



TEFL JOBS IN TURKEY

**A Guide to Teaching
English in Turkey**

ISTANBUL



IZMIR



ANKARA

**A Guide
English**

**JOBS IN
KEY**

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The TEFL jobs market in Turkey is buoyant. The country's desire to join the European Union has led to a huge increase in the number of people taking English classes, and there are opportunities to teach English in both state schools and the growing number of English language institutes that have sprung up around the country.



3



TEFL Jobs in Turkey: A Little Background

After years of being a slightly 'Wild West' TEFL destination, Turkey has become one of Europe/the Middle East's (even the Turkish can't quite decide!) top TEFL destinations.

While Turkey is home to more TEFL teachers from the UK and Ireland than from anywhere else in the world, there is no official bias towards British teachers and there are opportunities for both North Americans and

Australasians. Over recent years the level of professionalism in the country's TEFL jobs market has increased, and you'll now struggle to find a decent TEFL job without a university degree and a TEFL certificate.



Opportunities for TEFL Teachers

Turkey is a great choice for both experienced and inexperienced TEFL teachers. Many schools offer 12 month contracts that include free accommodation and some will offer to cover the cost of your flights as an end of contract bonus. There are opportunities in state schools, private language schools (dershane) and the affluent lises (private secondary schools), and all welcome applicants from the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US. You'll need a university degree and a recognized TEFL certificate in order to find work in Turkey.

Our Top Three TEFL Destinations

4

These are our top three TEFL destinations in Turkey. They are widely regarded as Turkey's three most important cities and offer a wealth of TEFL job opportunities.

Istanbul

The only city in the world to sit in two continents, Istanbul has something of a split personality when it comes to the TEFL jobs markets.

Ankara

Ankara is Turkey's capital and home to many of its key economic, educational and political institutions. Other than Istanbul, Ankara is Turkey's biggest TEFL jobs market and offers ample opportunity for foreign TEFL teachers.

Izmir

Izmir is home to Turkey's second largest port and is a major tourist destination with over 1million visitors annually. The city has lots of private language schools and offers plenty of opportunity to teach English.





Show Me the Money!

Wages and Cost of Living in Turkey

Wages

Salaries for teachers in Turkey range from 1,200TRY (US\$790) to 2,000TRY (US\$1320) a month, which can be supplemented by taking on private tutoring work.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Turkey is pretty low, so you'll be able to live comfortably on an average teacher's salary. Renting a room in a shared apartment costs around 500TRY (US\$330) per month, while a 3-course meal out will cost around 20TRY (US\$13).

Accommodation

That pretty much depends on how much you are willing to pay! Most teachers choose to share with other teachers or expats and, while some apartments will be lacking in modern appliances and may feel a little bit dated, they will be clean and comfortable.

Flight Reimbursement

It is not unknown for TEFL employers to pay the cost of your flights as an end of contract bonus, but the likelihood of them paying the cost up front is pretty slim.

Taxes

How much you pay in tax will depend on how much you earn, but expect to lose around 15-25% of your salary.

Potential to Save Money

If you avoid splashing out too often, you'll definitely be able to save a little money.





How Much TEFL Training is Recommended?

In order to get your hands on the best TEFL jobs in Turkey, you'll want to have done at least 120 hours of TEFL study, either online, in the classroom, or a mixture of both. This is especially important if you don't have previous teaching experience. These courses will all qualify you to teach in Turkey:

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

Common Teaching Conditions

If you're on a full-time teaching contract in Turkey, you will probably work around 25 contact hours per week, with extra time set aside for lesson planning. Teaching contracts in Turkey can last anywhere from a few months to one year. It just depends on your employer and your powers of persuasion.



6

Anything to Be Wary of

Employment practices have improved, but some schools still treat their teachers badly. When you shortlist employers, try to get some recommendations from previous staff – if the school won't put you in touch with any previous teachers, there's probably a good reason!



Working and Visas

Finding TEFL Jobs from Home

Although it is possible to find work from home, it isn't usually the best idea to sign up to a Turkish TEFL contract without visiting the school and generally checking the place out.

Finding TEFL Jobs in Turkey

With Turkey's language schools known for their sometimes dubious working practices, looking for work while you're in Turkey is perhaps the best plan. This allows you to check out the school and get a feel for the place before signing a contract. While the good old bad old days of inexperienced teachers with no formal teaching



qualifications being able to find work are pretty much gone, there are still loads of jobs out there for people with a reputable TEFL certificate. So our advice would be: get TEFL qualified, line up a few interviews from home, get a flight to Turkey, rent yourself a nice hotel room for a week and finding work shouldn't be a problem.

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. Usually you'll 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

In order to work legally in Turkey you'll need a work permit. However, many schools will want you to work on a tourist visa and leave the country every three months in order to renew it. While this is widespread, it is not something we would recommend, as you risk a hefty fine if you're found out, as well as being exploited by employers.

Requirements for a Working Visa:

- ★ Copy of your degree certificate
- ★ Copy of TEFL certificate
- ★ Visa fee (approximately US\$150)

Useful Links

www.eslcafe.com
www.eslbase.com
www.tefl.com
www.tefl.net
www.esemployment.com/
www.teflturkey.net



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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