

How to land a teaching job online or abroad

With a TEFL from International House at UC Berkeley

Teach Away, March 2020

[teachaway.com](https://www.teachaway.com)

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Preparing to land your dream job

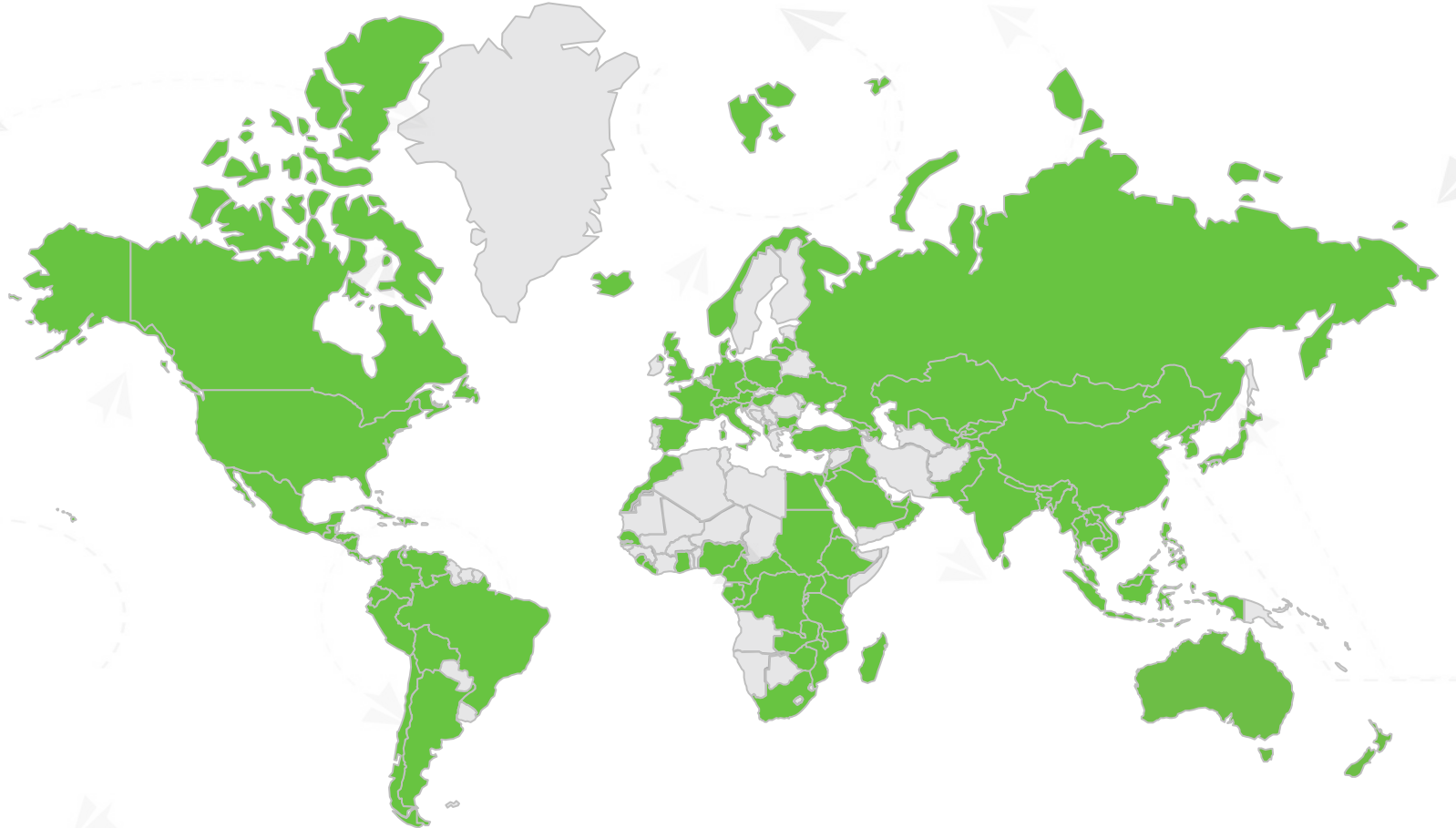
Do your research



Where can I teach abroad?

With a TEFL certificate, you can teach English in any non-English-speaking country in the world. With so many options, the most important thing to do is to narrow down your search.

Find out about the culture, lifestyle and teaching opportunities in different countries.



