

International Teaching

Justin Walsh

High School Associate Principal – American School of Doha

jwalsh@asd.edu.qa



Why Teach Overseas

- ◆ Varied Professional Development-varied colleagues
- ◆ Build your experience-varied teachables & opportunities
- ◆ Over 5000 teaching vacancies each year
- ◆ Travel & Service Opportunities
- ◆ Large Professional Network

Take a Look



What's Out There?

- ◆ Language Institutes
- ◆ International Schools (profit and non profit)
- ◆ Embassy/UNI Schools
- ◆ Local Schools/Private Schools
- ◆ Learning Centers

Language Institutes

- ◆ Instruction is in English
- ◆ Host country children
- ◆ Usually done after school hours
- ◆ Curriculum is dependent on the institute
- ◆ Split shifts or afternoon/evening teaching
- ◆ Benefits: varies among institutes, airfare, housing (often shared if you are single)

Where to Find an Institute or Local School

- ◆ Online, embassies, newspapers
- ◆ Online: google “teaching overseas” or “teach English in...” and a plethora of of institutes come up. DO YOUR HOMEWORK. There are a lot of sketchy institutes out there. Once contact is made, get contact info of teachers at the institute who you can ask questions to.
- ◆ Embassies may have contacts for institutes and local schools looking for English teachers

International Schools

- ◆ **The language of instruction is English.**
- ◆ **The academic programs are generally American or British or International Baccalaureate or similar.**
- ◆ **The academic standards are very high**
- ◆ **The multi-national student body is a pleasure to teach.**
- ◆ **The teaching staffs are as multi-national as the student body.**
- ◆ **Teachers are warmly appreciated by a supportive international community.**
- ◆ **The teachers have an exciting lifestyle with ample opportunity to travel and pursue professional goals.**
- ◆ **Salaries and benefits in most schools are excellent (housing, retirement, health care, bonuses)**
- ◆ **Most initial contracts are for two years and virtually all include round-trip airfare.**

Finding Teaching Jobs At International Schools Around the World

- ◆ A successful international job search requires an early start, careful planning, proactive strategies, thorough research, and a willingness to persist (DO YOUR HOMEWORK)
- ◆ Job fairs are the best place to help you start
- ◆ Various fairs: SEARCH Associates, ISS (International Schools Services), UNI (University of Northern Iowa), TORF (Teachers' Overseas Recruiting Fair)
- ◆ Online: TIE ONLINE

Qualities

- ◆ Accentuate your strengths-coaching, extra-curricular interests, flexibility of strengths(multiple certifications, post grad degrees)
- ◆ Many international schools will hire new college graduates with the right qualifications. Sometimes new teachers are hired for a one year contract versus the normal two year contract (often called an internships)
- ◆ In a recent survey conducted by the **UNI Overseas Placement Service**, recruiters were asked what characteristics they looked for in an educator seeking to teach overseas. The key characteristics that were noted included: Flexibility, resilience, adaptability, sense of humor, creativity, team player, love of teaching and young people, complete command of subject area and teaching methodologies, risk taker, strong organizational skills, commitment to professional development and communication skills.

Testimonials

◆ Questions Generated by New Graduate

- ◆ How competitive is the international teaching market? Is it easy to get a job?
- ◆ What are international schools like compared to traditional American public schools?
- ◆ Do I have to have two years of teaching experience before I can teach at an international school?
- ◆ How do I even get a job at an international school?
- ◆ How flexible should I really be on the location of schools I apply to?
- ◆ Do I have to be fluent in another language if I teach in a country where English isn't the first language?
- ◆ What can I do while I'm in college to make myself a marketable candidate for international teaching?

Testimonials Continued

- ◆ “The experience of teaching at an international school and moving to a new country reminded me of working at a sleep away camp. The relationships that you get into with your colleagues are very intense because you live and work with these people. Also these people become your surrogate family. The work that is done is not restricted to the 9 to 4 school day or the confines of the physical plant of the school. You are constantly learning from your colleagues and the students. The opportunities to get new experiences through travel, professional development and school events are endless.”
- ◆ “The best piece of advice that I got from recruiters was to stay flexible. If you want to move to Europe and only Europe, your options will be slim to none. Being flexible in the region and country you want to live in during your first international teaching job casts a greater net for you as the teacher and for international recruiters.”

What to do Next

- ◆ Start subbing, complete your certification(s)
- ◆ Make contacts and connections-put your name out there!
- ◆ Refine your notion of teaching and learning
- ◆ Keep an open mind & be open to adventure