

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO  
TEACHING IN KOREA

**YOUR ADVENTURE  
STARTS HERE**



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## Message from the Director:

Hey there!

Glad you stopped by as we have a lot to tell you about. From this point, your life will be forever changed – I know this because my life changed the first time I found the opportunity to teach in Korea. I spent five years teaching in Korea, including my last post as a professor at Seoul Women's University.

Don't think you can 'afford' the time to take a gap year? Here is my favorite travel quote from Mark Twain that might make you think differently:

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do."*

Shane Bennett

- Director & traveller





LIVING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY IS ALWAYS A VERY UNIQUE AND EXCITING EXPERIENCE AND FEELS LIKE AN ADVENTURE EVERY DAY. I LOVE THE TEACHING AS MY STUDENTS ARE AWESOME! - AMBER



KOREA HAS BEEN AMAZING SO FAR, I LOVE THE PEOPLE AND REALLY ENJOY MY JOB! - ALEX



KOREA IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG STEP TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD TO LIVE AND TEACH FOR A YEAR, IT'S NOT AS SCARY AS IT SEEMS AND THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU! - BEN



MY JOB IS STABLE, THE EMPLOYER IS CREDIBLE, AND MY STUDENTS ARE GREAT! - ALYCIA



I HAVE ONLY BEEN HERE A MONTH AND A HALF AND I HAVE SETTLED IN VERY NICELY TO MY NEW LIFE IN KOREA. TRAVEL AND TEACH IS ENTIRELY TO THANK FOR THE PERFECT PLACEMENT THEY FOUND FOR ME. - CONNOR

I HAVE BEEN TEACHING IN DAEGU FOR ONE MONTH NOW AND I AM ENJOYING MYSELF TO THE FULLEST. MY APARTMENT IS SITUATED IN A SAFE AREA (WHICH IS SUPER IMPORTANT FOR ME AS A WOMAN!!!), AND I WAS FORTUNATE TO TEACH IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL. I LOOOOVE MY STUDENTS. - PRISCILLA





# **HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I MAKE TEACHING IN KOREA? = WHAT ARE THE OVERALL BENEFITS? =**

Money is always a factor with any job, be it in your home country or abroad. When considering teaching in Korea, you also have to factor in the other aspects of the experience that you will benefit from; before doing that, let's look at the overall compensation that teaching positions in Korea offer:

It is important to note that factors such as not paying rent, low taxes, and a low cost of living in Korea will all result in your ability to actually save a lot of the money you earn. Many people take advantage of this opportunity and are able to pay off their student debt, make money to travel around Asia AND come home with money in hand. This alone makes teaching in Korea for a year worthwhile....but there is so much more!

- ✓ Monthly salary of 2.1-2.5 million Korean Won depending on teaching credentials (convert at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com))
- ✓ National Pension Plan of 100,000 won per month
- ✓ 1 month severance (2.1-2.5 million Won) at end of contract
- ✓ Single apartment paid
- ✓ Airfare to Korea paid
- ✓ 50% medical insurance paid
- ✓ Tax rate of 3.3-5%

Other Benefits of  
teaching and living in  
Korea

A Real Job

Meeting friends from  
around the world

Learning How to Speak  
a New Language

Experiencing and  
learning about a new  
culture

Exploring a new cuisine

Meeting the love of  
your life!!

