

## Guide to Overseas Teaching



### Why teach overseas?

There are approximately 35,000 teaching professionals working in international schools around the world. Despite this large number **Teachers Latin America** feels that international teaching remains one of the best kept secrets in the world. Teachers seek employment opportunities abroad for many different reasons whether it be to make enough money to live beyond a teacher's means in their home country or to resolve their debt, to get experience in cutting edge educational institutions and curriculum or in positions that are hard to get back home, or possibly just for the adventure of seeing the world. Whatever the reason there are plenty of opportunities out there and it is only going to get better.

### International Teaching is a rapidly growing field

According to ISC Research in Britain there are currently 6,400 international schools in the world and that number is expected to double in the next 10 years.

There are hundreds of international and private schools in Latin America. Most were established to serve the families of American citizens working abroad and offer a great option for teaching overseas.

Latin American schools hold many opportunities because of the attractiveness of the region to foreign investment which has recently fueled its economy, its proximity to the United States, as well as it being a haven for expats. Many types of curriculum are used in these schools from US, British, French, German as well as the ever-growing International Baccalaureate (IBO). Also, because Latin America attracts many young teachers, opportunities abound to get experience in a new curriculum or as an administrator. These experiences will serve you well whether you decide to go back to your country of origin or you seek adventure teaching in other international schools around the world.



## The Types of Schools

The majority of these schools are private, non-profit institutions with considerable parental involvement in their governance. Almost all offer instruction in the English language and there are usually American-trained teachers represented on most private and international school faculty.

Most schools tend to pay staff teaching abroad sufficiently to provide both an opportunity for saving and a reasonable standard of living in the host country. Books, computers, science equipment, and other resources vary widely among these schools.

Some schools provide their international teaching staff free housing, insurance, and travel expenses to your point of origin each summer along with other benefits such as tuition or



partial tuition for dependent children, and opportunities for professional development. Others may offer only a subsistence salary and basic travel costs. The variety of choices in schools is large.

Keep in mind that Americans are generally entitled to a \$98,000 exclusion of taxable income if they teach abroad for at least 11 months of the year. Canadians, Australians, British citizens, and others also enjoy a variety of tax benefits while teaching abroad.

## The Demographics

Over the years, rapidly changing political and economic factors in many countries have had a strong impact on teaching abroad in these schools. Many are now educating children from many different countries. Several studies indicate that in the last ten years the typical American or British overseas school has experienced a drop in its American or British population from two thirds of the student body down to one-half or one-third of the total student enrollment. Thus, teaching abroad most often means teaching international students of all ages and levels.

Hiring requirements, salaries and benefits for teaching abroad in these schools vary considerably. Indeed, the schools themselves are extremely varied. Some have a student population of 3,000; others run an academic program with fewer than ten students.



## Teachers Latin America puts you in contact

Teachers Latin America is here to put you in contact with schools that are looking for someone with your skillset or experience. By registering with Teachers Latin America, which is absolutely free for teachers, we put your CV in front of administrators that are looking for education professionals like yourself to fill critical positions in their schools. Opportunities abound for young teachers fresh out of university, teachers looking to gain more experience, to accomplished professionals wanting to break into administration or work with international curriculum!

**So are you ready for the adventure of international teaching?**

