

Via Lingua

**Accredited International TEFL Certificate Courses – 2020-21**



## Via Lingua International

Via Lingua is one of the world's largest TEFL certification providers, and our TEFL course, continuously developed by our Academic Board, is one of the most thorough and up-to-date in the world today, including 130 hours of expert tuition and 10 hours of teaching practice.

Our aim is to prepare well-trained teachers who will be equipped with the necessary skills, confidence and recognized qualification to take up EFL teaching positions anywhere in the world. We hope and believe that our graduates can help to raise the international standards of English language teaching and to increase international understanding through education.

## Via Lingua International Accreditation

The Via Lingua TEFL course significantly exceeds international standards for similar four-week TEFL certification programs. In order to gain a Via Lingua Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, for example, students need to complete a minimum of 130 hours of tuition, including an average of ten hours teaching practice.

Our accreditation is through the Learning Resource Network in London, and is distinguished by partnerships with several American university graduate programs which have reviewed the Via Lingua course and award graduate credits to all Via Lingua trainees who qualify for credits towards a Masters Degree in TEFL-TESOL.

Via Lingua is a member of the Chartered College of Teaching, a body dedicated to the professional development of teachers in the UK

## Via Lingua TEFL Course Program Overview

The Via Lingua Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages is designed for those with little or no experience of teaching English. It equips you with the basic skills and knowledge needed to take up a first post as an ESL teacher and gives you a firm foundation for self-evaluation and further professional development. This is achieved through attending lectures and workshops that cover language awareness, teaching methodology, learner profiling and production of classroom materials. Group work, teaching practice and observations are also included.

Each course runs for a minimum of 130 programmed hours. Every trainee has to attend a full course and complete all assignments, including teaching practice, to the required standard in order to qualify for the award.

We believe in learning through involvement, and students are expected to participate in many different ways during the sessions. Where necessary information will be supplied, but more commonly you will experience a workshop approach, where your tutor acts as a "facilitator/animater" rather than as a lecturer. The course will include the following components to be formally and individually assessed:

- Pedagogy theory
- Language awareness
- Teaching skills
- Cultural awareness
- Life skills

## Via Lingua Assessment and Moderation

Via Lingua International awards its certificate to all trainees who have met the required standard on the appropriate assignments (including teaching practice), who have attended the full course and who have shown their commitment to the training process. Trainees must pass all five main course units at the end of the course.

The Via Lingua Moderation Program covers both the quality of the course content and structure, as well as the local delivery of the course. The arrangements for external moderation are supported by regular internal reviews of our products and services.

## Via Lingua Job Guidance

- Trainees participate in a group session on how to create/modify their resume' for EFL teaching.
- Trainees are advised about job opportunities in the local, national, and global area, and lists of current vacancies, jobs sites and schools are provided.
- Individual progress sessions offer trainees personalized, up-to-date guidance on professional "packaging" of their skill sets, strengths, experience.
- Trainees participate in a group session that cover the following:
  - choosing where and when to work
  - conditions in various countries and cultures
  - what to look for in a language school and teaching program
  - preparation of correspondence, cover letters, documentation
  - interview techniques and mock interview sessions
- Individual sessions focus on each trainee who is invited to discuss the progress of the job search, and is given further individual assistance as required to finalize all issues.
- The Via Lingua network offers lifetime support and guidance throughout your career.

## Getting a job...Where can you teach?

After successfully passing the Via Lingua TEFL course you will be certified to teach English as a foreign language anywhere in the world. Exciting teaching positions can easily be found throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Central and South America and the Far East in particular. Demand for English language teaching remains very high in Western Europe and Eastern Europe and Via Lingua International is well-placed to help you deal with this and provides a highly professional foundation wherever you hope to start.

