

# TEACHING ENGLISH IN TAIWAN



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# Teaching English in Taiwan

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The demand for English teachers in Taiwan is steady. It is most common to find a job in advance of arriving, but English teachers can find a job if they are already living in Taiwan. One of the benefits of working in Taiwan is that there is the opportunity to teach children or adults. The majority of jobs for English teachers can be found at private language schools (buxibans) and often times in public schools and universities. Job opportunities are more abundant in larger cities, but for those who want to live a more rural life, finding a job outside of a major city is possible.

The best time to find a job in Taiwan is in July-August, and right after Chinese New Year. Typical contracts will be for at least 12 months.

Housing and airfare are usually not provided by the employer, but English teachers will earn enough money to cover their own housing and airfare costs with money to spare and save at the end of each month. The day-to-day schedule of an English teacher in Taiwan will vary depending on the type of school. In private language schools, English teachers will work around their students' work or school schedule. This means that you can teach classes in the mornings, afternoons, and/or evenings and sometimes on Saturdays. An English teachers' schedule at public schools or universities will vary but are comparable to school schedules as those in the United States or other countries.



# CHAPTER 1

## JOB SEARCH

There are a few different ways to find a job in Taiwan if you're not already there. International TEFL Academy recommends trying each different method that is outlined below to ensure you find the job that is right for you.

**Recruiters:** Recruiters are companies that assist job seekers (English teachers in this case) in finding English teaching jobs abroad in public schools, private English language schools and universities. Essentially, they act as the middle man between the English teacher and the school but don't ultimately hire the English teacher. As a job seeker, you should not have to pay for a recruiter; recruiters should only be paid by the school that hires you. If you are

ever unsure whether or not a recruiter is "legit" don't hesitate to contact International TEFL Academy to check if we've heard of them.

International TEFL Academy works with the following recruiters although there are many more out there. It is completely up to you if you want to work with a recruiter and which recruiter you end up working with. This is not a comprehensive list of recruiters for Taiwan.

- Footprints-<http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/teaching-jobs-in-asia/teaching-jobs-in-taiwan>



- Reach to Teach- <http://www.reach-toteachrecruiting.com/Teach-English-in-Taiwan.html>
- Teach Away- <http://www.teachaway.com/teach-english-taiwan/>

Each recruiter has different ways they would like you to contact them and different documents they will ask you for. Research each recruiter and their requirements before contacting them by going to their websites. Generally, you will apply to work with a recruiter by submitting certain documents (i.e. resume, cover letter, photo) through their website. Once your application has been reviewed a recruiter will contact you and set up an initial screening to find out more about you, where you are interested in working, where you are willing to work, when you are able to start, etc. As long as you meet the recruiter's requirements, the recruiter



will begin to work with you on finding you a school.

**Private Language Schools, Public Schools and Universities:** If you don't want to work with a recruiter, contacting language schools, public schools, and/or universities directly is another way to find a job teaching English in Taiwan. To find schools throughout Taiwan, use International TEFL Academy's Taiwan School Finder. We recommend using Google Chrome or another web server that translates websites from one language to another. Once you land on a specific school's website search for an English Teacher section or for instructions on how to apply for a position. If there aren't clear instructions on how to apply for a position, search for the school's contact information, such as an email address, and email the school directly to tell them who you are, what you want, and that you are applying for an English teaching position.

**Job Boards:** Another way to search for a job in Taiwan is by responding to job posts you find on different ESL Job Boards. There are hundreds of ESL job boards out there and it can be quite overwhelming. Below



is a list of a few major job boards specific to jobs in Taiwan to help you begin your search.

- English in Taiwan -<http://www.englishintaiwan.com/>
- Tealit – <http://www.tealit.com/>
- ESLDewey- <http://www.esldewey.com.tw/job-listing.php>

Once you have a job your school will assist you in the steps of how to arrange your visa, when to book your flight, etc. Typically, English teachers will fly to Taiwan on a tourist visa. Once there, your school will help you in applying for a work visa (ARC) which takes about 6 weeks.