Comparing ESL teaching jobs

Job Details	China	Japan	France	Colombia
Average Monthly Salary (USD)	\$1,500–\$4,500	\$2,200–\$3,000	\$1,100–\$2,000	\$500–\$1,500
Benefits Included	Housing, flights, vacation time & health insurance	Housing, flights, vacation time & health insurance	Usually none	Usually none
Typical Students	Children (pre-K to high school)	Children (pre-K to high school)	Business professionals & children (summer camps)	Children (elementary to high school) & business professionals
Required Qualifications	120-hour TEFL & bachelor's degree	120-hour TEFL preferred & bachelor's degree	120-hour TEFL & bachelor's degree (teaching experience also preferred)	120-hour TEFL required

Check out the full **TEFL Country Comparison Chart** [here](#).

What you need to know about work visas

To teach abroad you'll need a work visa, which allows you to legally work in the country.

You won't need to obtain a visa until after you land a job, but when doing your initial research, you'll want to ensure you qualify for one. Check out the embassy or consulate website of the country you're interested in living in to find out:

- If there is an age limit on work visas
- If your citizenship qualifies you for a work visa
- If there are any educational requirements (like a bachelor's degree or TEFL)



What about online ESL teaching jobs?

A TEFL certificate is a requirement for teaching online.

As an online teacher, you are considered an **independent contractor**. This gives you a lot of flexibility. You can often set your own hours and take vacation freely.

You can also teach from home or anywhere in the world as long as you have a steady internet connection and webcam.

Online Teaching	
Requirements	120-hours of TEFL & a bachelor's degree for most jobs
Typical Students	School children & business professionals
Average Hourly Salary (USD)	\$18-25

Preparing to land your dream job

Understanding the
requirements



The basic requirements

Bachelor's degree (in
any subject)



+

A TEFL certificate



=

ESL Teacher/Instructor



With your bachelor's degree and the right TEFL certificate, you're
qualified for most ESL teaching positions online and abroad.

What is TEFL certification?



TEFL = Teaching English as a Foreign Language

The most widely recognized qualification to teach English to non-native speakers.

The preferred ESL teaching qualification of hiring schools and online teaching companies worldwide.

Do I really need a TEFL certificate?

Yes!

A TEFL certificate is always a good idea

If you've never taught English or English language learners (ELLs) then it can be the key to your success, whether you're an experienced teacher or new to teaching.

But...

If you're already a licenced teacher or have teaching experience, you may not require a TEFL certificate to land a job.



Can I still teach English if I don't have a bachelor's degree?

Yes, but it won't be easy.

A four-year bachelor's degree is a minimum requirement for most teaching jobs abroad and online teaching jobs.

Without a degree, you'll also need a top notch TEFL!



Do I need to be a teacher or have teaching experience?

No, you don't!

To be an ESL instructor, you don't need to be a teacher and a vast majority of ESL teaching positions don't require any teaching experience.

Tips on preparing:

- Get a TEFL certification.
- Talk to teach abroad experts.
- Research, research, research.
- Inquire about on-site training and support in-country.



What types of teaching jobs are out there?

Teaching abroad isn't just for teachers!

Two types of teaching jobs:

ESL TEACHING JOBS

Teach English online for an ESL tutoring company or abroad in private schools, public schools or English language academies.

JOBS FOR LICENSED TEACHERS

Teach the same subject and grade you are licensed to teach abroad in private, public or international schools.

Do I need to speak the local language?

No, you don't!



Most schools prefer teachers to have limited knowledge of the local language. It ensures your students need to speak English to you in order to be understood.

Plus, you will have the opportunity to learn the language!

Landing your dream job

Step 1: Earn your TEFL certificate



TEFL versus TESL versus TESOL

TEFL

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Concentrates on learning the skills needed to teach English to students living in a country where English is not the native language.

TESL

Teaching English as a Second Language

Suited for teachers who plan to teach English in a country where English *is* the native language.

TESOL

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Used for domestic and foreign teaching, though it is a term often misused.

Learn more on the differences between TEFL, TESL and TESOL [here](#).

Why get TEFL certified?



You need it to teach
online or abroad*



You will land a
teaching job faster



It gives you the skills
to teach ELLs

*For most ESL teaching positions both online and abroad, if you are not a teacher or don't have any teaching experience.

What will I learn in a TEFL course?

With a TEFL, you'll learn how to:

- Teach English language skills.
- Simplify English grammar.
- Plan a lesson.
- Manage a classroom.
- Create effective learning materials.



