

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Where is TEFL International located?

Our complete street/ mailing is: TEFL International Buenos Aires
Recoleta Institute
Ayacucho 1571, PB
CP: 1112
Buenos Aires, Argentina

2. What does the tuition for the program include?

Total fees:	\$1,790US	
Comprised of:	\$500US	non-refundable deposit
	\$1,290US	balance of course fee

Total amount includes tuition fees, course materials, certification and moderation fees. Airfares, accommodation and meals are not included.

3. How do I pay for the course?

The \$500 **deposit** is payable online by credit card or via bank transfer.

You will be invoiced directly by our Buenos Aires office for the **balance** of your fees. Balance payment options are:

- i. Online by credit card or eCheck via PayPal. (You will receive an electronic invoice by email).
- ii. Cash (pesos or USD) on the first day of your course - we do not accept credit cards on-site.

If payments have not been received by the end of class on Wednesday afternoon of the first week, you must gain permission from the course director to remain in the course. Late fees of \$15 per day may be assessed if payment is not made on time.

4. What is an average program day like?

The course runs, full-time over 4 weeks Monday - Friday. The first two weeks are comprised of 6 hours of classroom work each day, with two 15-minute breaks and one hour for lunch. The final two weeks are spent on lesson planning and teaching practice. **On the first day of your course you should arrive for orientation at 10 am.** At this time you will be given a detailed course timetable.

5. How many students on average are in the program each month?

The maximum class size on the Buenos Aires course is 24. Typically we have around

10-20 trainees. Most of the participants are American, British, Canadian or Australian. We also accept non-native speakers of English who have a high proficiency in the language.

6. What are the teaching practice students and classes like?

We invite local Argentine students for your teaching practice. Argentine students are very keen and enthusiastic and because we don't charge them to attend, all students come to classes purely because they want to!

7. What are accommodations like?

Course fees do not include accommodation, but available options include homestay, private apartments and hostels. Prices for shared apartment accommodation start at around \$350US. We have an extensive list of contacts for making your own arrangements. TEFL International Buenos Aires has partnered with BAIS (Buenos Aires International Students) and they may be able to assist you in finding suitable accommodations. In addition, through social networking you are encouraged to our Buenos Aires alumni who may have accommodation available or be looking for roommates. Complete details on securing affordable accommodations will be provided when you apply.

8. Can I bring my laptop?

Free Wi-Fi access is available at the training centre and we strongly recommend you bring your laptop. If you don't have a laptop, local internet cafes (locutorios) charge 2-3 pesos/hour.

9. What about public holidays?

Because of the intensive nature of our TESOL course, time off is not given for local, national or international public holidays that occur during your course.

THE JOB MARKET & TEACHING IN ARGENTINA

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

The job market for English teachers in Argentina is excellent at the moment. The best time to start looking for employment is when you are close to finishing your course.

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

We give you advice and assistance with writing resumes and cover letters. As well, we provide a list of local English teaching establishments and post available jobs on our jobs board. You should feel free to ask our staff for advice at any time.

3. What is the average salary like?

The average salary in Buenos Aires is about 25-40 pesos per hour with a language institute. The rate varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, and whether you work full or part-time. We recommend that you do not accept less than 25 pesos an hour unless the school is offering other incentives such as free Spanish lessons. Rates for private students may be higher.

4. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in Argentina?

The majority of our course graduates who have wanted to work in Argentina have been able to secure teaching positions.

5. Do schools provide health insurance?

Generally speaking, no. However, everyone in Argentina (tourists included) can make use of the National Health Service at no cost.

6. Do schools provide work permits?

This depends on the employer. Some may, others may not.

7. What is a typical teaching position like?

Of course, it varies from school to school, but you may be expected to teach a variety of courses, ranging from children to business professionals at all levels, in groups or in private sessions.

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

Yes, it is possible, though the requirements for working in ESL or TEFL in many western countries are different and sometimes need graduate and/or post-graduate level education in ESL or TEFL.

PAPERWORK & DOCUMENTATION

1. What documents do I need to bring?

Of course, you need your passport. When you secure work you *may* be asked to provide copies of your birth certificate, college degrees and transcripts. . Rather than carrying these documents with you, you are advised to scan and email them to yourself so you will always have access to them.

2. Do I need a visa to enter Argentina?

All visitors to Argentina are required to carry a passport valid for at least six months after arrival date.