It is also possible to go to Taiwan without having a job offer arranged, and finding a position teaching English on the ground.

When purchasing your flight to Taiwan it is important to keep a few things in mind. Even though you are probably planning to live in Taiwan indefinitely, and perhaps don't know when and if you'll return home, many airlines may ask to see proof of a return ticket or onward travel in order

to allow you to board your flight. Each airline has different rules so please make sure to check with your airline before making any purchases. When you arrive in Taiwan the customs agent may also ask to see proof that you have plans to leave the country before your tourist visa expires. In both cases, it is recommended to have either a return ticket or a ticket for onward travel. The date of the return or onward travel must be prior to the expiration of your tourist visa (typically 90 days after entering Taiwan). If you purchase a round-trip ticket, look into ones that have a flexible return date so that you may adjust the date after you've gone through customs. If you prefer to purchase onward travel, this can be in the form of a bus, boat, or flight ticket from Taiwan to another country. There is no specific date you need to be in Taiwan since schools hire year-round

Start contacting schools via email around 2 weeks before you will be in Taiwan. You can find a list of language schools to contact in International TEFL Academy's Taiwan School Finder. Contacting schools ahead of time will let them know that you're interested! Even if you don't hear back from the school we also recommend





contacting them again when you're in Taiwan. When you contact schools before you arrive, include your resume and cover letter, and a brief overview of who you are and your qualifications and that you're looking for a position teaching English, as well as when you will be able to interview in Taiwan.

To get a job in Taiwan you need to visit schools in person (not by sitting in an internet café). Before you go, make sure you have checked the location and operating hours of the school. When you get there, ask to speak with the person in charge of hiring English teachers – do not just drop off your resume and leave! If no one is there to speak with you, leave your resume and cover letter, ask for contact information for the person in charge of hiring and they are typically in the office, and return to the school at that time.



If the person in charge of hiring English teachers is there, politely ask him/her if they have time to speak with you about your qualifications and for you to find out more about their job openings for English teachers. Tell him/her that you are there looking for an English teaching position and can start immediately. If they cannot talk, schedule a time when they are available for a proper interview.

Within 24 – 48 hours after your interview, send a Thank You email to the person you interviewed with. If you don't have an email, it is also appropriate to call. Let them know how appreciative you are of them taking the time to interview you, and remind them of why you are qualified and want this job!





# CHAPTER 2

## Visa Process

Teachers who plan to work in Taiwan will either enter Taiwan as a tourist on what is called a Landing Visa and have their visa converted to a work visa after arrival, or they will have a work visa processed before going to Taiwan. If a teacher flies to Taiwan on a Landing Visa, the school will then assist the teacher in obtaining a work visa as well as an ARC (Alien Resident Card.) Some schools, more often public schools, will assist their teachers in obtaining the proper work visa before they enter Taiwan.

