



ESL Training & Employment Resources: An incomplete guide designed for people in the Austin area

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

There are essentially 3 options for training to teach English as a Second Language (ESL):

1. M.A. or Ph.D. in TESL. This is most appropriate for people who wish to teach in the US or Canada, at universities or Intensive English Programs (IEPs). This track is also appropriate for people who wish to be ESL administrators, authors, or TESL professors/researchers. An M.A. typically takes 2 years to complete; the time to complete a Ph.D. ranges from 3-7 years, depending on your research interests. These courses provide a strong foundation in TESL theory, methods and applications; some courses provide supervised practice teaching.

At UT-Austin, the College of Education offers Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Foreign Language Education. For more information, contact the department of Foreign Language Education at (512) 232-4080, or visit <<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/coe/depts/ci/fle/>>.

2. B.A. with a teaching certificate and ESL Endorsement. These are the minimum qualifications to teach ESL in elementary or secondary schools. Teaching certificates may vary from state to state; for more information about B.A. programs which include a certificate, contact UT's College of Education at 512-471-3223 or visit <<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/programs/certification/about/overview/>>.

3. TEFL certificate. This is most appropriate for people who wish to teach outside the US and Canada. Courses are more practical than theoretical; supervised practice teaching is a major component of most programs. Programs typically range in length from one month to one year.

The CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults), certified by Cambridge University, is the most prestigious and widely accepted TEFL certificate. Several types of certificates are available; visit Cambridge's website at <<http://www.cambridge-efl.org/>> for details.

In the US, the CELTA is offered mainly at schools on the East or West Coast; click on "Find a Teaching Awards centre" on <<http://www.cambridge-efl.org/>> for a complete listing of schools. In Texas, the certificate is offered through North Harris College in Houston; Contact Phone: 281-618-5606 or E-mail: edesouza@nhmccd.edu for more information and an application.

There are many other types of ESL training and certificates other than the CELTA. If you choose one of these, it is important to consider the following:

- quality and level of the instructors' formal training
- extent and variety of instructors' teaching experience (in the US and abroad)
- availability and emphasis on one-on-one training
- number of supervised teaching hours
- reputation among overseas language institutions

EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

1. **ESL Services, UT-Austin.** <<http://www.utexas.edu/student/esl/>> Telephone: 512-471-2480

ESL Services is UT-Austin's intensive ESL program. Minimum teaching qualifications are:

- Master's or Ph.D. degree in ESL or related field
- Experience teaching ESL or another language
- Native-like proficiency in English
- Communicative proficiency in one or more other language
- Experience living outside the US

2. **Other language programs in Austin.**

There are several language programs in Austin, each with different schedules, course offerings, and hiring standards. Check the yellow pages under "Language Schools" for complete listings.

3. **Websites**

This is by no means an exhaustive listing of web resources, but it represents some of the largest and most reputable sites. For more options, enter "ESL" or "teach ESL" in any Internet search engine.

- TESOL (the international professional association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) <<http://www.tesol.org/>>
- The Chronicle of Higher Education Career Network (search for jobs with keyword "ESL") <<http://chronicle.com/jobs/>>
- Dave's ESL Café <<http://www.eslcafe.com/>>
- English International <<http://www.english-international.com/>>
- Goal Asia (positions in South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, China, and Japan) <<http://www.goalasia.com>>
- Teaching & Projects Abroad <<http://www.teaching-abroad.co.uk>>
- TeachAbroad.com <<http://www.teachabroad.com/>>
- TEFL Professional Network <<http://www.tefl.com/>>
- TEFL Certificate (through Boston Language Institute) <<http://www.teflcertificate.com/>>
- International House World Organization <<http://www.ihworld.com>>
- Lado International College <<http://www.lado.com/>>
- Transitions Abroad: ESL Training and Placement Programs <<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/esl/>>
- St. Giles San Francisco (one of the largest CELTA training centers in the US) <<http://www.stgiles-usa.com/>>
- Peace Corps <<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>>



This information compiled by ESL Services, UT-Austin. All websites were functional as of 10/10/2006. ESL Services is not responsible for the maintenance of these websites, or the accuracy of the information contained therein. For comments, email us at <esl@www.utexas.edu>.