



Sydney, Australia

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Course in Sydney

1. What do the fees for the program include?

The fees include tuition, course materials, certification and moderation fees. Airfares, food and accommodation are not included. The standard (4 beds in a room) share accommodation is AU \$215 per week (minimum 4 weeks subject to availability), and the premium single accommodation AU \$520 per week (minimum 4 weeks subject to availability).

2. How do I pay for the course?

Please pay the balance of the course and accommodation fees in Sydney directly at the school on the first day of the course. By this stage, you should already have paid the US \$500 deposit either online by credit card or via bank transfer. The remaining course fee amount – US \$1550 - is payable in US dollars or Australian dollars, at the current exchange rate plus transfer and conversion charges. Please view the cash (notes) rate on St George Bank's daily foreign exchange table in Sydney here (usually available 9am to 5pm Sydney time) to get an idea as to what to expect: <http://webapps.stgeorge.com.au/rates-net/fx-rates.aspx>. Please note these figures don't include transfer and conversion charges.

- EFTPOS/Credit card payments

The payment can be made using your Australian eftpos card, or by visa/mastercard in Australian dollars at our office in Sydney. If you wish to pay using our credit card machine in Sydney in Australian dollars, please note that there is an additional 2.5% surcharge for credit card transactions.

- Online via PayPal

If you wish to pay for the remainder of the course online you can do so at this link before you arrive in Australia. As Australian Paypal is different to overseas Paypal please note that the system has trouble recognising international logins and cards once you cross borders. If you decide to pay for your course online, please do it before you leave your country! <http://www.teflinternational.com.au/SendEmail2.php>

- Bank transfer/Direct account deposit

You can also pay the remaining course fee by bank transfer or direct deposit:

Account name: TEFL International
St George Bank – Kogarah
BSB: 112 879
Account: 119823792

- Cash

You can pay cash in Australian dollars when you arrive on the first day of the course. If you'd like to pay earlier, please contact us so that we can make sure a TEFL International Sydney representative is present. Call +61 414 229 669 or email james@teflinternational.com.au to arrange for someone to be there.

3. What is an average program day like?

From Monday to Friday, there are input sessions every morning from 9.30am to 1pm, where trainees learn classroom management, grammar, language and culture, and other practical aspects of the course. Lunch break is from 1pm to 2pm. From 2pm to 3pm, trainees prepare their lessons with assistance of Katrina, their trainer, then from 3pm to 5pm they either teach their lessons to international students in a classroom situation or are involved in some of our unique and exciting aspects of the course, such as observing teachers, getting advice on starting your own tutoring business, learning about IELTS or teaching private students. These lessons are followed by feedback from the trainer. We aim to provide 6 to 10 hours of observed teaching practice over the 4 weeks. On 3 of the Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm there is a special language acquisition module where you learn a foreign language so that you can understand what it is like for a non-native speaker to learn English. This is usually Mandarin, unless we have a few Mandarin speakers in the current class, then it'll be something else like Thai!

These lessons are taught from Monday to Friday. Trainees are encouraged to take their books with them to the beach, so that they can study over the weekend! In addition to those hours, there is also time that must be spent preparing materials and completing various assignments.

Each week has varying times and features and no two weeks are the same. For example, in the first week you'll have the opportunity to teach a private student English. In the second week you'll also have the opportunity to teach a small class of adult students with pre-prepared lessons. In the third and fourth week you'll have the opportunity to teach students your own prepared lessons.

If there is a public holiday during the course, like Australia Day for example, then the hours of the course will be lengthened per day to make up for the public holiday days in Australia. You will definitely be able to get a minimum of 120 hours in our courses, no matter what!

There is enough to keep you busy the whole time. You will be expected to work hard! You will definitely earn your TEFL certificate in our course. TEFL International courses are well known for including many features that other TESOL courses don't cover. If you wish to be fully prepared for your first teaching job, this is the short, intensive course for you.

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

On average we have about 6 trainees enrolled in each course, although some months we have more; some months the numbers are lower. Most of our participants are from English speaking countries such as America, The United Kingdom, Canada or Australia, although we do accept non-native speakers of English who have a high proficiency in the language.

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

We use international students for the trainees' classroom teaching practice. These students are very keen and enthusiastic, and because we only charge a nominal fee for them to attend, all students come to classes purely because they want to! We also use international students for the private tuition sessions. The private students do not pay for these one hour lessons so they're very excited to be part of it!

