

## **The Guide to Teaching in China**

*Your reference guide for teaching ESL in China*



Experience  
**China**

*www.rayenglish.com*

**“The Guide to Teaching in China”**

has been made for you by **RAY English TEFL Recruitment, China.**

Apply for jobs today: [teachers@rayenglish.com](mailto:teachers@rayenglish.com)

# Introduction

Did  
You  
Know?

*More new  
CertTESOL  
and CELTA  
graduates  
are choosing  
China as  
their #1  
choice upon  
completion  
of training  
than any  
other coun-  
try.*

**S**o you've heard the hype about China's booming economy and the line about 5000 years of history, but what does that actually mean if you're about to step off a plane and start a new life in the world's most populous country?

**W**ell, for starters, China is a massive, rapidly-changing and hugely diverse country. What life in China is like depends on where you are and how you choose to live your life. But one thing is for sure, there's never been a more exciting time to live in this dynamic and vibrant country.

**S**o is it easy for a foreigner to fit in amongst 1.3 billion people? When you first arrive, you might well come across locals who find it too frustrating to communicate with a foreigner who speaks little or no Chinese, so you'll need plenty of patience. Others will bowl you over with their kindness, go incredibly far out of their way to help you with the smallest problem you might encounter, and invite you to their hometown to celebrate Chinese New Year.

**P**erhaps one of the biggest surprises for foreign visitors to China is the country's incredible diversity. As the third largest nation in the world, China occupies a vast expanse of territory, making it home to tremendous regional diversity in terms of everything from terrain and weather to culture, language and food. The Chinese population is itself made up of 56 ethnic groups each with their own customs and traditions. All this makes China a wonderful country to travel, live in and explore.



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# Who are we?

## RAY English TEFL Recruitment

**RAY English TEFL Recruitment** is one of China's leading ESL recruitment agencies. Every year, we help thousands of TEFL teachers to find their perfect job within China. We are a registered company in China, ran by ex-TEFL teachers from the UK. Collectively, we have over 20 years of China experience, so are ideally placed to help you.

We began life in 2008 in just one city, Xi'an (the home of the world-famous Terracotta Warriors), helping teachers to find teaching jobs in just a handful of schools. From the very beginning, we had a simple ethos of putting the teacher first by making sure that the school was well-run and that teachers got the professional support and development they deserve. We also made sure that any teachers we provided schools were well-trained, motivated and passionate about teaching English.

As time went by, schools in other cities in China started hearing about the quality of teacher we were providing schools, and how informed teachers were upon arrival, and slowly our reputation grew.

Today, we work closely with over 300 private language centres and universities in over 60 cities across the entire country. However, we still stick closely to our original ethos of only finding the best schools for teachers and only finding the best teachers for schools. We enjoy an outstanding reputation, both in China and internationally, for our dedication to finding the perfect job for candidates and by giving impartial, up-to-date advice to both teachers and schools.

Whatever your preference to student age, type of job or city location, we are sure to have ESL teaching jobs relevant to you. What is more, we have fantastic working relationships with schools and we can make sure your application is handled quickly and efficiently and lands on the correct person's desk. Our candidates' applications always take priority over other applicants.

**Finally and most importantly, our advice and placement services are 100% free of charge to teachers.**

# Getting Qualified

## Types of teaching certificates accepted in China

For 99% of all TEFL jobs now in China, teachers need to have some kind of formal teaching qualification. There are many different types of TEFL qualifications out there, all ranging in price and quality. The main differences come down to the following factors: price, level of international recognition, in-house or on-line, whether the course has observed teaching practice and course duration.

In order to qualify for a Chinese working visa and Foreign Expert Card (FEC), nearly all Chinese cities are asking for a university degree and 'a teaching certificate', so for the purposes of obtaining a visa in China, any teaching certificate will do. However, many of the large education chains in China are now refusing to offer job interviews to teachers who have undertaken either online courses or weekend in-house courses. The main reason for this is that these courses more often than not do not have any real teaching practice and so your first classroom experience is actually in China, on the job. Many schools really don't want this, so think carefully about the course you choose.

