended)
- Hepatitis A (recommended)
- Hepatitis B (sometimes recommended)
- Rabies (sometimes recommended)
- Diphtheria (sometimes recommended)
- Japanese Encephalitis (sometimes recommended)

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.

Pronouns

English	Taiwanese	Transliteration
Yes	是	si
No	不是	m si
I (we)	我 (我们)	qua (qun)
You (you)	你 (你们)	li (lin)
He / She (They)	他 (他们)	yi (yin)
Who?	谁?	sang
What?	什么?	xia mi
This (These)	这 (这些)	jid le

That (Those)	那 (那些)	hid le
Here	这里	ja
There	那里	hia
Where?	哪里?	duo wee

Greetings		
English	Taiwanese	Transliteration
Good morning.	早安。	qau za
Thank you	谢谢。	duo sia
Welcome!	不用客气。	m-ven kei ki

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.

Taiwan - Language Schools: Employment

1. How much will I be paid?

Up to 52,000TWD / \$1550 (USD) / £820 / €1200 / CAD\$1850 / AUD\$2000 / NZD\$2300 per month based on a 25 hour week. Tax of up to 20% will be payable locally on this salary, although a large proportion of this tax will be rebated after the end of the contract.

All bills should generally be less than 4000NT/month depending on the way you live and where you live. Living costs will range from 7000 to 12000NT/month.

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

Flight reimbursements depend on experience and qualifications. In some cases, one-way airfare is reimbursed after 6 months.

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

Four weeks of unpaid holiday time is available.

4. What are my working hours?

Typically teaching hours will be 20-25 hours per week, in the evenings and Saturday daytime.

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?

Penalties will be incurred for the cost of getting a replacement teacher and possible repayment of the airfare depending on the situation and length of employment.

Taiwan - Language Schools: Teaching

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

You will be teaching children and adults with levels ranging from beginner to advanced.

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

The class size can range from 1-20 students.

3. How long are the classes?

Classes can range from 40-120 minutes long, dependent on the age of students and type of school.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes. As you will be working in one of the largest language schools in Taiwan there are excellent facilities and resources available.

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.

Taiwan - Private Schools: Employment

1. How much will I be paid?

Up to 60,000TWD / \$1800 (USD) / £950 / €1400 / CAD\$2150 / AUD\$2350 / NZD\$2650 per month based on a 25 hour week. Tax of up to 20% will be payable locally on this salary, although a large proportion of this tax will be rebated after the end of the contract.

All bills should generally be less than 4000NT/month depending on the way you live and where you live. Living costs will range from 7000 to 12000NT/month.

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

Yes, there is a bonus on completion of the contract of 20-30,000 TWD / \$6-900 (USD).

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

10 days holiday to be taken during the summer and winter breaks, plus national holidays.

4. What are my working hours?

Typically teaching hours will be 20-25 hours per week between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

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?

Penalties will be incurred for the cost of getting a replacement teacher depending on the situation and length of employment.

Taiwan - Private Schools: Teaching

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

You will be teaching middle and high school students, aged 11 - 17 year old, at a range of levels from beginner to intermediate.

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

The class size can range from 20-50 students.

3. How long are the classes?

Classes are usually 45-50 minutes long.

4. Are there any teaching resources?

Yes. However, resources are school specific so it would be useful to take some of your own resources with you, such as photos of your family and home, newspapers, posters, leaflets and information on local places of interest which you can use in your lessons.

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 Middle and High 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 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). Please note a degree is not needed for paid teaching placements in Hungary
- Scanned copy of the information page of your passport
- Arrange suitable travel insurance.

Plus:

- Application form for Government schools.

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!