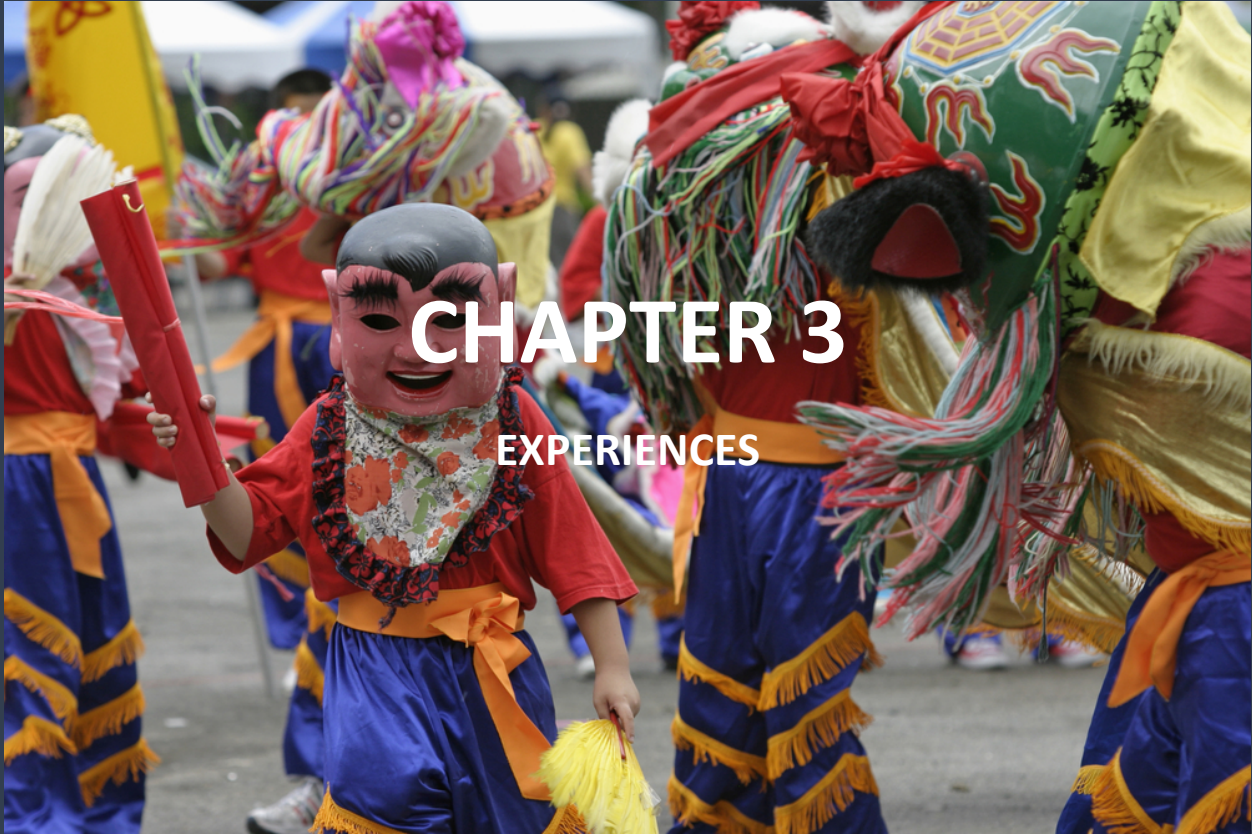
### Required Documents:

- Valid Passport
- International Resume and Cover Letter
- TEFL Certificate
- Associate's degree Or Bachelor's Degree
- Clean national-level background check (FBI for example)

### Recommended documents:

- Sample Lesson plan
- College transcripts
- Copy of your college diploma





# CHAPTER 3

## EXPERIENCES

ITA Alum Austin Bartenstein taught English in the city of Taipei. Below is an article about his experiences.

### Teaching English in Taipei, Taiwan: Q&A with Austin Bartenstein

**What is your citizenship?**

United States

**What city and state are you from?**

Richmond, VA

**How old are you?**

24

**What is your education level and background?**

Bachelor's Degree

**Have you traveled abroad in the past?**

I never left the country before.

**What sparked your interest in going to teach English abroad?**

After I graduated from college, I took a year-long contract at an office job in my hometown. It was a great place to work and provided a really caring work environment; it was a perfect first job. Throughout the year, however, I learned an office job isn't what I wanted, especially so close to home. I saw no reason to settle down and accept that existence at age 23 and so I



started looking for ways to travel. With college loans looming, I wanted to find a way to travel and not lose money. I learned that was possible by teaching English abroad. I asked some friends about their experiences and never heard a bad word about it, so I looked into it for myself.

**What were some of your concerns before teaching English abroad?**

Missing family and paying college loans. That's about it.

**What did your friends and family think about you moving and teaching English abroad?**

Many didn't believe I would do it. When my mom and dad saw the TEFL certificate in the mail, they knew I was serious and were nothing but supportive thereafter.