Gaining real teaching  
experience

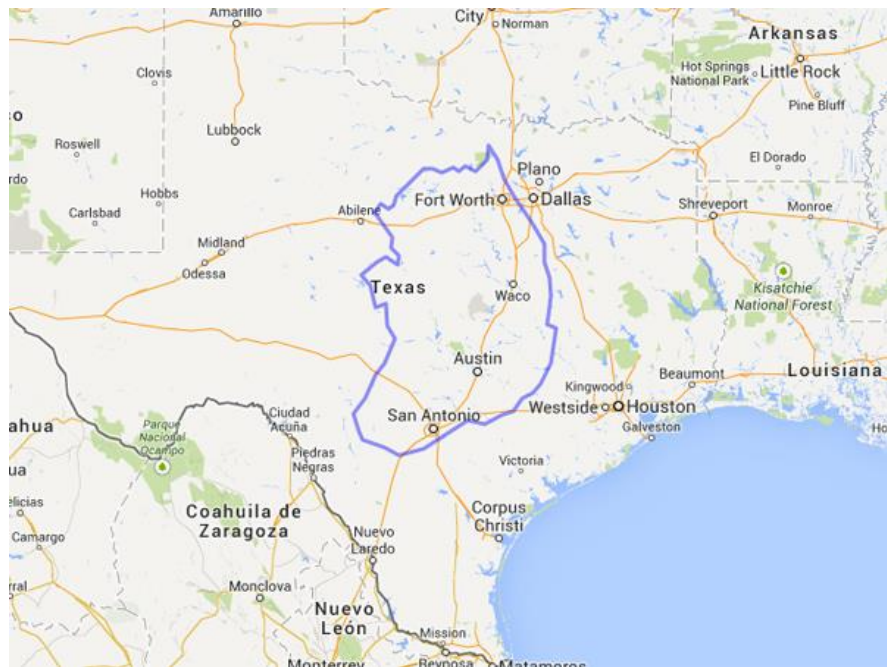
Traveling around Korea  
& Asia



# TRAVELING IN KOREA AND AROUND ASIA

Did you know that the entire land mass of South Korea is about  $1/7^{\text{th}}$  of the size of Texas? Or that Canada's land mass is 100 times bigger than South Korea?

Korea isn't exactly a country that people will fly across the world to tour: it doesn't boast the beautiful beaches of Thailand or the tropical weather of the Caribbean. However, once you are in Korea, you'll find endless adventures...and the best part...everywhere is close! Most cities are an hour or two away, so a quick bus or train ride will get you to a new destination to explore in no time. The KTX train will get you from Seoul to Busan in all of two hours... and that's pretty much as far as you can go!





## EXPLORE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ON KOREAN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Did you know that Korea has 17 National Public Holidays per year?

These holidays sometimes fall on a Friday or a Monday – or both – giving you a 5 day break!

Take a quick ferry over to Japan and explore Tokyo, Osaka or Fukuoka!

Hop on a short flight to Shanghai or walk the Great Wall of China on a packaged tour of Beijing!

Wherever you decide you want to go, it won't be far. Korea is situated in close proximity to all of these wonderful places, so planning trips is easy and inexpensive.

And, and, and... once your year contract is up, why not take off for a month or two or three and go backpacking through Southeast Asia? Get some real travel time in before you head home - or back to Korea - to teach for another year!







# A LIST OF AMAZING THINGS YOU CAN DO IN KOREA



**BUDDHIST TEMPLE STAY**  
**TOUR THE HAWAII OF KOREA – JEJU ISLAND**


**GET YOUR BLACK BELT IN TAEKWONDO**  
**GO ON A RESTAURANT TOUR**

**GO SKIING OR SNOWBOARDING**  
**JOIN A NIGHT TIME PARTY ON THE BEACH IN BUSAN**  
**VISIT IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SITES IN KOREA**

## **OTHER ADVENTURES FOR DAREDEVILS**

**FOR THOSE WITH A  
TASTE FOR  
EXCITEMENT,  
KOREA ALSO  
OFFERS FUN  
ACTIVITIES SUCH AS  
BUNGEE-JUMPING,  
WHITE WATER  
RAFTING, CAVING,  
SCUBA DIVING AND  
EVEN SHARK  
DIVING!**





# AM I ELIGIBLE/QUALIFIED TO TEACH IN KOREA?

## Eligibility Requirements

To obtain a working visa to teach in Korea, you need to be a citizen of one of the following countries: **Canada, USA, UK, Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, New Zealand or Australia.**

You will also need to hold a minimum of a **Bachelor's degree/diploma** from an accredited college/university, have a **clean criminal record** as well as a **clean bill of health**.

## Opportunities for Applicants with Degrees in Education

Travel and Teach has special opportunities for applicants who hold degrees/diplomas in Education or who have teaching certifications in their home country. These positions are reserved for certified teachers as the level of English taught is a lot higher than the average school. The monthly salary is also much higher, where teachers can make anywhere from an additional \$300-600+ a month more than the average base pay.





# DO I NEED A TEFL/TESOL CERTIFICATE TO QUALIFY?

**Yes and no.** While most schools these days are looking at the TEFL certification as a minimum requirement, many schools are primarily looking at the personality of the applicant, as well as their past teaching experience or experience with children in general.

However, when applicants apply with a TEFL certification on their resume (either in progress or completed), schools are far more likely to want to proceed with an interview. Having this certification also gives you a personal advantage, as you will learn how to teach ESL, which is something not a lot of people have experience doing.

## Which TEFL Course is the Best?

If you 'Google' TEFL courses, you will be inundated with results. There are literally hundreds of providers out there, and unfortunately, most are not accredited by any educational body. There are courses done in-class (some in other countries), but these are very expensive and don't provide much more in terms of learning than the online courses.

We recommend [TEFL Online.com](https://www.teflonline.com) to our teachers as they are accredited by the Department of Education in the USA, so the certification is recognized by any school in Korea and by ESL schools internationally. They offer 5 different options for certifications and since the course is done online, you are able to get your TEFL certification completed in your own time. [Read here](#) for more information.



# HOW DO I FIND A TEACHING JOB IN KOREA?

That's where we come in! We'll find you an awesome job at one of our amazing schools. All you have to do is follow our lead!

