



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Alexandria, Egypt

### 1. What does the tuition for the program include?

Total fees for TESOL Certificate course:

US\$ 1,690 including accommodation  
US\$ 1,590 excluding accommodation

Comprised of:

**US\$ 500** non-refundable deposit

**US\$ 1,190** TEFL course fee final payment. This amount includes tuition, accommodation, course materials, certification and moderation fees. Airfare and food are not included. A discount of \$100 is available if you choose not to take the accommodation.

Total fees for TESOL Certificate course + Arabic Cultural Immersion Program:

**US\$ 1,990** – including accommodation for the 4 week course  
**US\$ 1,890** – excluding accommodation for the 4 week course

Comprised of:

US\$ 500 non-refundable deposit

US\$ 1,490 Final Payment

- 4 week TEFL International TESOL course in Alexandria, Egypt including accommodation. A discount of \$100 is available if you choose not to take the accommodation.
- 48 hours of one-to-one Arabic lessons
- 12 hours Cultural Immersion Activities
- **4 week** teaching internship with TEFL International
- Accommodation
- Internationally-recognized TEFL certificate
- Course materials, certification and moderation fees
- Airfare and food are not included

### 2. How do I pay for the course?

Please pay the balance of the course fees in Alexandria directly at the school on the first day of the course. (By this stage, you should already have paid the \$500 deposit either

online by credit card or via bank transfer.) Payment can be made in US Dollars, Egyptian Pounds, Visa and MasterCard. If paying by credit card you must produce the actual card for processing. Payment via bank transfers or checks should be arranged with the school prior to arrival. Please email this request to Shaimaa Helmy at [info@teflinternational.org](mailto:info@teflinternational.org)

### **3. What is an average program day like?**

Classes run from 9:45 am to 5:00 pm. There is a lunch break from 12:30 to 1:30 in addition to appropriate breaks between sessions. Classes run Sunday through Thursday, a typical school week in Egypt. The first two weeks are input sessions where trainees acquire skills related to teaching techniques, classroom management, grammar,

phonology, Arabic language and culture, and other components of the course. Teaching practice starts in the last 2 weeks of the course. It includes live teaching observation, shared teaching practice and 6 teaching practice classes. In a typical day during the teaching practice time, trainees go to the teaching practice school to give their lesson in the morning and in the afternoon they prepare for the next teaching practice class with the assistance of the trainers at the center. On the day of teaching practice, should it involve teaching in an Adult Centre, the day will start at around 12:00 noon with lesson preparation, and classes will be taught towards the evening.



### **4. How many students on average are in the program each month?**

There is an average of eight trainees each month.

### **5. What are the teaching practice students and classes like?**

We use local Egyptian students for the trainees' teaching practice. Teaching practice classes are held in real classrooms in schools in Alexandria.

### **6. What are the program accommodations like? Where are they located?**

Accommodation in al-Agami, a seafront suburb of Alexandria, consists of a shared two-bedroom apartment on our private campus. Each apartment has a furnished sitting room, a bathroom with hot water and a kitchen equipped with a refrigerator, a cooker, and cooking utensils. All apartments are clean, comfortable and adequately furnished. Towels and sheets are not provided (two flat queen-size sheets are recommended). Optional free cleaning services are available once per week upon request.

Al-Agami itself is approximately 30 minutes by cab from the Alexandria city center at a cost of around 35 Egyptian pounds; public transportation is also available for around 5 Egyptian pounds. Free transportation is provided between the accommodation and the school on school days and during school hours. Al-Agami is a popular resort area with supermarkets, restaurants, and other stores containing all the items you may need to live comfortably. Paradise beach, a popular local beach to which TEFL has private access during the summer, is located within a hundred yards of the campus. Although the area is much quieter in the off-season (October to May), you will still find plenty of shops and restaurants open and busy. For further information about your living and learning arrangements, please visit our Facebook Group page ("TEFL International Egypt!", started by a former trainee) or ask to have photos or information about the campus emailed to you.



#### **7. Can I have things shipped or mailed to me at the school?**

Yes! However, we suggest you have things sent to you at our office in Alexandria rather than your apartment. (Note: When items larger than an envelope are shipped to you, you may be asked to pay customs fees/taxes. Usually these fees are not exorbitant, however they can rise with packages containing electronics and other valuable items. Also, your packages may be opened and checked in transit.)

*The office address is:*

4 Shody Basha St.

Stanly, Alexandria, Egypt

Mob: + 2 01829 56688

Tel: +2 035225872

Facsimile: +2 035411503

## **8. Can I bring my laptop?**

You can if you like, but for the course purposes like lesson planning and preparation, you can use the computers in the resource room at the school or the accommodation. Internet service is provided in Internet cafés near the school and the accommodation at very cheap prices.

## **9. What are the free excursions included in Alexandria course?**

The Alexandria course includes a free excursion to Cairo. In Cairo you will visit the pyramids, the Egyptian museum and the Khan El Khalily (the *Souk*).

## **Questions about Alexandria - Living in Egypt**

### **1. Is it safe to travel to Egypt?**

It is absolutely safe. People are very friendly and always willing to help. Egyptians are very curious about foreigners and will often want to stop and have a chat with you in the street. However, female travelers sometimes find themselves the object of unwanted attention. You may occasionally be stared or whistled at. But don't be concerned - learning a few Egyptian phrases appropriate for such situations may prove useful in discouraging such behavior. If you're interested, we recommend purchasing an Egyptian Arabic phrasebook from Lonely Planet or Rough Guides before your arrival to help aid your transition into Egypt.