How do I choose a TEFL course?

There is no global standard for TEFL – most of the courses you see out there are not going to qualify you for the job you want! **That's why the most important choice you'll make is choosing your TEFL course provider.** Be sure to choose a company or school that is reputable and knows a thing or two about global teaching!

Choose a course that's:

- taught or designed by educators and/or experts in international education.
- well reviewed by other students.
- 120+ hours long – and be sure this appears on your certificate!
- between \$500 and \$2,000 – anything that sounds too good to be true is just that!

Landing your dream job

Step 2: Finding your teaching job & applying!



Employers abroad

Once you have your TEFL certificate, it's time to start your job hunt. There a number of different types of employers out there. Some of the most popular are:

- International schools
- Public schools
- Private schools
- Language Academies
- Private Tutoring
- Corporate Teaching
- Government Programs



Pssst...you can find information about all of them at [teachaway.com](https://www.teachaway.com)!

Your teacher resume

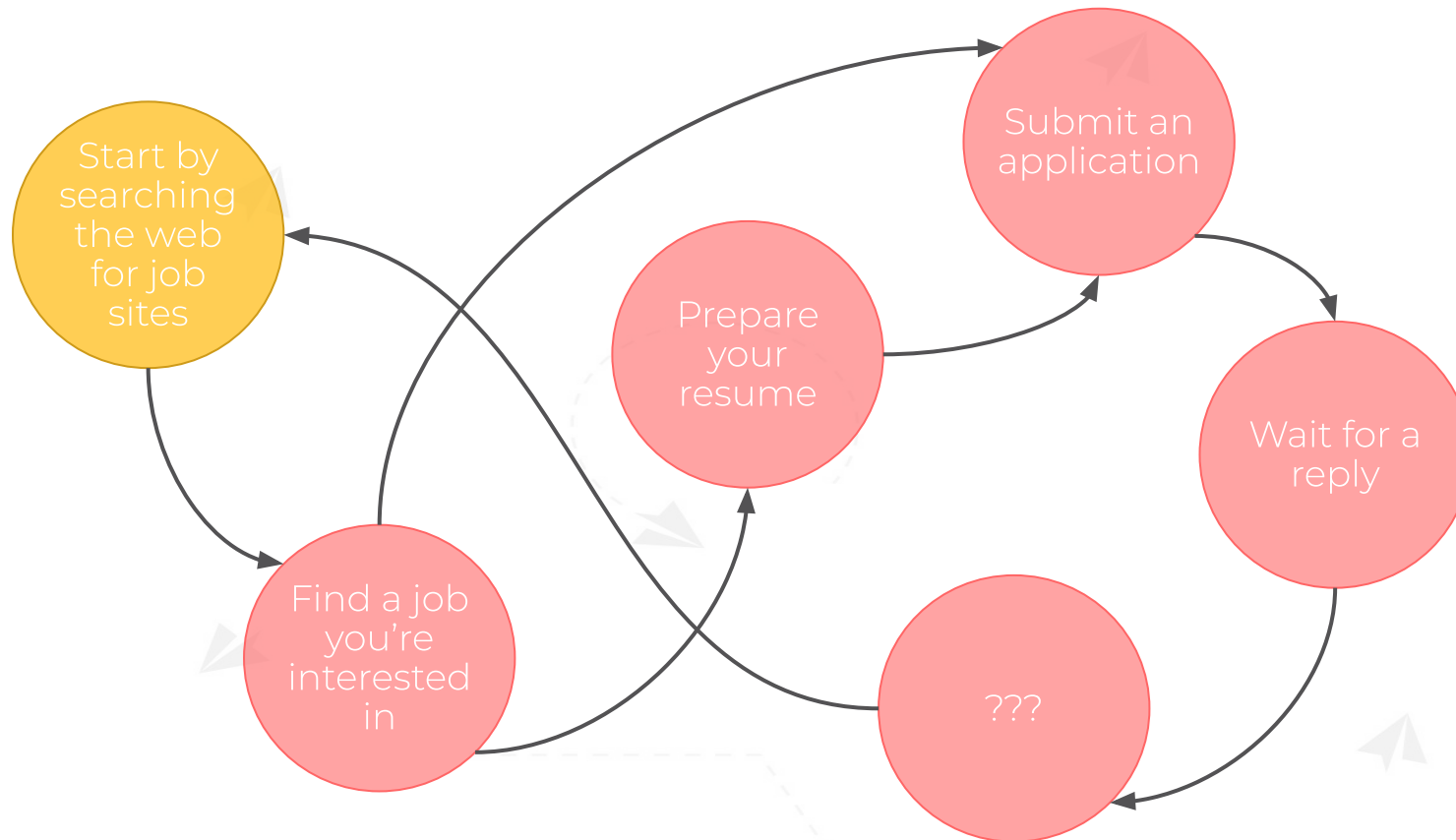
Here are five tips on creating a great resume that shows how ready you are to teach abroad:

