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Enhance Your Teaching Experience By Teaching English In Germany

By Michelle Simmons

Are you interested in teaching English abroad? Are you considering teaching English in Germany?

If so, you may find the path ahead of you surprisingly easy!

Germany, with tight business connections to the Western world and a large amount of well-educated citizens and available universities, can always use English teachers. A high value is placed on native-speaking English teachers, particularly those from the United States and England. And unlike some other countries, where the red tape involved in getting a teaching job is almost too much to deal with, becoming a teacher in Germany is fairly straightforward and simple. You don't have to worry about getting sponsored for a visa or working illegally. All you really have to do is find a job... and even that is far from difficult.

In order to be qualified to teach English in Germany, you must be a native English speaker and hold certification in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). If you have those two requirements under your belt, and you are aware that you'll be living in Germany for at least a year, you're ready to begin your job search.

Some people suggest that it's easiest to find teaching jobs in the smaller cities in Germany. If you're looking in a large metropolis, it's going to be more difficult to find schools that need your help— not to mention more expensive to live once you're hired. Regardless of what city you choose, your first step is to contact schools in the area by letter or in person, and inquire about available jobs.

Once you have received a job offer, your best bet is to get it in writing and then head to the local registration office. They will be able to supply you with a three-month visa while the rest of the paperwork is organized. If you are from the United States or England, all you need in order to work legally in Germany is a residency permit. In order to obtain this you will have to have proof of employment, health insurance, and proof of payment into a pension fund, as well as a German address. Use your three-month visa in order to obtain these things, and then return to the registry office for your legal work and residency permit.

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Those teaching English in Germany are paid quite well, particularly in comparison to teachers in other foreign countries. You may expect the equivalent of around \$20 US dollars an hour... however, be aware of the fact that taxes in Germany are sky-high, and your take-home pay won't be anywhere near this amount. It's best to research this situation and work with your employer regarding how much money you will need to live comfortably. Too many English teachers in Germany are unprepared for the tax situation and end up taking a job that seems high-paying enough... but isn't once the taxes kick in.

You can also avoid the tax problem by becoming a full-time teacher. Many English teachers in Germany work on a freelance basis, which is why they are taxed so badly. You may have an ongoing contract with a school, but unless they are willing to put you on the payroll as a full-time employee you will be subject to large taxes. Consider finding a school that is willing to officially hire you full-time to avoid losing this large chunk of your income.

Germany is starved for English teachers, and if you have the right qualifications and a solid sense of adventure, teaching English in Germany can be a great experience. Centrally located in Europe, Germany is a hub for travelers, tourists, and educators alike. It's a great place to begin your TEFL career.

Michelle Simmons is a contributing editor for ESLEmployment, the leading job and resource site for the Teaching English Industry. Interested in receiving hundreds of Teaching English jobs listings weekly for free? To learn more visit

<http://www.eslemployment.com>

Teaching English To Non-English Speakers

By Yvonne Volante

Teaching the English language to a non english speaking person can be exciting and interesting. If this is of interest to you, consider traveling to other countries to teach.

It is generally preferred for the English teacher to be a native English speaker.

Here are some common terms you should familiarize yourself with:

Before you excitedly answer any employment ads you should learn the meaning of commonly used terms as well as recommendations for working locally or abroad.

TEFL: Teaching English Foreign Language; often refers to teaching English in a foreign country. Known to students as EFL classes.

TESL: Teaching English as a Second Language; usually refers to teaching English to foreigners in an

English speaking country. Known to students as ESL classes.

Would you prefer to teach locally or abroad?

For people who wish to travel TEFL can be a great opportunity to interact with new cultures and to finance traveling. It is important to investigate the country you will be traveling to as well as the employer offering the position to ensure you will be safe and have reliable work. You may decide to work with an agency based in your home country that will assist you with legal questions and assist you in making living arrangements.

While many foreign positions are available to individuals without experience or certification you will likely find the education and resources of a class to be valuable before taking an assignment. If you think you would like to try this career out you might offer your services locally, as a private tutor, or take an instruction class to familiarize yourself with the responsibilities and work required to teach a language.

If you choose to work in your own country there will be various guidelines for certification, experience and materials as determined by the employers. If you consider private tutoring you can research recommended course materials and methods online or at a book store or library. You can then advertise your services in a local paper or on college and university billboards.

Teaching English can be very rewarding. However, English is a language that is full of rule breaking nuances. Trying to explain these to a student can be difficult and a person needs to have patience and good personal skills to become an effective teacher.

Do your research to be sure you are interested in the opportunities that there are. Teaching English to non-English speakers really is rewarding and profitable. And, you may get the chance to travel as a bonus!

Yvonne Volante, the author, is a big fan of language and writes for [aaalanguage.com](http://www.aaalanguage.com), which is the

premier language resource on the internet. You can see all of the articles over at

<http://www.aaalanguage.com>



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