



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

The  
Careers  
Service.

## Teaching English in China

### About this sector:

Careers teaching English are one of the largest growing areas of employment for international workers in China. Teaching positions provide the opportunity for foreign nationals to live and work in China, and offer a competitive salary.

### Types of Graduate roles:

Opportunities are available in a number of education institutions, such as schools, universities, and private companies. Positions are widely available throughout China, both in city and rural regions.

Private language schools and academies are becoming an increasingly popular choice for graduates, as they often offer a competitive salary and other benefits. The age of students you will be teaching will vary depending on the institution where you choose to work - there are a variety of options available.

You will have a set curriculum and guidelines on lesson content. Class sizes are normally between 5-20 students. Typically you will earn a higher salary in a private school, however you may have to work longer hours, as well as undertaking evening and weekend work.

Public schools are another option for graduates. Generally pay is lower than in private language schools, however teachers work fewer hours and are given more holiday days. Class sizes are larger than in the private positions, with up to 50 students in a class but it is more likely you will be given freedom to plan lessons.

Typically, it can be easier for an international graduate to find work with a private school, as these institutions tend to be more experienced with Visa applications and can provide more support throughout the recruitment process. However, if you have some prior experience of international teaching, or can speak Chinese, public schools are also a good option.

You may also have the opportunity to work as a private tutor. Lessons are normally on a one to one basis and you could be working with students of a variety of ages. Positions are easiest to find once you are already in China, and can be used as an additional source of income.

### Skills and Experience required:

As a minimum, you will need to be a native level English speaker, and have a teaching English as a foreign language certificate such as TEFL or IELTS. The majority of teaching positions also require a bachelor's degree.

Qualifications required may vary between schools so make sure you check individual requirements when you apply.

You will need to obtain a Visa to work in China - bear in mind that this can be a lengthy process, however some organisations are able to assist you with this process.

### Job Search Strategies:

As there are currently positions available with a large number of organisations, it can be difficult to determine which are the most reputable, particularly as some websites are written in Mandarin. Using a specialist recruitment agency can help you with the search process, as agencies can help you tailor your search and provide support with your application.

When looking for a teaching position, make sure you thoroughly research the location in China where you would like to work. Major cities such as Beijing or Shanghai have a high number of jobs available, however the cost of living is higher compared to more rural areas.

Many jobs will offer additional perks such as paid flights, free or subsidised accommodation, and payment of visa fees. While looking for a job consider the overall package offered.

#### Useful Websites:

Prospects - the Job profile of a TEFL Teacher <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/english-as-a-foreign-language-teacher>

Additionally, there are a number of online resources which can be found at:  
<http://www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree/occinfo.php?ref=Education>

#### Employer Resources

Opportunity China - Tips on succeeding in a TEFL interview <https://www.opportunity-china.com/blog/7-tips-to-nail-your-tefl-interview/>