The current job market in much of Asia is similar to Western, Central and Eastern Europe with a very high demand for TEFL Certified English teachers. It is a highly competitive market so that quality TEFL training and certification are essential if you want to break into it. Working in Korea or Taiwan might allow you to save more money. China currently provides the most opportunities for TEFL teaching anywhere in the world and Vietnam is a fast-developing location. The pay will allow you to live a comfortable local lifestyle. The same can be said for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia which have traditionally held an exotic (if not always financial) appeal for many EFL teachers. The Middle East still offers excellent opportunities for TEFL- trained teachers. There may be some restrictions as to lifestyle and politics, but as in Korea and Taiwan a teacher can save a significant amount of money. Usually the requirements are a university degree and a recognized TEFL Certificate.

At Via Lingua we are ready to provide you with honest, up-to-date and informed advice, contacts and information necessary to find a rewarding teaching position.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### TESOL? TEFL? TESL? What do they all mean?

Basically they all mean the same. They are terms used to describe the teaching of the English Language to students who are not native speakers of English. The main difference is the country where the teaching takes place. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Second or Other Languages) and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) are standard terms for English language teaching in non-English speaking countries.

### With so many English teacher training courses advertised how do I know which to apply for?

The explosive growth in English language teaching has led to a corresponding increase in training courses offered. Not all courses are of the same quality or usefulness. While many are professionally managed and have good course content, some are sub-standard. Correspondence courses, for example, with no method of observed teaching practice, are incomplete. Also, there are programs offering one or two week introductory courses. Some of these may be very good at introducing you to teaching, but they cannot offer you as much as an intensive month-long course, and will not result in a recognized certificate which employers expect.

### What qualifications do I need to do the course?

You should have completed at least some study at a higher education level in order to cope with the academic side of the course.

### Do I need to have taught before in order to do the course?

No. The TESOL course is designed as a pre-service course for people with no previous teaching experience.

**Do I need to be a native speaker of English?**

No, but you do need to be able to demonstrate a very good command of the English language and have an internationally recognized qualification such as TOEFL or Cambridge Proficiency. If English is not your first language, you will be required to complete a written task and a telephone interview. The great majority of our trainees are from the USA, the UK, Ireland, Canada or Australia, but people whose first language is not English have succeeded in the course, including people from Italy, the Netherlands and Peru.

**Do I need to speak British English or North American English?**

Via Lingua regards English as a global language and therefore welcomes applicants from all native speakers (as well as non-native speakers with a proficient level of English).

**Do I need knowledge of other languages?**

Via Lingua uses the universally accepted communicative approach to teaching, where English is the only language used in the classroom.

**Is there an age limit?**

You must be at least 18 years of age for your application to be considered. There is no upper age limit. The majority of our trainees are in their 20's, 30's and 40's, but we have successfully trained and found employment for graduates in their 50's and 60's. Our youngest trainee so far was 17, and our oldest was 75.

**What kind of people take the course?**

Although most course participants are native speakers of English there are sometimes non-native speakers who are fluent in English. A typical course will have several people in their early twenties, some who are recent graduates and want to travel overseas in order to get work experience. Other older trainees may want a career change or be approaching retirement age and may want to start another career or earn money while they travel the world. Most trainees have come especially to do the course in their chosen location, while a few are already based there.

**How long/intensive are the courses?**

The TEFL course is a 4-week, 130-hour course and is very intensive (from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm every day). We have tried to arrange the course so that you will have the weekends free to relax and explore. This does, however, mean that the days are longer and more intensive.

**Will I be a competent teacher by the end of the course?**

Due to the highly practical content of the CTEFL course, all graduates should have the necessary skills, confidence and ability to embark on their teaching careers and work in a professional manner anywhere in the world. All certificate courses, however, serve as initial teacher training and those interested in pursuing teaching as a career often go on to take a diploma or MA after 2 years of teaching experience.

**Is there a correspondence/on-line option?**

No. The practical teaching experience you acquire on the course teaching non-English speaking students is generally accepted as the most important element of a TEFL course and is what future employers will be looking for.