For most of the longer courses (100 hours and above), the teaching practice is the central focus of the course, and most of the other input sessions during the course are aimed at increasing your ability to 'perform' well in class. This means that you leave the course with the experience of having taught real language learners, at different levels and possibly teaching different styles of lesson.

The most widely-accepted "industry standard" entry-level qualifications are the **Cambridge CELTA** and **Trinity CertTesol**. These are recognised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and correspond to the minimum qualifications accepted by the British Council in the UK. Overseas these two have the widest possible appeal.

As a new teacher, your biggest question should be 'Will this training course prepare me adequately for the job?' Speak to course trainers and find out if the syllabus on offer covers all the bases.

# Jobs in China

## What kind of jobs are there for ESL teachers in China?

There are two main types of teaching positions available to ESL teachers in China. These two main types can then be sub-divided, mainly based on the types of students you might encounter.

**Public schools** are positions within government institutions such as primary schools, middle schools, high schools and universities. These positions are Monday to Friday jobs, where you will be teaching classes throughout the day. You won't need to work weekends, unless the local education department asks that the school runs catch-up classes for a few special days or public holidays. Public schools always require you to teach to more students than with private schools. If you are at a university, you can expect to teach class numbers ranging from 25-50 students in one class. Chairs and tables are almost always in fixed positions, making communicative activities a little more challenging than with private schools, which have fewer students, open spaces and moveable chairs. Your classes will be mixed-ability, where some students will be very strong indeed, while others will require more time and support.

**Private language centres** are schools which help students to get better at English in their free-time, whether after school or out of office hours for adult students. Class sizes are far smaller so that students get more 1-2-1 time with the teacher to focus on language problems and that facilities in the school are much more comfortable. You will always be required to work weekends, as this is the time when school is out or full-time working adults have time to learn a language. You can also expect to work evenings too, often until 9pm. You will usually get one or two days off a week sometime during weekdays. One advantage that private language centres have over public positions is the training which you receive. Because private training centres compete with each other to provide the best language learning experience for students, it is important to them to make sure that their academic team is the finest locally. Most schools will have teacher training and development workshops as a regular part of your working hours, so you will grow and develop as an EFL teacher.

# Culture Shock

## Living and working in China

A great deal has been written about the nature of the **culture shock** experienced, to varying degrees, by all foreigners in China. Essentially, just about everything is different: currency, food, available merchandise, ethics, social customs and traditions, personal hygiene, medical care and family life, not to mention the physical and natural environment, to name but the major ones. One's ability to adjust to life in China depends greatly on how resilient one's character is as well as how determined one is to make the myriad of psychological, emotional and physical adjustments required. When you first arrive in China, you will very likely experience an exhilarating sense of excitement and adventure. You will think to yourself "I can't believe I'm finally in China," and you will be fascinated and overwhelmingly impressed by all the "exotic" differences in culture you will encounter.

Usually, within a month or so, that sense of excitement will eventually give way to new feelings of frustration as you continue to have unfavorable encounters that strike you as strange, offensive, and unacceptable. These reactions, for most Westerners, are typically centered around the formidable language barrier as well as stark differences in: public hygiene; traffic safety; the type and quality of the food; the unavailability of creature comforts; poor or nonexistent customer service. After a while, most will eventually move smoothly into an adjustment period during which time you will begin to feel more settled-in and confident as life becomes considerably more routine and predictable. This often tends to coincide with the acquisition of some Chinese language skills and the ability to minimally communicate around basic needs without help.

After a period of time of living in China, you will begin to realize that you now feel "at home" in China. What used to drive you crazy in the beginning now seems normal or insignificant, and you will actually start identifying several characteristics or features of the culture that you genuinely may prefer to your own. In addition, you will notice that you have gradually incorporated several traits or behaviors from the new culture, such that if you were to return to your native country, you would in fact experience something of a reverse culture shock!

# Getting a visa

## How do I apply for a visa?

In order for foreigners to legally work in China (in any profession, not just language teaching), they will need a **Z-visa** (work visa). Z-visas are legal permits stuck in your passport which give you permission to work with a language company or state school here in China. Only language schools and state schools licenced by the SAFEA (State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs) are allowed to hire foreign teachers, and this licence is no easy thing to apply for. Schools less than 12 months old are not permitted to apply.