**TEFL CLASS INFORMATION**

**Why did you decide to get TEFL certified and choose International TEFL Academy?**

I learned that a TEFL certificate was expected in most of the countries I was looking for employment. Plus, I had no classroom teaching experience and figured the certificate would help with that.

A friend recommended International TEFL Academy. She signed up and was really impressed that she got a phone call later that day from you all. She didn't end up going through with it and took a job in town. I was determined to not let that happen to me.

**Which TEFL certification course did you take?**

Online TEFL Certification Class

**How did you like your Online TEFL Certification course?**

I worked at a Christian summer camp for six years, teaching kids sports and teamwork in a compassionate environment, so I have plenty of experience working with kids. As someone with no classroom teaching experience, though, I found the course very helpful. The tasks gave me confidence to lesson plan. My instructor, Osa Relacion, was flexible and always available for help. She even held online office hours! The course gave me the tools I was looking for to teach in a classroom and I got to put them in action with the practicum, an invaluable part of the course. After tutoring students at the local university who knew almost no English, I knew I was ready to teach English abroad.

**How has your TEFL training helped you in your current teaching position in Taiwan?**

My TEFL training has given me the confidence to teach in a classroom setting. While it was still intimidating walking into my first class, I find myself falling back on my TEFL training quite often.



## **TEACHING ENGLISH ABROAD IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

### **Which city and country did you decide to teach English in and why?**

I chose to teach English in Taipei, Taiwan because I had heard such good things about the people here. I also loved the makeup of the island: I'm never too far from the mountains or the beach.

### **How long have you been teaching English in Taiwan and how long do you plan to stay?**

I have been here for seven months and plan to stay for at least a year.

### **How did you secure your English teaching job in Taiwan?**

I went through a fantastic recruiting agency, Reach to Teach, which International TEFL Academy recommended.

### **What school, company, or program are you working for?**

I work for Hess Language School.

### **How did you get your work visa for teaching English in Taiwan? If you didn't get a work visa, please elaborate on working under the table without a work visa.**

I didn't get my ARC card until about a month in. I worked under the table, which is very common here and got paid in cash. It seemed pretty standard and it never felt shady.

My school handled the processing of my ARC. It took a little over a month. I just had to give them my diploma, passport, and passport-size pictures of myself. Taiwan

gives you a 90-day landing visa when you arrive, so I didn't really have to worry about visa issues before coming to the country.

### **Tell us about your English teaching job in Taipei, Taiwan!**

Because we are moving into the school year for kids in Taiwan, my hours have varied a little bit. Some weeks have been closer to 30 and others have been 20 or less. (The influx had to do with two teachers leaving my small school branch). I anticipate much more consistency of hours when we get into the school year next week. I get paid a little more than a typical Hess teacher because I went through Reach to Teach Recruiting.

I work for a "cram school." During the week, my school runs three 2 hour session classes from 2-9 PM, with breaks in between. The kids at my school are primarily elementary and middle school age. We don't have any adults in our classes. We get 14 days vacation time.

I work in a smaller branch of Hess, which has its disadvantages (harder to find a teacher to cover for you if you need a day off), but I really like the smaller size. My



classes are smaller than normal which I really like. I have three students in two of my classes! This is not typical of a typical Hess or Taiwan classroom (my other classes have more students in them, but never exceed 14); I think I just got lucky!

**How did you find somewhere to live and what is it like? Do you have roommates?**

I browsed tealit.com, Taiwan's version of Craigslist, but eventually found my place on Facebook. I live a little north of the city proper. It's pretty easy to get a place in the heart of the city, and for cheap. I often saw places around 9,000 NT (300 USD) or less that looked pretty nice. My place is nestled in a mountain north of the city in a really cool neighborhood. It's much bigger than a typical Taipei apartment so I pay a little more, but it's still much cheaper than anything I could find in my hometown.

I have one roommate who is from South Africa. We met on Facebook when I expressed interest in the place and we have gotten along great so far. We also have a third roommate from France.