**Does the course meet international guidelines?**

Yes. Whilst there is no true international body for TEFL courses, internationally accepted guidelines state that the course must have 100 hours of input with 6 hours of teaching practice and be externally monitored. The CTEFL course has, in fact, 120 hours of input and a minimum of 10 hours teaching practice as well as being externally moderated.

**When is the best time to do a course?**

There really is no best or worst time. Countries in different hemispheres have different academic years and tend to hire year round anyway, on an as needed basis.

**What are the chances of finding a job after completing the course?**

Excellent. Upon successful completion of the course, teachers will find that there are many jobs to be had worldwide.

**Is job guidance included?**

Yes. All graduates receive individual counseling and advice on finding a teaching job. As Via Lingua is an international organization, it has contacts with many schools worldwide. Via Lingua will help with all aspects of job seeking from CV/resume construction and interview techniques.

**What standard of accommodation can I expect?**

Accommodation consists of either a single or double room in a shared house or apartment. Accommodation preferences can be stated on the application form.

**What about visas / insurance?**

Via Lingua will answer all of your visa questions regarding our different international locations. We recommend that you arrange your own health and travel insurance. We will be glad to assist you with recommended insurance providers for students and travelers—all at special rates.

## Via Lingua Course Dates and Fees

Courses run regularly all through the year at many of our more popular locations in Greece, Italy, and Turkey. In other locations courses run 2-5 times per year, with particular emphasis on the busier summer months from June – September. Exact dates for each location are posted on the homepage for each centre on the [www.vialingua.org](http://www.vialingua.org) website.

The cost of the course varies slightly between the differing locations and includes all course tuition, materials, course-books, airport pickups, moderation, and examination and certificate fees. This price does not include the cost of accommodation. Occasionally we may offer discounts for early bookings in certain centers, either on the accommodation or on the course fee. Special packages may also include deals on travel arrangements. Book together with a friend and you can both claim a discount on tuition.

There is a non-refundable deposit due upon receipt of your application. The remainder of the fee must be received by wire transfer or bank draft at least four weeks before the start date of your chosen course. Tuition fees may be paid by any one of the following methods:

1. Major credit cards
2. Bank transfer to our US or European banks
3. Personal check to our US or European offices

## Via Lingua Application Procedures and Enrollment

At Via Lingua we have a policy of selective acceptance on to the CTEFL course. This is to ensure that we can be confident that our trainees are up to the academic and practical demands of an intensive four-week training period and that they are effective and accurate users of the English language. We believe that this helps to maintain our reputation and that of our graduates with the most respected EFL schools and organizations worldwide.

## Via Lingua Accommodation Options

To make your stay easier, or to help with your transition to living abroad, we can offer you a choice of good quality accommodation in the location of your choice. We place a strong and consistent emphasis on selecting rooms and apartments. Most of our trainee accommodation options are within walking distance of the schools. Students are responsible for their own transportation and can walk, rent a bike or use public transportation (which is reasonably priced). Every effort is made to satisfy any special requests. Depending on the location, options include a private bedroom in an apartment, a fully furnished private apartment or a homestay with a local family, with or without meals. Of course you can arrange your own housing as well. Feel free to contact us and we'll provide you with some links and information on how to find apartments, hotels, B&Bs.

**For further information, please contact [info@vialingua.org](mailto:info@vialingua.org).**

**Please call toll-free in the USA at (888) 400 2915 Or contact:**

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**E-mail: [info@vialingua.org](mailto:info@vialingua.org)**

Via Lingua Course Locations:

- Arequipa, Peru
- Budapest, Hungary
- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Ciudad Guzman, Mexico
- Crete, Greece
- Florence, Italy
- Huatulco, Mexico
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Louisville, Kentucky
- Marrakesh, Morocco
- Panama City, Panama
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Santiago, Chile
- Sardinia, Italy