

Why Teach Overseas



WHY TEACH OVERSEAS

There are so many benefits to teaching overseas. Below are the most common reasons international school teachers say they enjoy their life overseas so much.

JOB ENJOYMENT

- First rate schools - International schools are private K-12 educational institutions with excellent facilities.
- Community - Because of the adventure and experience of teaching in a foreign country, a bond and a sense of community develop among teachers overseas that you won't find in your home country.
- Small class sizes - Enjoy your teaching job more with the small classes characteristic of all international schools.
- Multicultural students - The international composition of the student body and their unique contributions to the school will make your teaching job more interesting.
- Teach in English - No foreign language knowledge is necessary because all classes are taught in English.

SEE THE WORLD

- Travel - One of the main reasons teachers make the move to teach overseas is the myriad opportunities to travel. Imagine visiting the Egyptian pyramids on your winter break, or driving thru the sand dunes with friends.
- Experience new things - Learn a new language, cook authentic local food, experience camel races, walk thru traditional markets, ... these are one of a kind experiences that open up new horizons and broaden an individual's perspective on the world.
- Safety and security – the cities in the Gulf region are consider amongst the safest places to reside for singles and families.

CAREER ENHANCEMENT

- International experience - Living overseas and experiencing another culture gives teachers a unique outlook on life and a keen appreciation for the world outside their home country. Employers recognize and appreciate this.
- Career advancement - Many schools give teachers a stipend to further their skills through continuing education or other career supplements.

SCHOOLS:

IP recruits teachers to teach at international and local schools around the Gulf region.

What is an International School?

From Abuja, Nigeria to UAE, Oman, Qatar international schools come in all shapes and sizes. Some schools are non-profit, affiliated with a western embassy, usually British or American, while others are proprietary. Originally established to educate children of the expatriate, or "expat", community-the sons and daughters of diplomats and international business people-international schools have become the favoured schools of most major cities around the world. International schools now serve not only expatriates but K-12 children of host country nationals.

By their very nature international schools host a diverse and multinational population of students. Regardless of their nationality, most all students speak excellent English.

International School Teachers

International school curriculum is taught 100% in English, and all teachers speak English at a native fluency level. As such, schools generally hire their teachers from English speaking countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

At all schools, teachers are the life blood of the institution. Nowhere is this better understood than at international schools, where teachers are often given a stipend to assist in enhancing their own skills with continuing education and other career development opportunities.

Teacher Qualifications:

Below are the required qualifications for international school teachers followed by qualifications that are not mandatory, but are desirable and make a teacher more competitive.

Required Qualifications

- *Native English speaker* - Due to demand by our partner schools teachers must be able to speak English at a native level.
- *Western curriculum teaching* - International schools teach a Western based curriculum. As such, applicants MUST have experience teaching in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or South African national curriculum.
- *Outstanding teaching ability* - All teachers should be able to demonstrate a strong teaching ability and a genuine enjoyment of the job.
- *Some experience* - International schools prefer teachers with at least two years of teaching experience, some require more and others will accept less.
- *Bachelor's degree* - A four year Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution is required; additional degrees and certifications are always desirable.

- *Teachers Certification* - Most schools require teacher's certification for teachers and all prefer it. However, many schools have teacher intern positions available, for which no certification is required (however, a Bachelor's degree is). For those positions, applicants should have graduated with honors from an excellent university and have experience working with young people in some capacity.



- *Flexibility* - It is impossible to successfully live and work overseas without a healthy dose of flexibility and a sense of adventure.
- *Creativity and enthusiasm* - International schools want teachers who are creative and enthusiastic in their teaching and in their lives because they want individuals who will inspire and challenge students.
- *References* - Teachers should be prepared to provide three references, one supervisor, one parent of a recent student, and one other character reference. In addition, teaching applicants must not have a criminal record.

Desired Qualifications:

- *Overseas experience* - International schools prefer teachers who have studied or worked overseas before. Those who have not should strongly desire to work and live in an international environment, should understand the associated challenges, and should demonstrate flexibility in adapting to new situations or living conditions.
- *Global perspective* - Evidence of multiculturalism in a teacher's life is particularly important for those who have not lived and worked overseas before. A willingness or desire to learn the language is also a plus.
- *Single teacher or a teaching couple* - Since travel expenses, housing, insurance, and visa procurement are taken care of by the school, most of the time teachers who have no accompanying, non-working dependents are preferred.
- *Extra-curricular activities* - The more outside skills a teacher has and the more activities they are involved in, the more desirable they are to schools. International school teachers are often expected to participate in extra-curricular activities and schools want to know teaching candidates have a willingness and desire to be involved in a variety of things outside of their job.
- *Language knowledge* - It is good to have some prior knowledge of the local language, or of any foreign language. Not only does this make a teacher more useful to a school, but it indicates a global perspective in their life.

Time Off

International school schedules generally follow the Western education system, with school in session Sunday to Thursday with Friday and Saturday being the weekend. In Oman and Saudi however the weekend continues to be Thursday and Friday. Summer holidays tend to be approximately 10 weeks and three weeks in winter.

Teachers, students, and parents alike generally prefer this schedule to one with a long summer break, as it provides more time throughout the year to go on vacation, travel, relax, and enjoy all the seasons in a country. During school holidays teachers usually use their excess income to explore neighbouring cities and countries, often together.

Pay and Benefits

The main benefits to teaching overseas are the enjoyment of teaching in an international school, the friends you'll make, the adventure of life overseas, and the travel opportunities living abroad brings you. Money should not be your main motivation for teaching overseas and you should know that you won't get rich teaching abroad.

However, we know money is necessary no matter where you are in the world, so below is a general overview of the pay and benefits you can expect with a teaching job abroad.

There is no personal income tax in the Gulf countries and so all income earned is "take home" pay. The potential to save is extremely high and this adds to the attraction of the job. Payments will be made in local currency. There are no restrictions to movement of capital and the currency is pegged to the US \$.

In addition to a teacher's regular salary, most schools offer the following benefits:

- Airfare to and from the host city for the teacher
- Health insurance
- Housing or a housing allowance
- Career development opportunities
- Summer vacation
- Assistance learning the country's language
- Procurement of all appropriate visas and country permits
- Local taxes paid

For More Information: www.intelligentgulf.com

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