6. What are the programme accommodations like? Where are they located?

We have partnered with a hostel called Big Hostel which is located at 212 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills. It's a short bus trip from the city. It is cheap, clean accommodation. You can choose to have a single room or you can share with others in a dormitory style room. The accommodation provides share and en suite bathroom facilities. The 2010 prices for a single room are:

1 week: AU\$520
4 weeks: AU\$2080.00

There are cheaper rates if sharing the room with others. You're welcome to contact Big Hostel directly via their website: www.BigHostel.com

If you would like us to arrange accommodation for you there is an AU \$150.00 surcharge for this service in addition to your accommodation fees. You can view our fees page here:
<http://www.teflinternational.com.au/fees.html>

For other low cost accommodation we recommend the Accor group
<http://www.accorhotels.com.au/search/default.aspx?city=126&country=>

Sydney has a large number of premium hotels available. It is best to organize this kind of accommodation yourself online. Prices start from AU \$250 per day.

For single room hotel accommodation we suggest the following hotels in Sydney city:

Sofitel Wentworth 5 star: <http://www.sofitelsydney.com.au/>

Mercure 4 star: <http://www.mercuresydney.com.au/>

Four Seasons 5 star: <http://www.fourseasons.com/sydney/>

Sheraton 5 star: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=140>

Merriott 5 star: <http://www.marriott.com.au/hotels/travel/sydcc-sydney-marriott-hotel/>

Please note that all above figures are in addition to the US\$2050 course fees.

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

Yes! Like most postal services in the world, things do go missing so if you're concerned that something you're expecting will get lost in Australia Post's postal service, get it registered and sent to the school so that someone can sign for it.

This is our school address (best for mail deliveries):

Adult English School / TEFL International
Suite 102, level 1
32 York Street, Sydney
NSW Australia 2000

Tel +61 2 9299 4475
M +61 414 229 669

8. Can I bring my laptop?

Of course. There are internet hotspots all over Sydney where you can buy online time and use the network and, if you bring your usb stick you can usually find a place to plug it and get print outs. We also have a wireless internet hub at our centre. Ask at reception for the current password to be able to hook in your laptop.

9. What clothes will I need?

Please check the season you are coming then bring 3 different types of clothes. Australians wear layers as the weather changes hour to hour. Do what the natives do!

Input Sessions and Lesson Planning:

Attire is casual and relaxed. While there is air conditioning available please dress comfortably.

Practice Teaching Sessions at the training centre:

Attire is smart and conservative. Your shoulders must be covered, and any skirt or trousers must cover your knees when you are sitting down. For women, be careful that your shirts are not too low cut or show your stomach as you may need to lean over to help a student sitting at a desk. Jeans and shorts are not acceptable. Shoes or sandals should be smart.

Job Interviews and Teaching in Sydney:

Attire is conservative and business-like. Once hired, most schools will provide you with a dress code of their own. However, when you're dressing for an interview, as with any job, remember that you're trying to make an impression. For men, collared shirts, a tie, slacks and smart dress shoes are appropriate and expected. For women, long skirts, slacks or dress suit and dress shoes are expected. Dresses with straps can be covered with a smart sweater.

If you are still unsure of what to bring, you may want to wait until you arrive to buy suitable clothes. There are plenty of clothing stores that will have lots of options.

Please also bear in mind that tattoos should be covered when teaching, and any facial piercings removed.

10. Any additional courses at the centre in Sydney?

In Australia, having knowledge of and experience in preparing students for an IELTS exam is very important. IELTS stands for International English Language Testing System. If there is any spare time during the TESOL course, Katrina will include some information about the IELTS exam. If you would like to be trained in how to prepare a student for the IELTS, we have a special IELTS Preparation for TESOL Teachers course that is only available to TEFL International trainees. Information about this can be given to you on request and a special seminar organised for you for after your course is completed. There is a fee for the additional seminar.

We also have a number of private language tutors available that can teach you the basics of the language of the country you plan to teach in. We currently have 25 casual language tutors available covering the most popular languages plus Cambodian, Turkish, Vietnamese, Hindi and more. The cost of a 2 hour lesson with one of our language tutors is normally AU \$90 for 2 hours. TESOL trainees can hire one of our tutors for AU \$70 for 2 hours. If we don't currently have a tutor that teaches the language you wish to learn we'll do our best to find one for you.

The job market and teaching in Australia; Paperwork and documentation

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

The TEFL job market in Australia is excellent, as long as you have a recognised degree and some teaching experience along with your TEFL certificate. Australian schools tend not to advertise that much as the culture is to go door knocking. If you plan to work in Australia we can give you a list of schools to visit for your chosen city.

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

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the fourth week of the course after we have covered job related matters during input sessions. There are dozens of TEFL employers in Sydney alone, and hundreds elsewhere in Australia. Of course, you're certainly not limited to working in Australia – where to teach is up to you!

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

We can give you a list of available jobs in the city you'd like to work, and provide schools lists for most countries worldwide. We will also help you with resume and interview preparation. We guarantee job placement assistance. This job placement assistance is an integral part of the course, and is available for the duration of your teaching career.

