



# **TEFL JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**A Guide to Teaching  
English in South Africa**



**JOHANNESBURG**

**CAPE TOWN**

**DURBAN**

South Africa offers lots of opportunities for teaching English on a volunteer basis. There aren't that many opportunities for paid work in the country, but the British Council do have an office in Johannesburg and there are some paid opportunities to teach English with businesses in cities such as Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban.



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## Opportunities for TEFL Teachers

Most TEFL employers in South Africa prefer to hire people on the spot, so it's usually best to do some searching on the internet, then arrive in-country armed with a copy of your TEFL certificate and a few resumes. There are a growing number of language institutes in cities across the country, and while the majority of positions go to South Africans with native English skills there are opportunities for foreign TEFL teachers too.





## Our Top Three TEFL Destinations

These are our top three TEFL destinations in South Africa. They offer the most scope for paid teaching work in South Africa. If you're more interested in volunteer teaching in South Africa, take a look at i-to-i volunteer teaching placements.

### Johannesburg

Johannesburg is home to the British Council's South African office and has a growing number of language institutes and TEFL jobs.

### Cape Town

As well as being one of the most pleasant African cities to live in, Cape Town is probably South Africa's biggest TEFL jobs market. A growing number of the city's institutes now recruit teachers from overseas.



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### Durban

Durban has South Africa's largest port and is also a center for tourism. These factors combine to keep the TEFL jobs market relatively buoyant and the opportunities for foreign teachers are on the rise.

## Show Me the Money! Wages and Cost of Living in South Africa

### Wages

You won't earn very much teaching English in South Africa. R10,000 (US\$1,370) a month is the average salary for a new teacher working in South Africa, depending on where you are. However, many teachers work for free on a voluntary basis, rather than finding paid work.



## Cost of Living

Unless you're living in the swishest parts of the Cape Town, the cost of living in South Africa is very reasonable, but your wages won't be high either, so it balances out. If you're working voluntarily, you'll probably get food and housing for free. If you do have to pay rent, expect to shell out around R4,000 (US\$547) a month. Outside of tourist areas, food and drink are pretty cheap, with a three-course meal costing around R150 (US\$20).



## Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in South Africa varies greatly. If you're teaching in one of the large cities like Johannesburg or Cape Town, you'll have a pretty decent apartment. However, if you're living in rural areas and teaching on a voluntary basis your accommodation may be much more basic.

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## Flight Reimbursement

South African employers are very unlikely to cover the cost of your flights.

## Taxes

How much tax you pay depends on how much money you earn, but expect the South African taxman to take around 18-25% of your salary.

## Potential to Save Money

If you manage to land a paid TEFL job in South Africa, you should be able to save a little money. If you're volunteering, you'll probably end up having to support yourself from your own savings!



## How Much TEFL Training is Recommended?

If you're working on a voluntary basis, any TEFL training you do will be for your knowledge and confidence, rather than you finding a TEFL job. However, if you're taking on paid work, most schools in South Africa 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 English in South Africa:

- ★ <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

As you'd expect in a country where wealth and poverty live side by side, teaching conditions vary greatly from place to place.

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If you're in a paid teaching role in more affluent schools in cities such as Cape Town or Pretoria, teaching conditions will be pretty good and you'll have all the resources you'd expect back home.

While if you're volunteering or teaching in poorer areas, such as the townships, you'll need to get used to teaching with limited

resources. Teaching contracts in South Africa can last anywhere from one week to one year, depending on whether you're working on a paid or voluntary basis.



## Anything to Be Wary of

As soon as you tell anyone you're thinking of going to South Africa, they'll tell you how lawless and dangerous the cities can be. This is completely overblown, so don't let anyone put you off. As long as you keep your wits about you, you'll have a great time teaching English in South Africa.

## Working and Visas

### Finding TEFL Jobs from Home

Most recruiters like to hire teachers on the spot, so you're best off looking for work in-country, especially as you'll be up against so many native English speaking South African teachers. However, if you're interested in



volunteer teaching arranging a placement from home is pretty easy – check out [www.i-to-i.com/volunteer-teaching-english.html](http://www.i-to-i.com/volunteer-teaching-english.html)

### Finding TEFL Jobs in South Africa

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.

### The Hiring Process

If you're applying from home, employers will want you to fill out an application form and/or send in your resume and a covering letter. If they like the look of you, you'll probably be invited to have a Skype interview. After that it'll hopefully be a job offer! If you're in-country it's a little less formal. You'll usually go to meet one of the school's directors for an informal interview and may be asked to do a demonstration lesson.

### Getting Your Visa

If you're volunteer teaching in South Africa, you can enter the country on a 90-day tourist visa, which can be extended if you want to stay in the country for a longer period of time. If you're going to be taking on paid work however, you'll need a work permit, which your employer will help you apply for.



## 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.eslemployment.com](http://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.

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