Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) involves teaching English to students whose first language is not English. This could be in the UK or overseas.

The students may be children or adults and be at varying levels of ability. The term TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) can also be used, but this commonly refers to teaching immigrants and refugees in the UK.

This guide provides information about opportunities to teach English as a foreign language, both overseas and in the UK, and with or without a specialist teaching qualification. Usually, no foreign language skills are required but these can be an advantage.

If you are considering working as a teacher of English as a foreign language, in either the UK or abroad, first do your research: the Prospects website gives information on the work of a TEFL teacher, as well as industry insights into education, and country specific information: 

prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/english-as-a-foreign-language-teacher

What to Consider when Choosing a Course

The course you choose may depend on how long you intend to work in teaching abroad. If you only intend to do this for a short time - maybe whilst travelling - you may prefer a cheap, shorter course. These are widely available. However, if it is for a longer period of time, most reputable employers abroad will want one of the qualifications below. Courses vary in how much teaching practice they offer but remember - the more practical experience you can get on the course, the better. Centre-based courses tend to be more intensive and offer supervised teaching practice which many students find very valuable.

As always, you should think carefully before committing to any course or contract and be sure you have fully researched the provider and the jobs they are offering.

The Cactus TEFL website is a comprehensive site offering a course list and extensive practical information which allows you to compare CELTA courses, Trinity CertTESOL courses and online TEFL courses in over 90 destinations worldwide 
cactustefl.com

TEFL Org UK tefl.org.uk/courses/view-all-tefl-courses/. You can search for TEFL courses by location. The website also includes job vacancies and internships.

Qualifications

TEFL qualifications are open to all graduates who are native English speakers or have extremely good spoken and written English. The two main fully accredited routes are:

Cert. TESOL - trinitycollege.com/site/?id=201

CELTA - cambridgeenglish.org/teaching-english/teaching-qualifications/celta

Both of these qualifications are the most widely recognised internationally and by the British Council and give you the greatest flexibility in the type of language schools and range of countries you will be able to find work. They are available widely in the UK and abroad, and can be studied full-time (typically lasting 4 weeks) or part-time and will include practical teaching experience.
Course providers in Manchester
Contact the provider directly for course costs, duration, what they include, location and entry requirements.

CELT A courses:
- British Study Centre Manchester  https://www.british-study.com/adults/english-language-schools/manchester/
- Manchester Central School of English: manchestercse.co.uk/cesla/

Cert. TESOL courses:
- University of Manchester: https://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/teach-english/our-courses/cert-tesol/
- Train-to-TEFL, based at MMU’s Innospace: train-to-tefl.com

Postgraduate courses:
Many universities offer related postgrad courses, including MMU, which offers a programme in foreign language teaching. Please note that this does not give you the Celta or Cert TESOL award and you don’t usually need a qualification at postgrad level to do this kind of work: mmu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/

Costs
The cost of courses varies enormously depending on length and certification. A fully accredited and widely-recognised, four-week CELTA certificate will cost upwards of £1,000, a 1-week basic on-line taster course will be much less, but may limit your job options.

Funding
The Suzanne Furstner Foundation usually offers 2 free TEFL course scholarships annually – see http://suzannefurstnerfoundation.nl/home/ for details.

There is now some financial support available for those wanting to gain a CELTA qualification. It’s just been granted Advanced Learner Loan scheme eligibility, allowing learners to apply for a loan of up to £1,417. However, only around 40 CELTA centres across the UK accept Advanced Learner Loans. Students should contact their nearest centre from the list accessed via the link below, to find out more:

In the North West, the only centres currently accepting the loans are Blackburn College and West Cheshire College. See above link for info.

Ethical TEFL offer reduced rates for students and offer scholarships http://www.ethicaltefl.org/

TEFL & Job combined
Some providers offer jobs/internships packages which include a TEFL qualification. There is a cost to these programmes, but they can work out cheaper than gaining the standalone course first. For example you could look at www.i-to-i.com or Education First  https://careers.ef.com/search/#?c=teach-abroad
Finding employment with a TEFL qualification
The demand for English language teaching abroad is very strong. Most good providers of TEFL/TESOL courses will provide help in finding jobs. Opportunities are also advertised in the Education Guardian, Times Educational Supplement and on TEFL websites such as tefl.com and teflsearch.com.

Other opportunities to teach abroad
The following are well-known and established providers:

British Council  https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/english-language-assistants
Offers the opportunity to train as a language assistant. Supporting teachers in the classroom in mainstream schools, so no TEFL qualifications usually required.

Jet Programme  jet-uk.org
Official government scheme offering one year paid opportunities working as a language assistant in Japanese schools. Recruitment takes place the autumn before the placement.

My Career Hub  mmu.ac.uk/findajob
See our website for details of English language teaching/training opportunities and schemes abroad, we usually feature a good selection. Use the advanced search feature and select the international” location search.

Guide to Working Abroad  mmu.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad/
Good general advice about teaching abroad, and further links can be found here: tes.com/articles/essential-advice-teaching-abroad and country info here: https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/working-abroad

Careers & Employability Support
The Careers & Employability Service offers a range of support to Manchester Met students and graduates:

- Detailed careers guides: Our full range of careers guides, including information on finding and applying for opportunities are available on our website:

- Ask a Careers Question Online: Get online advice through My Career Hub, ask your question at any time and receive support via email.

- Careers Consultant Appointments: Book a 30 minute appointment to discuss working or studying abroad with a Careers & Employability Consultant.

- Careers Events: Meet employers and enhance your employability by attending our workshops, employer events and careers fairs.

For more information visit mmu.ac.uk/careers