1. **Focus on quality, not quantity.** Keep your resume to two pages maximum and focus only on experience that is relevant to teaching and the position for which you are applying.
2. **Make it easy to scan.** Your resume needs to be clear enough so that important information is easy for a recruiter to spot at the top.
3. **Clearly outline your education, any teaching experience, and your teaching certifications.** Make sure it's clear that you have training that meets the job requirements.
4. **Highlight international experiences.** If you speak another language or have lived abroad, be sure to list it on your resume.
5. **Keep it simple.** Use a simple font and basic colors. Your resume It should be easy to read and professional.

BONUS: Consider adding a profile photo. Many international employers like to see the teacher they may be hiring!

The job hunt

Once you have your TEFL certificate, it's time to start your job hunt. It can feel overwhelming – you won't have a way of tracking your application and you may not even know if the job posting is out-of-date. What's worse, you won't have much information about the job and may find out the job isn't a good fit for you.



Meet Teach Away

Making getting
hired easier.



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Meet Teach Away

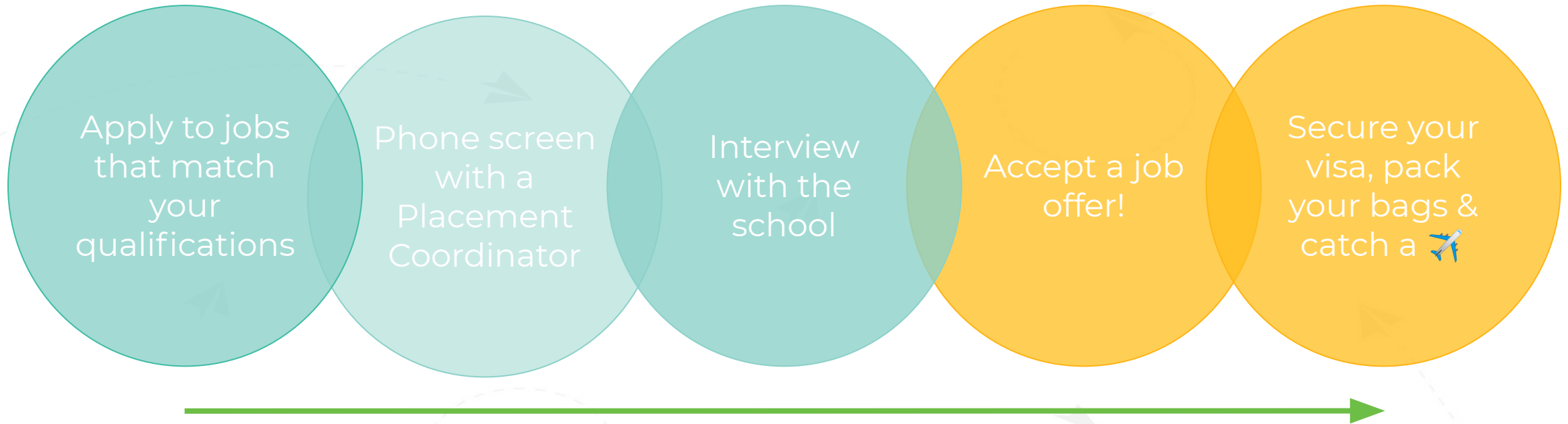
Schools that need
ESL teachers



ESL teachers looking for
jobs online & abroad

Teach Away

The Teach Away Application Process



At Teach Away, the application process is simple. Our [job board](#) makes things easy.

You'll only find current openings from reputable schools and companies worldwide. Each job posting has all the information you need to apply - including the contract length, requirements, student level and salary.

You'll be able to monitor your application on your teacher profile and you can use the same teacher profile to apply to any job on the Teach Away site, so you never have to repeat the application process.