### **2. How do I get to Alexandria?**

In order to be picked up at the airport, please let us know the date and time of arrival and the flight number no later than ten days before the start of the course. This is so that we can make arrangements to meet you and take you to your accommodation.

### **3. What documents do I need to bring?**

Of course you need your passport; when you secure work you may be asked to provide notarized copies of your birth certificate and college degrees. You might also consider obtaining an international driving permit, should driving in Egypt be necessary for you.

### **4. What are the average housing and living expenses in Egypt?**

Most likely you will rent a furnished apartment or share it with someone else. The cost will depend on where you choose to live. A pleasant, small two-bedroom apartment in Egypt is about 1500 to 2000 Egyptian pounds per month. However, in Alexandria in the summer months, this amount may triple if you don't have a long term lease arrangement. In Egypt you can live comfortably with a total monthly income of around 2500 Egyptian pounds.

### **5. How do I find housing subsequent to the program?**

We are happy to help our trainees locate housing subsequent to the program, and we have a number of local contacts.

**6. What do I do if I get sick in Alexandria? Are there western-standard medical facilities?**

If you find yourself requiring medical attention, Alexandria has a number of very good hospitals and clinics with well-educated, helpful doctors. There are also pharmacies on every other corner.

**7. What's the public transportation system like?**

There are local buses as well as minibuses that run all over Alexandria and al-Agami; these are cheap (usually no more than a pound or two) and run often, but may require some knowledge of Arabic and the area. You can ask anyone at TEFL for tips on catching a bus or minibus. Taxies are the best transportation option and they are quite cheap. An average ride will range between 6 or 8 Egyptian pounds. The longest ride in Alexandria is about 40 pounds, about 8 dollars. The tram is also a popular and cheap option when you have the time. The main tram, the blue line, runs through most of Alexandria parallel to the sea; it's a great way to see the city if you have the patience for a slow moving journey.

**8. How can I keep in touch with home?**

The cheapest way to call home is through the computer with a Skype account. The program is available on most computers at TEFL, and can be downloaded for free. Computer to computer calls are free with Skype, and calls to landlines/mobiles are very inexpensive. Phone cards can also be purchased in Egypt for use with landline or mobile phones.

**9. What's the climate like? What kind of clothing will I need to bring?**

In summer it is hot. Cotton wear is the best for this season. You can buy Egyptian-cotton clothes at great prices in Egypt. The rainy season in Egypt is from October to March and it is rather cold then. Warm clothes and raincoats are recommended for this period.

**The job market and teaching in Egypt - Paperwork and documentation**

**1. What is the TEFL job market in Egypt like? Will I have trouble getting a job?**

The TEFL job market in Egypt is not as good as that of Asia at the moment. Finding employment is easier at the beginning of the school terms: in September and February. Most TEFL positions can be found more easily in Cairo.

**2. When do I need to start looking for work in Egypt? Where do I start?**

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second or third week of the course.

**3. What will TEFL International do to help me secure employment?**

We can give you a list of schools in Alexandria and Cairo and help you with resume and interview preparation. We guarantee job placement assistance, but please note that TEFL International doesn't 'guarantee' its graduates employment in Egypt.

**4. What is the average salary like?**

Salaries in Egypt vary widely. They range between 1500 and 3000 Egyptian Pounds per month. Most teachers in Egypt depend on private tutoring for higher income.

**5. Do most schools provide accommodations for their teachers?**

In most cases, they do not.

**6. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in Egypt?**

All of our course graduates who have wanted to work in Egypt have been able to secure teaching positions.

**7. Do schools provide health insurance?**

Generally, they do not. However, medical services in Egypt are very inexpensive.

**8. Do schools provide work permits?**

Schools usually do not provide work permits. Most teachers stay in Egypt on a tourist visa, which can be obtained for up to one year and can be renewed for next to no fees.

**9. What is a typical teaching position like?**

Most teaching positions are in primary, middle or high private schools. In the afternoons teachers can work on part-time basis in language centers.

**10. Can I return to my own country and teach with my certificate?**

Yes, though the requirements for working in ESL or TEFL in many western countries are different, and schools sometimes seek candidates with graduate education in ESL or TEFL.

***A final note for those interested in the Arabic Internship Program.***

Students have an option to enroll in the Arabic Internship Program, which commences in the week following the conclusion of the TEFL Certificate course. The Internship program is designed to give TEFL graduates an opportunity to gain English teaching experience and in return receive professional Egyptian Arabic language tuition. Graduates will gain

valuable industry experience as well as Arabic conversation skills including familiarization with the Arabic alphabet.

The Arabic Internship Program has four components. These include the English teaching component, teaching preparation, Arabic tuition, and student time needed for Arabic study and assignments. Interns must consider each of these components as equally important and **ensure that they have no other commitments that prevent them from undertaking all of these tasks.** Interns need to be committed solely to these tasks in the **four-week** period and will be required to sign an agreement to honour this commitment. We look forward to working with our interns to build upon skills acquired during the TEFL course and to share new experiences through language learning.

*Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have other questions or concerns.*

*Thank you for choosing TEFL International.*