4. What is the average salary like?

The average TEFL salary in Australia is about AU \$35,000 to AU \$55,000 per year, though of course this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, and whether you work full- or part-time, whether you get holiday pay, sick pay etc. The expected salary of a full-time course director for example, is close to AU \$150,000. If you are on a worker's holiday visa you may be able to work for one company for 6 months as a casual, in which case the pay rate could be AU\$16 to AU\$30 per hour less tax, depending on experience.

5. Do most schools provide accommodation for their teachers?

A few employers provide accommodation as part of an employment package in regional and rural areas, those that do not will offer assistance in finding suitable accommodation. Accommodation is generally easy to find and inexpensive.

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

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

7. Do schools provide health insurance?

Generally, no. However, if you pay Australian income tax, you are entitled to a medicare card, which gives you limited medical cover. Visit <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/> to find out more.

8. Do schools provide work permits?

Generally, no. It would be expected that you would already have an Australian worker's visa to be able to work at the school. Visit <http://www.immi.gov.au/> to find out more.

9. What is a typical teaching position like?

Teaching positions vary greatly and good deal of choice is available. There are teaching positions available in schools, language centres, businesses, hotels and resorts, child care centres and more besides.

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 sometimes need graduate education in ESL or TEFL.

Questions about Sydney; Living in Australia

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

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other teachers or with Aussies, and of course it depends on where you choose to live. A pleasant, small 2 to 3 bedroom house in Sydney is about AU \$2000 to AU \$5000 per month. Apartments are available for less. It's possible to find rental accommodation for \$250 a week for a single room apartment within half an hour of the city, though \$350 per week is more common. If you're planning to stay in Sydney for only a few months you may wish to consider share accommodation. Examples can be found at: <http://www.rentroomsydney.com>

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

There are rental agencies in major suburban areas. If you plan to be in Sydney for at least 6 months, these agencies can help you. You can use Google to find real estate agents in the area you wish to stay. So, if you wish to stay in the suburb of Ashfield, for example, search for - real estate agents Ashfield Sydney - and you'll get a list.

3. What do I do if I get sick in Sydney?

If you find yourself requiring medical attention, Sydney has a number of very good medical centres and clinics with well-educated, helpful doctors. There are also usually pharmacies and chemists nearby. Please note that the system in Australia is to go to a medical centre for most things first and only go to the emergency centre in hospitals if you believe your condition is life threatening. Even then, emergency centres generally have a queue, unless you call an ambulance. If you have a condition that requires a specialist you need to go to a medical centre or private GP first and he/she will refer you to a specialist centre. You can't go to particular medical specialists directly.

Australia has a strict prescription policy and doctors are unlikely to give out prescriptions unless your problem is at an advanced stage. If you've got a virus a doctor is more than likely to recommend plenty of bed rest, drink lots of fluids and take panadol for pain then, if you still have it a week later, visit the doctor again!

We have one central number for emergencies – 000. Call 000 for an ambulance, police, fire or other emergency and you'll be transferred to the relevant department.

4. Do I need any immunisations?

Not usually. If there is something you're particularly concerned about or you have an allergy to something, it is best to consult with your doctor.

5. What's the public transportation system like?

There are a lot of buses, trains, taxis and private cars that can take you almost everywhere in Sydney. Please buy your tickets before boarding the buses and trains as, in most places, you can't purchase your tickets inside and you'll be fined if you get to the end of the journey without a ticket.

What to do before departing for Australia?

1. How do I get to Sydney city?

Mascot International Airport has plenty of trains, buses, taxis and private hire cars available for you to help you get to where you wish to go. Trains cost about \$18 per person to take you from Mascot airport to Town Hall station. Taxi's cost about \$50 to \$70 depending on the time of day. There is only one bus from the airport to the city and it is difficult to find. The number 400 bus takes about an hour and, while the cheapest option, probably should be avoided.

If you require us to pick you up from the airport and take you to your accommodation, please give details including flight number and time of arrival and we'll organise a hire car to collect you and someone to wait for you to clear immigration. This service costs \$120 per person and must be booked at least 4 weeks in advance of your arrival so that we can hire someone to meet you. This service is available for arrivals between 9am and 5pm Monday to Saturday. There is a surcharge for public holidays.

2. What documents do I need to bring?

Of course you'll need your passport! When you secure work you will be asked to provide your original college degree if you have one, so if you plan to work immediately after the course, you'll need to bring it with you or make arrangements for it to be sent on at a later date. You might also consider obtaining an international driving permit, should driving in a foreign country be necessary for you.

*Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have other questions or concerns.
Thank you for choosing TEFL International.*