Creating your teacher profile

To create your teacher profile:

1. Visit Teach Away
2. Register for a **free** teacher account
3. Complete your profile
4. Browse ESL teaching jobs
5. Hit **apply!**



TEFL Certification from Teach Away

Earn a TEFL certificate
from experts at Teach
Away and International
House



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UC Berkeley International House TEFL

Key features:

- 100% online and self-paced.
- A budget-friendly and reputable program.
- Comprehensive 120-hour curriculum that meets the minimum requirements to teach online and overseas.
- Specialized curriculum focused on international teaching and global effectiveness.
- No prerequisites: enroll and get started instantly!



The experts at Teach Away

Our team is passionate about education. We're industry experts focused on one common goal – to make the world smarter by expanding minds through education. After 15 years in the ESL industry, we've learned a thing or two about what international employers want and makes for a standout ESL job candidate.



The Center for Intercultural Leadership

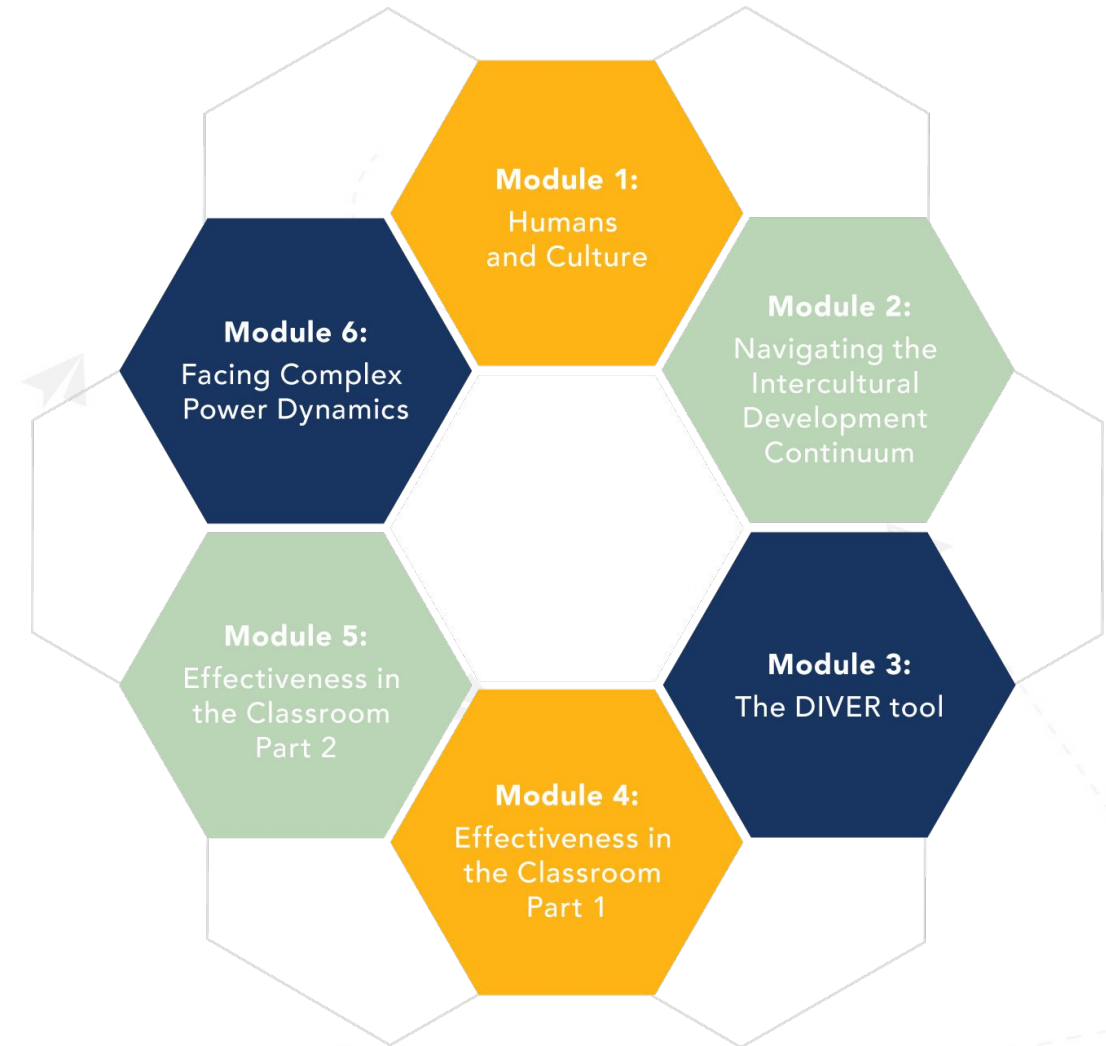
“The Robertson Center for Intercultural Leadership (CIL) at International House UC Berkeley is a center of excellence for training to advance leadership, understanding, and collaboration across cultures.”