**COUNTRY INFORMATION - FUN!**

**Please explain the cultural aspects, public transportation, nightlife, social activities, food, expat community, dating scene, travel opportunities, etc. about your country:**

I have had too much fun here so far. I play ultimate frisbee and have made most of my friends through that. I hang out primarily with American-born Chinese expats (and some Taiwanese frisbee players) who are fluent in Mandarin, which makes our possibilities endless (but has also made it easy for me to procrastinate taking Chinese classes)!

Every weekend has been different than the last. We have hiked all over the northern part of Taiwan, played frisbee on the beach, biked along the coast, frisbee golfed at Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, and enjoyed many delicious family-style dinners together. Speaking of dinners, food here is a big deal. The Taiwanese take eating seriously and their cuisine reflects that. There's a wide array of dishes you can get here, and I have barely scratched the surface. I have enjoyed just about everything I've eaten here...thoroughly.

The nightlife in Taipei is alive and kickin'! I have been to a few different bars on Friday







nights and had a great time. I remember asking a friend when last call was (being used to America's curfew), and she said "yeah, they don't really have that here." It's true, Taipei bars and clubs pretty much stay open all night. They also don't have an open-container law here, so if you're like me and don't like spending all your money at bars, you can enjoy some adult sodas in the park (or anywhere else you choose). The only downside to staying out late is that the MRT closes at 12. But if you've got the endurance, you can wait until it opens again at 6!

That's really the only downside of public transit in Taipei. Otherwise, transportation is very easy here. The MRT is extremely efficient. Waiting more than four minutes for a train to come feels like too long. Buses are endless and efficient as well. My home-to-work commute is much longer than typical one, but I am still able to take public transit all the way there. The city is crawling with taxis and if you need to be somewhere, you can raise your hand and a cab

will be at the curb. All of it is cheap, too. I really can't say enough about the public transportation here. I love it. It's one of the many reasons it's so easy to live in Taipei. As for traveling elsewhere: flights from Taiwan are very cheap if you use the budget airlines. I flew to Singapore (in about four hours) with friends for a frisbee tournament. We also went to Hong Kong in October and the Philippines in November for the same reason.

I have been more focused on making friends, so I haven't explored the dating scene too much here yet. The expat community seems pretty large, though. There are teachers everywhere and while I haven't really left my frisbee niche yet, I hope to make more friends through teaching soon.

### **What are your monthly expenses?**

I pay 12,000 NT (approximately \$400 USD) a month for rent and utilities.

I spend maybe 1000 NT (approximately \$30 USD) twice a month on groceries. It's so cheap to eat out (I usually spend around 50 NT (approximately 1.50 USD for lunch) that I rarely make more than one meal for myself a day.



I don't go to bars as much as I did back home because there are so many other things to do here, but that's usually when I spend the most money. Most of the other social activities I do, like hiking and playing frisbee, are free.

I spend about 50 NT a day on public transportation, using the buses and MRT. I will occasionally take a cab on the weekends, but those rarely get over 150-200 NT, and most of the time I'm splitting that cost with other people.

I don't have a phone service here yet (I've been able to survive just using the free WIFI that's everywhere), but I have heard it's quite reasonable.

When I go hiking on the east coast, the train typically costs about 50 NT one way. I haven't explored parts of the island or taken advantage of the high-speed rail, but I will soon. My flight to Singapore was 8000 NT (approximately 260 USD), very affordable.

**How would you describe your standard of living?**

I live in a nice apartment and live pretty comfortably.

**In your opinion, how much does someone need to earn in order to live comfortably?**

I would say about 30,000 NT (approximately \$1,000 USD) a month is sufficient.

**ADVICE FOR THOSE CONSIDERING TEACHING ENGLISH IN TAIWAN**

**What advice would you give someone planning or considering teaching abroad? Would you recommend teaching English in Taiwan?**

I didn't know where I wanted to teach, so I did a lot of research on different countries and cultures. I'm really glad I did, too. I chose Taiwan because I loved the makeup of the island. But I had also heard about how genuine and welcoming the people were, which was the single most important factor to me. I was not disappointed. While I hang out primarily with expats, all of the Taiwanese people I've encountered have been pleasant; seriously, every single one.