Visitors to Argentina from the following countries can stay in Argentina for a maximum of 90 days without a visa, and this can easily be extended. :

Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Granada, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Santa Lucia, Serbia & Montenegro, Singapore, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, United States, Uruguay, Vatican and Venezuela. *As this information is subject to change at any time, we advise you to contact your local consulate for current travel regulations prior to planning your trip.*

Citizens from all other countries should contact their local Argentine consulate to obtain current travel regulations.

3. Effective January 01, 2010 nationals of the USA, Canada and Australia will have to pay a "reciprocity fee" when entering Argentina. USA and Australian nationals pay a one-time fee (valid for 5 years), while Canadian nationals must pay a fee per entry. This is not a visa. Further information can be found at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar>

QUESTIONS ABOUT BUENOS AIRES & LIVING IN ARGENTINA

1. What are the average housing and living expenses in Argentina?

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other teachers or with Argentines and costs vary depending on where you choose to live. A room in a shared house or apartment in a good neighbourhood costs from 800 to 1200 pesos a month. A shared room in a hostel starts at around 400 pesos. It is fair to say that TEFL teachers are quite well paid by local standards in Argentina. A starting local (Argentinean) schoolteacher earns around 800 pesos a month while a TEFL teacher can expect to earn around 25-40 pesos per hour. While this may not sound a lot by N. American standards, it means you can live quite comfortably in Buenos Aires. As a rule of thumb, for everyday articles, 1 peso in Argentina generally buys the equivalent of 1 Dollar in the USA.

2. What if I get sick in Buenos Aires? Are there western-standard medical facilities?

Foreign visitors to Argentina receive free emergency health care through the national health system. However, the standard of care is considerably lower than you would find in North America or Europe and it is recommended that you arrange your own private health insurance during your stay. TEFL International Buenos Aires has negotiated a **special rate** with **Swiss Medical**, one of the most reputable insurers in Argentina. Please contact our representative Aurora Couretot at acouretot@yahoo.com.ar for more information.

3. What is the public transportation system like?

There is a metro/subway/underground rail system that reaches most parts of central Buenos Aires. Tickets cost around 1.10 pesos per trip (about 30 US cents). There is also an extensive public bus system, the “colectivos”, which operates in central and outlying Buenos Aires. Tickets cost around 1.20 pesos per trip. Lastly, there is a commuter rail service that services some parts of Buenos Aires. Ticket costs depend on the distance traveled, but compared to the US, Canada and UK for example, these costs are still very low.

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

Buenos Aires never gets really cold or really hot so bring clothes that you feel comfortable, taking into account the average seasonal temperatures shown below. Don't forget to pack some smart clothes as well as you'll be required to dress smart casual during the course's teaching practice sessions and of course your employers will also expect to be smart at interviews and when working.

Don't forget that Argentina is in the southern hemisphere so the seasons are reversed, summer begins in December and winter begins in June.

Quick temperature guide:

- Winter (Jun, Jul, Aug) - cold (5° to 10° C);
- Spring (Sep, Oct, Nov) - pleasant (10° to 20° C);
- Summer (Dec, Jan, Feb) - hot and humid (20° to 34° C);
- Fall/Autumn (Mar, Apr, May) - pleasant (10° to 20° C).

As this description is an average, we highly recommend that you check current weather conditions prior to departure to assist you in your travel preparations.

ARRIVING IN BUENOS AIRES

How do I get to downtown Buenos Aires from the airport?

Bus from Ezeiza Airport to downtown Buenos Aires:

Buses are run by Manuel Tienda León and cost about 50 pesos. They leave every thirty minutes from 6:00 a.m. to 00:45 a.m. They are a quick, reliable and cheap way to get downtown. The buses drop you at the company's central terminal on the corner of Avenida Madero and Calle San Martín. You will need to take a taxi from the bus terminal to your accommodation.

Taxis:

Go to the official taxi (remise) stands in the main hall as you exit customs. A ride downtown costs around 120 pesos, which have to pay up-front. An official will then take you to your taxi. **Under no circumstances should you accept a ride from anyone who approaches you in the airport - even if they appear to be legitimate taxi drivers.** They are not licensed and have been known to rob or otherwise scam unsuspecting tourists.

Private Transfer:

TEFL International will be happy to arrange a private car service to greet you at the airport and transfer you directly to your accommodation; the cost depends on your final destination; between 90 to 120 pesos (25 to 35 USD). Please email info@teflbuenosaires.com if this option interests you. **Private transfer must be arranged at least 1 week before your scheduled arrival and you will need to inform us of all your flight details.**