

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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The TEFL Course in Rome

1. How much does the TEFL course cost?

(1) INTERNATIONAL DEPOSIT Fee \$500 + (2) Course fee EU 960

Comprised of:

1. **Non-refundable deposit fee: \$500**, has already been paid to TEFL International headquarters to secure your spot in the chosen course
2. **TEFL Course fee*: EU 960**

*Please note that the course fee **does not include** meals or other living expenses.

2. How do I pay for the Course fee?

The total course balance is **960 euro**, and this must be paid in Rome directly at the school on the first day of the course.

You can pay using the following methods:

- Pay via BANK TRANSFER. Please, e-mail our school for complete bank information **(but that has to be done min. 2 weeks in advance on the course starting date)**
- CREDIT CARD (which will take the money in euros at the current rate of exchange)
- IN CASH

Please, note that all payments are NON - REFUNDABLE

3. What is an average program day like?

The course is a **very intense**, challenging, and fun experience.

Only on the **FIRST** day of the course classes start at 9.30.

Classes generally begin at 10.00 and run until 13.30, during which grammar and theory are discussed. Afternoons are spent doing supervised lesson planning, and trainees teach during the afternoons and evenings, possibly until 20:30.

Once a week, on Friday, TEFL students are immersed in unknown-language lessons, so that they can gain an appreciation for being a language learner as well as a language teacher.

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

On average we have about twenty-five students enrolled in each program, most of whom are American or British, but we have also students Australia, New Zealand and South Africa amongst other places.

Their **ages range** anywhere from 20 to 60 years old, although the majority of our students are 22 – 30 years old.

5. What are the students like with whom I'll be doing my teaching practicum?

Annually, our school has about 900 students of all ages and all levels, so TEFL students will have the opportunity to experience all kinds of teaching situations. The students come from many backgrounds, countries (though typically Italy) and work places.

6. Can I bring my laptop?

Yes, if you like, note that we have wireless available at school for hooking up a laptop, but normally there are no phone lines in the accommodation.

There are numerous internet facilities all over Rome, and should you require a computer for TEFL coursework at school, we have a computer with Internet access in your classroom. With a laptop you have the bonus of doing coursework at home on your own time. Also, Rome has recently begun setting up areas where you can receive free wireless internet. Right now those areas are located within Rome's parks, but service is still sporadic as it has only recently started up.

7. What supplies will I need?

Just like the first day of any other school, you'll need some supplies. We'll give you your course material and notebook, but you'll need to have your own pens and pencils. You may also want scotch tape, a stapler, highlighters, coloured pencils and markers, glue, scissors and white-out. You will need to buy your own paper for the photocopier. All of these materials can be purchased from a store near the school if you do not wish to bring them from your home.

8. Can I have things shipped or mailed to me at the school?

Yes! In fact, we suggest you have things sent to you at school, rather than your apartment, since the Italian post is notoriously sporadic. Do be warned that while it's obviously extremely easy to pass on letters/packages while you are attending the school, if we receive something for you after you have left, we're more than happy to hold it for you, but it will be up to you to find a way to get it, by having a friend or a service pick it up. If you do chose to have mail/ packages sent to us, please let us know in advance.

Does the TEFL Programme Offer Accommodation?

1. What are the program accommodations selections like? Where are they located?

The apartments are comfortable and **simply-furnished**, with equipped kitchens. Blankets and sheets are provided, **but bath towels are not**.

We offer accommodation in the city centre and close surroundings.

Rome is surrounded by a large ring-highway called the **GRA**. As per definition, the city centre is the area contained within the borders of the GRA.

The accommodation prices start from EU 450 in a single room.

The **historic centre** is a small area located in the centre of this ring. And its accommodation located in this area are particularly expensive due to the location rather than its amenities – in the historic centre a common price for a B&B ranges from 60 to 80 Euros per day, while the cheapest single apartment rooms are commonly 550 Euros a month.

2. How do I pay for my accommodation?

You may pay the landlord or landlady directly upon your arrival, in Euros and in cash.

3. Can we rent an apartment?

You can decide to rent an apartment together with other students in the programme. Should this be your choice we suggest that you contact:

Affitti Brevi Periodi Roma (Short-term Rents) - www.affittibreviperiodiroma.it

Through this website you can choose directly an apartment among a large array of offers in both the historical and the city centre.