I highly recommend Taipei. It's so easy to live here and it has something for everyone. I have fully loved it so far.







ITA Alum Jassira Vardak also taught English in the city of Taipei. She took some time to share her experiences in the interview below.

## Taipei, Taiwan English Teaching Q&A with Jassira Vardak

**What is your citizenship?**

England

**What city and state are you from?**

Chicago, IL

**How old are you?**

27

**What is your education level and background?**

Bachelor's Degree

**Have you traveled abroad in the past?**

Some international travel with friends, family, business, etc.

**If you have traveled abroad in the past, where have you been?**

Australia, Pakistan, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Hungary

**What sparked your interest in going to teach English abroad?**

I've always loved traveling, but I prefer to spend more than a few days or a week in one place. When I realized I was stuck in a job I didn't want and that I no longer knew what I wanted to do career-wise, I decided to pursue a different type of life instead. I always dreamed of traveling full time; I just didn't know how to attain it. Teaching English abroad was a means to an end, but it is truly the best and easiest way of making this dream come true.

**What were some of your concerns before teaching abroad?**

Not knowing the language and having enough start up money.

**What did your friends and family think about you moving and teaching abroad?**

Everyone was really supportive.

### **TEFL CLASS INFORMATION**

**Why did you decide to get TEFL certified and choose International TEFL Academy?**

I wanted the security of knowing I could get a job nearly anywhere in the world. Having a TEFL certificate from ITA was the best way of ensuring that, plus everything I saw and read about ITA made me certain this was the best option for preparing me for the new life I was choosing.

**Which TEFL certification course did you take?**

USA - Chicago TEFL Course

**How did you like the course?**

The course was amazing. I'm so glad I chose the in-person course; the class was informative, and the discussions with teachers and fellow students were illuminating. Both instructors did such a good job of preparing me to teach English overseas. I felt so confident by the end of the course that most of the pre-moving anxiety I had was totally unrelated to teaching. Everything we did was geared towards real world situations and the practicum was vital for giving me both the much needed experience teaching as well as invaluable and immediate feedback from my instructor.

**How has your TEFL training helped you in your current teaching position?**

I teach children and although we did a unit on teaching kids and were given plenty of advice on how to deal with them, nothing really prepares you for teaching kids other than prior experience having done so. There isn't anything in this area that ITA could have done better; both myself and

everyone I've spoken to here learned how to teach children from observing their coworkers and through trial and error in their own classes.

However, my training has helped me hugely in teaching privately to adults. Thanks to what I learned during that intense four weeks, I am able to communicate about the English language effectively, build comprehensive lesson plans, and quickly identify my students' issues. I love teaching adults and am on my way to building a lucrative side business.

**Which city and country did you decide to teach English in and why?**

I chose to teach English in Taiwan in the city of Taipei. Taiwan has a lot of job opportunities and an easy way of life. I picked Taipei for the excellent public transportation, the larger expat community, and the presence of an LGBTQ community.

**How long have you been in this country and how long do you plan to stay?**

I have been here 8 months and plan to stay an additional year.





**What school, company, or program are you working for?**

Sesame Street English

**During which months does your school typically hire?**

My location hires as needed (we only employ two foreign teachers), but in general schools here hire year round. For the busiest hiring season, plan to come in summer; you should be able to find a job no matter when you arrive.

**Did you secure this position in advance of arriving?**

No

**How did you interview for this position?**

In-person interview

**What kind of Visa did you enter on?**

Tourist Visa

**Please explain the visa process that you went through.**

I purchased a refundable plane ticket to Hong Kong in advance of arriving so that I could prove I was leaving the country. I was asked to show the ticket before receiving my boarding pass in the States, but not upon arrival in Taiwan. If and when you are asked to show proof of departure can vary, but it's smart to purchase cheap and/or refundable airfare to somewhere (most people choose Hong Kong) just in case. You can either use the airfare for a weekend trip or get a refund once the ARC process begins.