The unique insight from the CIL consultants behind this TEFL course prepares learners to:

- Develop skills to live or work in a global setting
- Learn how cultural values influence the way we communicate, work, and lead in the classroom and the communities in which we work
- How to adapt your behaviour in culturally appropriate ways that build trust & engage others!

Curriculum Breakdown

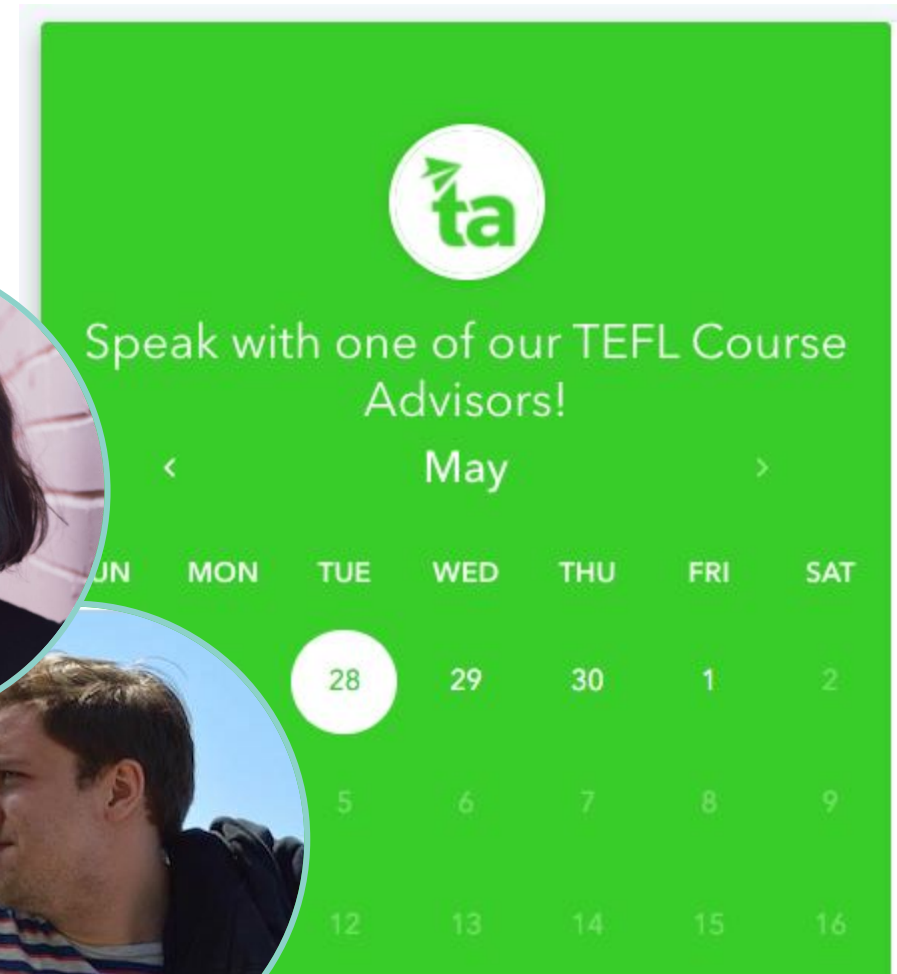
The **International Teaching and Global Effectiveness** unit, which comprises the final 20 hours of the 120-hour TEFL course, introduces learners to the fundamentals of effectively navigating life both inside and outside the classroom in a new culture.



How do I learn more?

Book a call to speak with one of our TEFL Course Advisors to learn if this course is right for you.

They'll offer insight on what it's really like to teach online and abroad, how to choose the best course based on your career goals and the recruitment process.



Recap

Initial research: Find out about the country and basic requirements.

1. Earn your TEFL certificate
2. Create a teaching resume & teacher profile
3. Search & apply for teaching jobs
4. Accept a job offer
5. Start teaching!



Connect with us



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Visit our blog for more teach abroad resources:

teachaway.com/blog

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