We suggest to make sure that your chosen accommodation/apartment has a Metro stop within walking distance. The line A (orange line) connects you directly with the metro stop of our school: LEPANTO

Who are the TEFL staff and the host school?

1. The Host school:

TEFL INTERNATIONAL - ROME
Language System College

Via Lucrezio Caro, 67
00193 ROMA

2. The school staff:

Angela Giordano: School General Manager in Rome; organizes and manages TEFL courses

Francesco Chilelli: Account Manager; facilitates financial aspects of TEFL courses and also organizes the *courtesy airport pick-up service* for TEFL students

Hellen Vera Chilelli: TEFL Course Service Manager; works with Ms. Giordano in handling all TEFL correspondence and administration

Claire Taylor: TEFL Course Coordinator; works on organisation of TEFL course

Michelle Foo: TEFL Course Instructor - Teacher of Pedagogy

- Diploma in Psychology – Counsellors' Academy
- B.A. Early Childhood Studies – Monash University, Australia
- TEFL International – TESOL Certificate

Grace Kavanagh: TEFL Course Instructor – Teacher of Grammar

- B.A. Classical Civilizations with minor in English- Trinity College
- TEFL Certificate- Trinity College

Moreno Stracci: TEFL Course Instructor – English Language Advisor

- B.A. Major in Sociolinguistics, Minor in Glottodidactics - Università La Sapienza, Rome
- Master Philosophiae in Foreign Languages – University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
- TEFL International – TESOL Certificate

In addition to the above staff, we have about thirty-five other instructors and administrative assistants, and our school offers English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Russian, Italian for foreigners, German, Polish, Latin, and Ancient Greek.

The job market in Italy; Teaching in Italy;

1. What is the job market in Italy like at the moment? Will I have trouble securing employment?

The job market in Italy is currently good. As a result of the increasing use of English as a common European-language, more and more regions of Italy find themselves increasingly in need of English teachers.

You should have no trouble finding a job after taking the TEFL course, if you are diligent and “put yourself out there.” The market is generally good year-round, except for late summer (August), since almost everyone in the country goes on vacation and there are no students to be taught.

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

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes to schools in the second week of the program, and we can help you with this. There are almost two hundred language schools in Rome alone, and thousands elsewhere in Italy.

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

We can provide you a list of schools in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. We also offer a number of “help sessions” covering resume-CV preparation, interviewing and visa information.

We guarantee job placement assistance, **but please note** that TEFL International doesn't ‘guarantee’ its graduates employment in Italy; it is ultimately up to you to “sell yourself” to a school, as they say.

4. What is the average salary like?

The average salary in Italy is about 1.000/ 1.300 Euros net per month (after taxes), though of course this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, whether you work full- or part-time, and your own personal spending habits.

5. What kind of Visa will I need to secure a job? Does my nationality matter?

If you are a **US citizen** you will need to secure contracted employment in order to be eligible to apply for a proper work visa. You are not eligible to apply for a visa before leaving the States - you must have secured contracted employment first. **Your passport acts as a Visa for your first 3 months in Italy**, and it's during this period that you have the opportunity to secure a contract. Most contracts run from September to the end of June. Once a contract has been secured, you will then need to **leave** Italy and return to the States to process the necessary paperwork. Visas are only issued at your regional consulate in America.

Once that is taken care of, you once again return to Italy to resume work at your school.

If you are an **AUSTRALIAN citizen** you may apply for a “Working Holiday Visa” with a validity of 12 months in Australia at the Italian Embassy in Canberra or other Italian diplomatic or consular offices by Australian citizens who are ordinarily resident in Australia. Please, check www.italyaustralia.com.au/whv.htm.

If you are an **New Zealand citizen** you may apply for a “Working Holiday Visa” with a validity of 12 months in Australia at the Italian Embassy in Wellington or other Italian diplomatic or consular offices by New Zealand citizens who are ordinarily resident in Australia. Please, check www.ambwellington.esteri.it

If you are a **CANADIAN citizen** you may apply for a “Working Holiday Visa” with a validity of 12 months in Canada at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa or other Italian diplomatic or consular offices by Canadian citizens who are ordinarily resident in Canada. The agreement has been signed in OCTOBER 2006 between the Italian “Sottosegretario agli Affari Esteri, Bobo Craxi” and the Canadian Vice Minister to the foreign Affairs, Peter Harder.

