

An aerial view of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is white and stands on a high peak, overlooking a dense urban area with many buildings and green hills. The sky is blue with some clouds.

TEFL JOBS IN BRAZIL

**A Guide to Teaching
English in Brazil**

BRASILIA

SÃO PAULO

RIO DE JANEIRO

Over recent years Brazil's economy has risen steadily and looks set to become one of the top five economies in the world in the years ahead. As with most countries enjoying financial growth, the demand for English language teachers is rising too.



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While there aren't a huge number of jobs for foreigners, people with specialist knowledge and experience can gain a visa and find work. However, gaining a visa as a TEFL specialist is extremely rare and most TEFL teachers choose to work illegally on tourist visas.

Opportunities for TEFL Teachers

Brazilian language schools see hiring foreign nationals to teach English as prohibitively expensive. Therefore it is almost impossible to get a working visa to teach English in Brazil and the only option is to work illegally. If you choose to take this route, you'll need to do a twice yearly border run to a neighboring country to renew your visa.





Our Top Three TEFL Destinations

Due to the limited number of opportunities open to most TEFL teachers, these are our top three TEFL destinations in Brazil.

Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro is Brazil's top TEFL destination with a huge number of people taking English lessons in state schools and private language institutes.

Sao Paulo

Sao Paulo is the largest city in Brazil, seat of the Brazilian Stock Exchange and home to the headquarters of over 60% of the country's top international businesses. Its position as the country's leading economic hub has led to a huge demand for TEFL teachers with business English experience.

Brasilia

Brasilia is the country's capital and home to all of the apparatus of government. It offers experienced TEFL teachers a wide variety of opportunities to teach English in language institutes and in the business sector.

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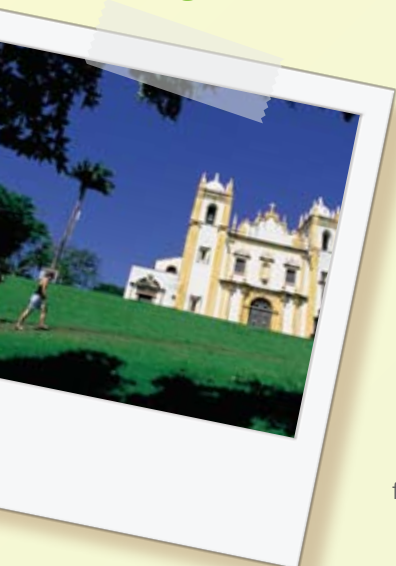
Show Me the Money! Wages and Cost of Living in Brazil

Wages

Salaries for full-time jobs start at around 1,500 Brazilian Real (US\$845) a month, rising to up to 3,000 Brazilian Real (US\$1,700) a month for experienced teachers in bigger cities.

Cost of Living

Living in Brazil is very reasonable indeed. Housing will be your biggest spend per month, with around 500 to 1,000 Brazilian Real (US\$280 to US\$560) of your salary going towards rent, depending on where you're living. Food meanwhile is very cheap, at around 25 Brazilian Real (US\$14) for a three-course meal.



Accommodation

Most teachers in Brazil live in relatively new apartment blocks, with all the mod-cons. These are usually shared with other teachers or ex-pats to reduce costs. In more rural areas, you may end up in a more traditional fazenda.

Flight Reimbursement

This is quite unusual, however if you negotiate hard enough with your employer they may include the cost of your flight as an end of contract bonus.

Taxes

How much tax you pay will depend on how much you earn, but expect to pay anything from nothing all the way up to 15% of your salary as tax.

Potential to Save Money

Realistically, there's little chance to save money on the salary from your TEFL job. But that's not why people chose to teach English in Brazil - this country is more about having exciting experiences and living life to the full than it is about cash in the bank!



How Much TEFL Training is Recommended?

Because most hired teachers are given in-house training there are some opportunities for unqualified TEFL teachers to find work without a TEFL certificate in Brazil. However, the vast majority of employers require a high level of TEFL certification. So it's probably a good idea to get at least 120 hours of TEFL training before you arrive in the country. We offer a full range of TEFL courses that should make find work a little easier. You can find out more about TEFL courses here:

<http://www.onlinetefl.com/tefl-course/>





Common Teaching Conditions

If you're working in a private language school you could end up working split shifts (early mornings and evenings), while other employers offer more regular nine to five hours. On average though you'll have 25 contact hours per week with 10 hours available for preparation. Contracts range from six to 12 months, depending on where you're working. Shorter term contracts are sometimes available, but you're unlikely to get your hands on these unless you're in-country.

Anything to Be Wary of?

If any school agrees to arrange a work visa for you before you arrive, take the offer with a pinch of salt – they probably won't!



Working and Visas

Finding TEFL Jobs from Home

It is possible to arrange work from home, but it's much easier to find work once you're there. That way you can do the research and emailing from home, then follow up all the leads when you land in Brazil.

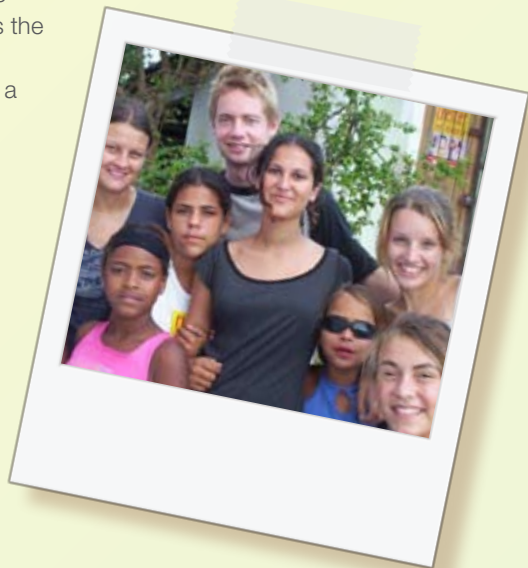


Finding TEFL Jobs in Brazil

Scan through classified ads in the Yellow Pages, the local English language magazines and jobs websites or just go round language schools in your local area. Sometimes this is the best way to look for jobs as you'll be able to meet Directors of Studies in person and get a feel for what the school's like.

The Hiring Process

The hiring process in Brazil can be a pretty full-on. It is not unheard of for the language school or recruitment agency to ask you to complete an English test when you drop in your resume. And you may even be to take part in a group interview alongside other teachers. Don't let this put you off though, just make sure you're prepared for any eventuality.





Getting Your Visa

To teach legally in Brazil you need to have a working visa. However due to the expense and hassle for employers to get these it's very unlikely that any school will sponsor you for one initially. As such, most teachers come into the country on a tourist visa, then switch it to a working visa once they're happy with their employer and vice-versa. Some teach on a tourist visa indefinitely – while this is a course of action we would not recommend, it is very common in Brazil.

Requirements for a Working Visa:

- ★ Sponsorship from an employer
- ★ Lots of experience teaching in a specialized area
- ★ A relaxed attitude to red tape

Useful Links

www.eslcafe.com
www.eslbase.com
www.tefl.com
www.tefl.net
www.eslemployment.com

Useful Books

Teaching English Abroad by Susan Griffith

This is something of a Bible for TEFLers and will give you all the info you'll need to get started.



Notes