Your school should help you obtain first a work permit, then work visa, then an ARC. I had to incur all the costs of mine, which ended up being more expensive than I had planned due to a recent increase in the fee for a work visa for U.S. citizens. I definitely would have traveled on my British passport had I known.

**What are the qualifications that your school requires for teachers? Please check all that apply**

- Bachelor's degree
- Native English speaker

**What is the best way to apply?**

Email

**Please include any application resources (website, email, etc.) or other information here:**

My school's website: [www.sesamevillage.tw](http://www.sesamevillage.tw)

### **Tell us about your English teaching job!**

**HOURS:** I teach two mornings a week for the kindergarten and four afternoons plus two Saturdays a month for the elementary school.

I am salaried for the elementary school so although I only teach 12-15 hours a week, I am required to be there from 1pm-6pm (which means I'm at work an additional 12 hours a week). Theoretically these are considered office hours, however we have to do very little lesson planning so it's primarily wasted time.

Add the 5 hours a week I teach kindergarten and I work a total of 17-20 hours a week.

**PAY:** \$42,000 NTD/month (before taxes and national health insurance) on salary for the elementary school. Kindergarten varies dependent on how many Tuesdays/Thursdays are in a given month, but typically I can count on at least \$12,000 NTD/month (before taxes and national



health insurance). We are also given bonuses for teaching demos to prospective students, graduations, etc.

After taxes and health insurance I take home about \$52,000 per pay check. I also make additional money from private teaching. This amount varies.

**SAVINGS:** I save at least \$10,000 NTD/month to send home. That's around \$300 USD and I'm often able to send more.

**TYPE OF SCHOOL:** Sesame Street, like most schools at which you're likely to get hired, is a cram school. That means the focus is on making money more so than it is on education. Every school is different in how much this is balanced, and how much is probably going to have an effect on your classes and how you'll need to teach.

**STUDENTS:** In Taiwan you will be teaching children. There are a few opportunities to teach adults, but it is rare you will be able to find a position teaching anyone over the age of 18. At my school I teach ages 2 to 12, although typically most of my students are 10 and under. Teaching kids takes a lot of energy and my first couple of months were rough in this regard. Once I adjusted, it was fine.

**VACATION:** Vacation and sick time is unpaid, but allowed. My school has been understanding whenever I've been sick and always given me any requested time off as long as I give them enough notice. Plus Taiwan has a lot of national holidays and



you'll end up with a long weekend (3 or 4 days) about once every two months.

OVERALL: My job is pretty easy in that I don't have to do a lot of lesson planning; my teaching hours are good; and the pay is decent. There are some things I would change, primarily that I would prefer a job where I do not have to stay at school outside of teaching and prep time. I am planning to change jobs within the next few months and hoping to take more private students as I really love teaching adults.

Most teaching jobs you find here will have these kinds of pros and cons. It's important to think about what matters most to you when you're considering a position:

- Do you want to have summers off (but can you budget for 2 months without pay)?
- Would you mind a salaried position or do you value having more time for yourself?
- Do you want to work mornings and be done by mid-afternoon or would you rather sleep in and work late?
- How much do class sizes matter?



- How do you feel about teaching babies (surprisingly I've found I prefer the 2-6 year olds to the older kids)?

### How did you find somewhere to live and what is it like? Do you have roommates?

I stayed with a friend in Taichung when I first arrived, which was great as it gave me time to acclimate a little. From there I found a one month sublet in Taipei through a Facebook housing group. Once I secured a job and had a better idea of where I wanted to live, I found an apartment with three other roommates (also on FB). I now live in a one-bedroom apartment with my girlfriend.

It is really easy to find somewhere to live, especially if you're in a city. Many other cities in Taiwan have Facebook housing groups and Taipei has at least three. You can live with other expats and/or Taiwanese. I didn't love all of my roommates, but that can happen anywhere, and luckily it's easy to find somewhere else to live. Taipei has a pretty transient expat community due to the number of universities, so it's likely you'll meet lots of different people if you end up living here more than a year.



