



TEFL JOBS IN
SPAIN

**A Guide to Teaching
English in Spain**



MADRID

BARCELONA

SEVILLE

atching
Spain

Many jobs in Spain require fluency in English, so the demand for native English TEFL teachers is huge.

In fact, English language lessons are compulsory in all state schools and, while positions here are usually only offered to the more experienced TEFL teachers, pretty much every town and city has at least one Academia de Inglés that may employ less experienced teachers. Spain is not a place to grow rich and save, but if having a memorable time is more important to you than having loads of cash in the bank, Spain might be the perfect choice.



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Opportunities for TEFL Teachers

The TEFL jobs market in Spain is huge and there are opportunities for qualified TEFL teachers in pretty much every major town and city. TEFL jobs in Spain can be found in any number of different settings, from state schools and kindergartens to private tuition and language schools.

Our Top Three TEFL Destinations

These are our top three TEFL destinations in Spain. Each city has its own unique charm and each offers lots of opportunity for people looking to teach English in Spain.

Madrid

Spain's capital is probably the biggest market for TEFL jobs in the country. It is one of the largest cities in Europe, and



as capital, it is home to many of the country's largest businesses and educational institutes.

Barcelona

Perhaps Spain's most feted city and capital of Catalunya, Barcelona is also one of the country's top TEFL destinations. There's a well developed TEFL jobs market in the city and the opportunities to teach English are many and varied. Everyone from language institutes and state schools through to businesses and private clients are looking to learn English from native speakers.



Seville

Seville is the capital of the beautiful southern province of Andalusia. While it doesn't offer the sheer number of jobs available in Madrid and Barcelona, there is still a well-developed TEFL jobs market and the cost of living is lower, so you can live comfortably on a TEFL teachers salary.

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Show Me the Money!

Wages and Cost of Living in Spain

Wages

The average salary for a new teacher working in Spain is around €1,000 to €1,400 (US\$1,300 to US\$1,835) a month, depending on where you're teaching and who you're working for.

Cost of Living

Living in Spain is reasonable, but by no means cheap. Rent ranges from €300 to €600 (US\$390 to US\$785) a month. The cost of food and eating out in Spain is not bad, if you know where to eat and don't hang out in tourist hot spots! The cost of a meal with wine is around €20 (US\$39).

Accommodation

The standard of accommodation in Spain is pretty good. Most teachers live in small apartments or in shared houses. While they won't have hi-tech appliances or modern

furnishings, they will be comfortable. Accommodation will take up a considerable part of your salary (usually around a quarter), so a shared house is usually the best plan.

Flight Reimbursement

Employers in Spain won't usually cover the cost of your flights, as there is quite high competition for TEFL jobs.

Taxes

As always this depends on how much you're earning, but you can expect the Spanish taxman to take around 25-30% of your salary.

Potential to Save Money

Realistically, you're unlikely to save any money. You might be able to cover your costs during the summer lull, but not much more. During the summer break you should be able to find work with summer camps (make sure you apply early), or if you're more of a traveler than a career TEFLer, you could pick up casual work in the bars and clubs in tourist areas such as the Costas and the Balearic Islands.



How Much TEFL Training is Recommended?

Most schools in Spain 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 Spain:

- ★ <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

Full-time contracts are quite rare so teachers usually juggle a mixture of part-time contracts and private tuition to make ends meet. Often teachers end up working split shifts with classes in the mornings and evenings, and time off in-between – ideal if you're into the idea of long lunches and an afternoon siesta! In total it will probably add up to around 25 hours of contact time, with preparation work on top of that. Usually schools take people on with nine or 10 month contracts, starting in September or early October and finishing in time for summer.



Anything to Be Wary of

If someone offers you a job that seems too good to be true, it probably is. Unfortunately, scammers have targeted the flourishing TEFL market and have set up fake websites and email addresses to lure hopeful teachers. If you have any suspicions, move on.



Working and Visas

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Finding TEFL Jobs from Home

As most recruiters interview candidates by phone and email you can easily set up a job at home and then fly out safe in the knowledge that you'll have a job ready and waiting for you. A good way of getting your foot in the door is by taking part in short volunteer programs, such as Pueblos Ingles. On these programs you exchange your English skills for a short time teaching in Spain. It's a good way to make contacts, gain a little experience and improve your teaching resume. It'll also help you work out whether teaching English in Spain is the right choice for you. Visit www.morethanenglish.com/anglos/index.asp for more information. Alternatively, people often take part in summer school programs, which recruit teachers in March to teach during July and August. TECS is a good company to start with: www.tecs.es



Finding TEFL Jobs in Spain

This is the way that most TEFL jobs in Spain are found, as many language schools will insist on meeting you before they offer you a contract. The best times to search on the spot are in late summer when schools are hiring, and at the beginning of the new year when many teachers fail to return after the Christmas holidays – although you might want to check why they didn't return! A good place to look for TEFL agencies and

language schools is the Spanish Yellow Pages (see useful links below) and the British Council, and if you find yourself in Madrid check out the Interlang Business Language Centre.

The Hiring Process

If you're applying from home, employers will want you to fill out an application form and/or send in your CV/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. It's usually just a question of signing up with a recruitment agency, or if you're going it alone, meeting up with one of the school's directors for an interview and possibly taking part in a demonstration lesson.



Getting Your Visa

If you're an EU national (as most teachers in Spain 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 must be applied for from your country of residence. You'll need your employer to help you with this, and it can be quite a long and drawn out process!

Requirements for a Working Visa:

- ★ Job offer
- ★ Bachelor's Degree certificate
- ★ Valid passport
- ★ Police certificate
- ★ Medical certificate
- ★ All this must be done from your home country

Useful Links

www.eslcafe.com
www.eslbase.com
www.tefl.com
www.tefl.net
www.esemployment.com
www.ffp.org
www.pagesjaunes.fr



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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