

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I know if I qualify for teaching English in China?

If you are a native English speaker have a university degree or a college diploma, we can find you an English teaching placement in China. Although not legally required, completion of university/college is usually the minimum qualification employers look for.

If you also possess one or more of the following, your chances of securing a teaching position in China will enhance:

- Teacher's Certificate
- Bachelor of Education Degree or
- Master's Degree
- 2+ years of teaching related experience
- Previous overseas teaching experience

Keep in mind that no matter what your qualifications are, employers are always interested in hiring a responsible, creative, dynamic, flexible and well-trained person.

2. When do schools usually hire?

Most public schools in China follow a 2-semester system similar to Canada:

Fall semester: September – January

Spring semester: February – July

Jobs usually start at the beginning of either semester. Hiring decisions can take place as early as 3 months or as late as 1 week prior to your scheduled job start date. If given the choice, most schools do prefer making hiring decisions as early as possible.

Some private language schools hire teachers on an as-needed basis any time of the year. Often, they are willing to hire you immediately to replace a teacher who has just left or a teacher who is about to complete their contract.

3. How long are most teaching contracts in China?

Most teaching contracts in China are for a minimum of one year, renewable upon completion.

4. Who will I be teaching/tutoring?

Kindergartens: Children 2-5 years of age

Elementary Schools: Students 6-12 years of age

Secondary Schools: Students 12-18 years of age

Private Language Schools:

- students from the public school system
- students wanting to attend universities in English-speaking countries
- business people
- government employees

5. Can I go with a friend? What about a partner?

In cases where an employer school is hiring for more than one positions, you are more than welcome to apply with a friend/partner of yours. Schools recognize that having another person with you increases the likelihood that you will complete your contract. Therefore, both of you may very well be offered a position at the same school!

If your friend/partner is only intending to travel rather than teach in China, his/her stay may be limited to a maximum length of 30 days; after which date, he/she may apply to extend his/her stay for another 30 days, or may otherwise be required to exit the border by the immigration.

6. What is the general compensation in China for “foreign teachers”?

Although the level of compensation varies from contract to contract, some general guidelines do exist in practice, these include:

- Monthly salary starting: depends on your experience and qualification
- Reimbursement of international air flight (partial or full)**
- Provision of accommodation (shared or private unit, utilities extra) or
- Overtime pay for excessive teaching hours

(**Please note that any air flight ticket must be purchased through New Century’s Travel Department in order to be eligible for reimbursement)

7. What are the income tax rates in China?

Please refer to the following website for a sample tax rate guideline:

http://www.worldwide-tax.com/china/china_tax.asp

8. What service does New Century provide and what are my costs?

As the acting agent between you and your prospective employer school, we help you gather as much information as possible about your school, so you can make informed decisions about the potential employment.

We then negotiate with the employer school for your contract to ensure that the job description and compensation package reflects your qualification and expectations.

Once a signed contract is in place, we will guide you through the process of obtaining a Chinese visa, purchase air flights, and arrange for your local pickup, etc. We will remain liaison between you and your employer school throughout your stay in China to provide assistance upon any request.

The service fee equals the amount of one-month's salary that we negotiated for you.

9. What do I need to take with me so that I am prepared?

It is a good idea to bring enough money to cover your first month's living expenses since there is often a delay between when you first start teaching and when you receive your first paycheque.

With respect to teaching resources, find out whether the school provides the curriculum before you decide what to take with you. Generally, you will want to take a good dictionary, lots of game ideas and props, and some Canadian souvenirs.

10. Do I need to arrange for my own medical coverage while living abroad?

It is highly recommended that you obtain a traveller's medical plan before you leave for China. Although most school clinics will treat you for minor sickness at no charge, adequate medical coverage can protect you from excessive hospital costs in cases of emergency.

Canadian Traveller's Medical Insurance Packages can be purchased from New Century. Please call for details: (905) 577-6260