Most apartments are either studios or 2+ bedrooms; one-bedrooms are actually pretty rare in Taipei. We found ours on 591.com; however you will need to speak Chinese or know someone who does as most landlords won't speak English. The vast majority of apartments and rooms will be furnished.

Keep in mind most places require a 2-month deposit plus the first month's rent.

**On a scale of 1 - 10 please rate your experience with this school. 6**

#### **COUNTRY INFORMATION - FUN!**

**Please explain the cultural aspects, public transportation, nightlife, social activities, food, expat community, dating scene, travel opportunities, etc...**

There's always plenty to do here, whether it's going to museums, local cultural events, or exploring all the natural wonders Taiwan has to offer. Hiking, hot springs, and the beach are all an easy distance from the city center; most are within an hour's bus ride. Taipei has a lot of good nightlife from low key bars to fancy clubs.



Much of the local social life here revolves around food and you can easily spend an evening eating your way through a night market.

Public transportation is phenomenal in Taipei. The MRT is convenient and easy to use, with all trains and the majority of buses boasting English as well as Chinese. There is a large expat community, thanks in part to the number of universities in Taipei. In terms of dating, Tinder, Okcupid, and all the other dating mediums are active and definitely in use here. In regards to my own experiences, dating here was more difficult than it was in the U.S. The good news, however, is that Taiwan is touted as the most LGBTQ friendly place in Asia and I've never felt uncomfortable or judged here for being physically affectionate in public.

Taiwan is really well located for travel throughout Asia and it's generally pretty cheap. I have plans for a number of countries, but there is so much to see within Taiwan as well that you could spend most of your time here just exploring the island.





## COUNTRY INFORMATION - MONEY

### What are your monthly expenses?

Rent/Utilities: I paid \$9,000 NTD/month plus utilities (less than \$1000/month) for a room in a four-bedroom apartment and I pay the same for the one bedroom we live in now. That's about average for Taipei if you have roommates. If you want to live alone, you should expect to pay anywhere from \$12,000 to \$24,000 NTD/month in rent, although that can go down the further out you go.

Food: We cook more than probably most expats here, so approximately \$10,000 NTD/month.

Social Activities: This can vary hugely. I spend maybe \$5,000 NTD/month.

Transportation: I don't keep track of this, but I would guess at least \$3000 NTD/month. That includes the occasional cab (\$100-\$200 NTD per).

Phone/Communication: I am not on a phone plan, so I spend \$800 NTD/month on unlimited data and add minutes as needed (which isn't often).



Travel: This varies hugely based on what you do each month. I try to save \$12,000 NTD/month for travel, but half of that is set aside for visiting home or making bigger international trips (ie outside of Asia).

### How would you describe your standard of living?

Very comfortable

### In your opinion, how much does someone need to earn in order to live comfortably?

If you don't have any expenses back home, you could probably live comfortably off \$35,000 NTD/month.

## ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

### What advice would you give someone planning or considering teaching abroad? Would you recommend teaching in your country?

Do it. The scariest part happens before you go,; after that, it's all an adventure.

And I absolutely recommend Taiwan, but only if it feels right for what you need in a place. It was definitely right for me (at least for now).





# CHAPTER 4

## RESOURCES

- International TEFL Academy's Job Search Guidance Manual - <https://www.internationalteflacademy.com/hs-fs/hub/67369/file-12934485-pdf/job-search-guidance/international-job-search-guidance-manual.pdf>
- International TEFL Academy's Taiwan School Finder - <https://www.internationalteflacademy.com/hs-fs/hub/67369/file-15197586-pdf/job-search-guidance/taiwan-school-finder.pdf>
- More ITA Alumni articles and Q&A's from Taiwan - <https://www.internationalteflacademy.com/alumni-stories-teaching-english-in-asia#Taiwan>
- ITA's Webinar on how to get a job teaching English in Taiwan – <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1881704575873486850>