In order to qualify for a Z-visa and the Foreign Experts Certificate (FEC) in China, TEFL teachers must usually meet the following criteria:

- **Be a native-speaker i.e. from the UK and Ireland, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa.**
- **Have a university degree**
- **Have some form of teaching certificate**
- **Be aged 23-60**

In a number of cities, more than one or two year's relevant ESL experience is also required.

In some provinces, the maximum age being accepted is now 55.

*(Please note that RAY English TEFL Recruitment can still help teachers with no degree as we know which cities will accept your application.)*

All Z-visa applications are fully taken care of by the admin staff of schools here. You can get on with teaching and planning good classes safe in the knowledge that all the visa stuff gets dealt with for you by experienced staff.



# Locations

**In which cities can I live and teach?**



**RAY English TEFL Recruitment** has many different types of jobs, from kindergarten, to younger learners, teens, adults and public school positions. These job locations range from large metropolises such as Shanghai and Beijing to smaller, more 'authentic' cities such as Xi'an or Nanjing. We have good jobs in nearly 60 cities dotted all over China.

If you look at the map above, we have jobs within **every colour zone** and we'll make sure that any jobs we offer you match what you are looking for as closely as possible.

# Apply for a job!

## I want to apply! What should I do next?

OK, if you haven't yet dropped by **our website**, please take a few moments to do so now!

On our website there is a **detailed list of all of our latest vacancies** where you can see the types of jobs we have, the salary package and locations. In addition, you can see the individual minimum qualifications and experience requirement for each job. That way you will have an idea of what job may suit you before you speak to us. You can instantly apply and upload your CV/résumé to us online.

**Email us!!**

**[teachers@rayenglish.com](mailto:teachers@rayenglish.com)**

Also, there are some other great features on our website such as some great articles/help with teaching and our in-depth FAQ page where most of your questions can be answered. Our website can be found at:

**[www.rayenglish.com](http://www.rayenglish.com)**

In order to make applications to our partner schools or universities, we need a copy of the following documents from you: Passport photo page copy, full CV, degree copy, teaching certificate copy and a recent photo.

**Apply today: [teachers@rayenglish.com](mailto:teachers@rayenglish.com)**

We will make an application on your behalf to our partner schools which match the kind of job you want. The Directors of Studies of those schools will email you directly to arrange an interview with you. You are then free to ask questions about the school, the package and what the city is like. You will always get to speak to schools first to make an informed decision about whether or not you would like to take the job if you pass their interview and receive a formal offer.

**All of our positions** are with schools which have an excellent track record of care for teachers and have quality professional teacher development. We only work with the very best schools here in China, so you can be sure that you will be very well looked after on the job. We help hundreds of teachers like you to find relevant jobs here in China each year, both in terms of the type of students you would like to teach and in location within China. We are reliable and there for you seven days a week to answer your questions or to deal with concerns. RAY English TEFL Recruitment represents our teachers in the most robust way possible and will get you the job you want.

# Social Media

## Where can I learn more?



Our **Youtube Channel** has awesome content such as advice videos, promos, videos about China and some great teacher testimonials. Find out what other teachers have had to say about us!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RAYRecruitment?feature=mhee>



Add us to **Skype** and you can chat with one of our dedicated staff members who will answer your questions and update you on your application status. We are online seven days a week!

**Skype: RAY.English.Recruitment**



Like us on **Facebook!** We have a dedicated page on Facebook with photos, videos and job info. We welcome you to drop on by!

<http://www.facebook.com/RAYEnglishRecruitment>



Are you on **LinkedIn**? LinkedIn is a great way to network with other industry professionals. We have a dedicated LinkedIn group for China, aptly named 'ESL China!'

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4225503&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4225503&trk=hb_side_g)



Follow us on **Twitter**. Get news about all the gossip, jobs and important ESL information happening in China.

**Twitter: @Stu\_RAYEnglish**