If you are a citizen of an **EU country**, you are permitted to work anywhere in the EU, so this is not so much of an issue for you.

For complete details about visas and Italy regulations please visit:
www.italyemb.org/Visti.htm

Please note that neither TEFL International nor its school in Rome, provide work or study visas for TEFL course students.

6. What other documentation might I need in Italy?

Most likely you will need to obtain a **PERMESSO DI SOGGIORNO** within the first 8 days of your stay in Italy - this is NOT a work visa - it simply establishes, in a way, your existence in Italy. This can be done at any Carabinieri, police station (Questura).

We also recommend that you obtain a **CODICE FISCALE**, which provides you a tax number which schools will require you to have in order to be paid. For information on where to obtain the codice fiscale, contact the Rome school.

7. Do most schools provide accommodations for their teachers?

No, but there are schools that do this. For example, they will provide a room for you, either shared or single, probably in an apartment with other teachers, and provide you with a monthly stipend. However, it varies from school to school.

8. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in Italy?

Most of our trainees have had very good luck in securing employment in Italy.

9. Do schools provide health insurance?

No. However, there are a number of medical facilities in Rome that accept American insurance plans. If you are non-EU, check to make sure your plan fully covers you abroad! If not there are a number of Health Insurance firms that offer coverage specifically for people staying abroad for long periods.

EU citizens need only furnish identification to be seen, and emergency hospital care is free for all.

10. What is a typical teaching position like?

Obviously, 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.

11. Can I return to the States and teach with my certificate?

Yes, though the requirements for working in ESL in the States are different, and tend to require graduate education in ESL .

Questions about Rome; Living in Italy

1. What are the average living expenses in Rome?

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other students or Italians, and of course it depends on where you choose to live. A nice room in a nice area of Rome is about 450/500 euros per month, and this usually includes bathroom and kitchen use. Obviously if you choose to live on the outskirts of Rome you will pay less than you would to live downtown in the historic city centre.

2. How do I find housing subsequent to the program?

We are happy to help our trainees locate housing subsequent to the program, and there are a number of newspapers that are published weekly and bi-weekly with apartments and rooms for rent. We also have several connections with landlords from whom we regularly rent apartments.

3. What do I do if I get sick in Italy? Are there American medical facilities?

If you find yourself requiring medical attention, Rome has a number of very good hospitals and clinics with well-educated, helpful doctors. The health care system is generally free and available to everyone, and there are pharmacies on every corner throughout the city. There is an American hospital in Rome as well.

4. What's the public transportation system like?

There are two subway lines that run perpendicular to one another in Rome; there is also a bus and tram system, as well as commuter trains. One is never too far from some means of public transport.

For detailed information about the transportation system and ticket prices, please check:

<http://www.atac.roma.it>

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

Summers are hot and somewhat humid. Winters are colder and damper than you might think! If you are coming in the winter months (about December to March) bring plenty of sweaters, pants/trousers, warm pyjamas, a winter coat, gloves, scarves, etc. Don't forget your umbrella!

What to do before departing for Italy

1. Which airport do I need to fly into?

Our suggestion is that you plan your flights so that you may land at FCO – Fiumicino International Airport.

FCO is the best connected out of the two roman airports.

You can easily get the [Leonardo Express](#) (click on the link to open up the web page with more info) which is going to get you directly to Termini Train Station – into the heart of the city. From Termini you will be able to take a cab or the metro to your chosen accommodation.

Should you be flying into Rome from another European city with a low cost airline (ryanair, easyjet, ...) you may land in Ciampino Airport. Although the smaller airport does not provide a direct train connection to the city centre, you may book a seat – for 4EU - on one of the [Terravision Shuttle Busses](#) that connects Ciampino with the city centre.

If you are in our accommodation programme, we offer a Courtesy pick-up service from FIUMICINO AIRPORT to your accommodation on the FRIDAY before the beginning of the course
from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m
(note that if your plane arrives at say, 4:30 p.m., by the time you go through baggage and customs, we won't be able to get you!)

2. 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, social security number and college degrees. You might also consider obtaining an international driving permit, should driving in Italy be necessary for you; these can be obtained in the States at any AAA office. EU citizens should bring their EU documentation.

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

Thank you for choosing TEFL International; we look forward to meeting you!

Angela Giordano, General Manager
Hellen Vera Chilelli, TEFL Course Service Manager