



**TEFL JOBS IN  
GREECE**

**A Guide to Teaching  
English in Greece**

**THESSALONIKI**



**ATHENS**



**HERAKLION**



TEACHING ENGLISH IN GREECE  
A Guide to Teaching English in Greece

The TEFL industry in Greece is huge. All school children aged six to 16 learn English as part of the curriculum, and the vast majority supplement their state education with extra lessons at private language schools (frontisteria).



Over the last few years a growing number of businesses have begun to favor employees with fluency in English. This has driven the demand for English teachers even higher.

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## TEFL Jobs in Greece: A Little Background

When you teach in Greece there's a very good chance you'll get involved with teaching young learners. This is primarily due to the fact that all schools now start teaching children English from as young as six, and many parents choose to supplement their kids' education with top-up lessons at the local frontisteria. A fair number of older children and young adults are also taking extra lessons in order to apply for jobs that require an advanced level of English. All these

factors combine to make Greece a major player in the European TEFL jobs market. It also means that students have high expectations of the teachers and the competition for jobs is high. So a higher level of TEFL certification is usually required to work in the country.



# Opportunities for TEFL Teachers

Due to the size of the market and the culture of having extracurricular English lessons, there are opportunities for qualified TEFL teachers in pretty much every major town and city. You'll need a BA degree in English language and literature or education to get a teacher's licence and having an TEFL certificate will make job hunting a lot easier.

## Our Top Three TEFL Destinations

These are our top three TEFL destinations in Greece. They may not be the most obvious choices, but we think they're the best places to find a TEFL job and enjoy your time in Greece.

### Athens

As with all capital cities, Athens is Greece's largest TEFL jobs market. A huge array of private language schools (frontisteria) operate for the ever-growing number of Greeks of all ages learning English. Although the city is overcrowded and a little hectic, it is a fantastic place to spend a little time.

### Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is Greece's second largest city, a major port and the economic, industrial and commercial capital of the region of Macedonia. Its strong business links make it an important centre for teaching English and there are hundreds of language schools looking for qualified TEFL teachers.

### Heraklion

Heraklion is the largest city on the island of Crete, and the island's main port. It is one of the country's key tourist hubs, with thousands of visitors heading for the islands of Rhodes, Santorini and Mykonos on the local ferries every year. Its place at the heart of Greece's tourism industry has led to a steady demand for TEFL teachers.



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# Show Me the Money!

## Wages and Cost of Living in Greece



### Wages

The average salary for a new teacher working in Greece is around €700 to €1,000 per month (US\$930 to US\$1,300), depending on where you're living and working.

### Cost of Living

Greece is certainly not the cheapest European country to work in, mostly due to high food costs. Teachers often enjoy free or subsidized accommodation, but if they don't rent ranges from €400 to €600 (US\$524 to US\$790) a month. Food and eating out in Greece isn't cheap by any means, especially with the recent recession. The cost of a meal with wine is around €30 (US\$40) and food at supermarkets can also be a pretty expensive.

### Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in Greece is pretty good. Most teachers live in small apartments or in shared houses. While they won't have the latest hi-tech appliances, sea-view balconies and designer furnishings, they will be pretty comfortable and more than liveable.

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### Flight Reimbursement

Due to the high levels of competition, it's really unlikely that Greek employers will pay for your flights.

### Taxes

How much you pay will depend on how much you earn, but expect the Greek taxman to take around 15-20% of your salary.

### Potential to Save Money

Due to the relatively high cost of living and the not particularly high wages, you're unlikely to save much money unless you live like a hermit.





## How Much TEFL Training is Recommended?

Most schools in Greece will want to see that you've done at least 120 hours of TEFL study either online, in the classroom, or a mixture of both, especially if you don't have previous teaching experience. These courses will all qualify you to teach in Greece:

- ★ <http://www.onlinetefl.com/tefl-courses/combined-tefl-courses-120.html>
- ★ <http://www.onlinetefl.com/tefl-courses/combined-tefl-courses-140.html>
- ★ <http://www.onlinetefl.com/tefl-courses/online-tefl-course-120.html>

## Common Teaching Conditions

If you're on a full-time teaching contract in Greece, you will work around 25 contact hours per week, with extra time set aside for lesson planning. Teaching is usually done during the afternoon, as pupils attend their normal lessons in the mornings. However, due to low teachers' wages in Greece, most TEFLers work extra hours as private tutors in order to supplement their income.

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Greek schools usually take people on nine or 10 month contracts, starting in September or early October and finishing in time for summer. This can be an issue if you want to teach in Greece long-term, as you'll be unemployed during the summer. However, you can easily pick up work at summer schools, either in Greece or elsewhere in Europe.



## Anything to Be Wary of

Many frontisterias are run purely for profit and even the better ones may want pupils to be marked leniently to ensure they re-enroll next year. So make sure you're 100% happy before you sign that contract.

## Working and Visas

### Finding TEFL Jobs from Home

If you apply from home, a trip to Greece will probably be on the cards, so it's usually a better plan to look for work once you arrive in-country. However, if you're determined to find a job before jetting off to the Med, the best approach is to find recruitment agencies and/or



language schools in cities you want to work in, then approach them directly. Usually once you've made contact, recruiters will also want to meet you face-to-face for an interview before offering you a job. As such it can be easier to apply for jobs once you're already in-country.

## Finding TEFL Jobs in Greece

It can be tricky to apply for work from your home country, so for many this is by far the best option. Finding jobs while in-country is a great way to meet Directors of Studies in person and get a feel for the school. It's also much easier, as many schools will want to interview you face-to-face before offering you a position. Perhaps the easiest way is to get in touch with PALSO, EUROPALSO and QLS who have thousands of language schools across the country. Take a look at the useful links section below.



## The Hiring Process

If you're applying from home, employers will want you to send in a CV/resume and covering letter. If they like the look of you, you'll probably also be invited to have a Skype or face-to-face interview. If you're already in-country the process is very similar, but can be a little less formal. Sometimes after emailing enquiries, recruiters will just ask you to come down for an informal interview and possibly a demonstration lesson too.

## Getting Your Visa

If you're an EU national (as most teachers in Greece are), you just enter on your EU passport and register with the authorities once you've found a job. You don't need a visa. If you're coming from outside the EU you'll need a work permit, which your employer will have to help you with. This means that unless you're an exceptional candidate, you'll have difficulty in finding an employer to undertake the necessary paperwork.

## Requirements for a Working Visa:

- ★ Job offer
- ★ Health certificate
- ★ Translated Bachelor's degree certificate
- ★ Valid passport

## Useful Links

[www.eslcafe.com](http://www.eslcafe.com)  
[www.eslbase.com](http://www.eslbase.com)  
[www.tefl.com](http://www.tefl.com)  
[www.tefl.net](http://www.tefl.net)  
[www.esemployment.com](http://www.esemployment.com)  
[www.palso.gr](http://www.palso.gr)  
[www.europalso.gr](http://www.europalso.gr)  
[www.qjs.gr](http://www.qjs.gr)



## 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.