What are the steps in the process of teaching in Korea?

1. Complete the [Travel and Teach application form](#)
2. Have an interview with one of our Placement Coordinators
3. Get your visa documents started while we look for an appropriate position for you
4. Interview with one of our schools
5. Complete the visa process
6. Get set up with your plane ticket and arrival to Korea (we arrange *everything!*)
7. Start teaching!

What if I don't know when I can go to Korea?

We accept applications for people who are looking to go up to a year in advance. The entire process of finding a job and getting the visa completed usually takes around 3 months but we welcome anyone to apply so that we can get them fully prepared for when they're ready.



## What if I haven't graduated yet?

No problem! The more time you give yourself to get prepared, the better. We often place teachers who haven't graduated yet in positions up to 8 months in advance. Once they receive their diploma, they can then complete the visa process and hop on a plane!

## What time of year is best to apply to teach in Korea?

Anytime you're ready! Our schools hire each and every month of the year, so we can work **around your preferred start date**. The busiest months that schools do the most hiring are in February and then from July to September each year. If you can, it's best to apply outside of these months as there will be less competition for jobs.

## How long are contracts in Korea?

All contracts are for one year in length, which includes your monthly salary, airfare, free apartment, 50% medical insurance, pension contribution to you and a one month severance upon completion of your contract.

## Can I go for less than a year?

Every contract in Korea is for one year in length but you are able to leave before your year is done should you need to. In this case, you would need to give the school proper notice, which is usually 45-60 days to give the school enough time to find a teacher to fill your position. Some people aren't sure if they can commit to entire year, but we are happy to help work around your preferences.

## What if I need to end my contract and go home early?

As long as the proper notice is given (45-60 days), ending a contract early is not a problem. There are certain steps in the process that we will assist you with, but we will walk you through these should you need to leave. Sometimes life gets in the way of your other plans and we understand this.



# What Travel and Teach Does for You

We at Travel and Teach take great pride in assisting teachers in finding great jobs in Korea as we know that this is really the beginning of something that will forever change your life. It will open up doors and broaden your mind to possibilities that you never knew existed. We know this because we've been there.

For these reasons, our goal is to make sure your time in Korea is just as good as it can possibly be. This is where we are different from other agencies.

We take our job seriously as we want the best for you and your time in Korea. To see what past Travel and Teach teachers have to say about us, take a look at our [Testimonials page](#) or head on over to the [Go Overseas website](#).

## Travel and Teach Services Include:

### ✓ 100% Free Service

Since 2001, we have never charged any of our teachers a placement or program fee and we don't plan on changing that. Some agencies charge fees upwards of \$1500 for the same services we provide.

### ✓ Job Placement...

We will place you in one of the over 150 schools that we work with in Korea. There is a wide variety of teaching positions, but we'll line you up with the most suitable one for you, your qualifications and preferences.



## ✓ ...In Reputable Schools

We have been very picky with the schools that we have chosen to work with since 2001 as our standards and expectations have always been very high. The result is over 15 years' experience working with our schools where we know the ins and outs of what you can expect in your time at each location. **No issues with payments or contracts.**

## ✓ Visa Support

After our initial interview, we will get you signed into our [Teacher Area](#) where you will find a checklist for all of the documents you need for the visa. **We then walk you through each step of the entire process.** It's a bit tricky, but not to worry – we've been doing this for many years!

## ✓ Preparation Packages

As all of our staff taught in Korea, we know what you can expect in your time there – so many good things, but other things that will take some getting used to. We tell you about ALL of that, so you are prepared - not surprised - but rather understanding and accepting. **Before departing for Korea, each one of our teachers is armed with our 30 page Information Package and our 20 page First Time ESL Teacher's Guide.**

## ✓ In-Country Support

When you take off for Korea, we won't forget about you! We know that there is a transition phase and we're here to help you through that as well as with anything else that you may need, from job advice to finding friends to travel tips, to...well, you get the point. Whatever it is, you can count on us for help. **This is our Travel and Teach Teacher Guarantee.**

## ✓ TEFL Certification Arrangement

There are so many options out there that it's very hard to choose which TEFL company to trust. **We recommend [TEFL Online.com](#) due to its accreditation by the US Department of Education.** Our teachers have also reported great things about their courses over the years.

## ✓ Travel Insurance Arrangement

As a company, we are able to get a corporate rate for travel insurance, which is less than half of the individual

rate. We are happy to pass this rate on to our teachers as being protected and ready for anything while in Korea is a must. While you will be covered for doctor's visits and prescriptions with the insurance provided by the school, [traveler's insurance will cover you](#) in case of serious injury, hospital visits, surgery (including dental), as well as emergency evacuation in case of war or terrorism.



## ✓ Plane Ticket Arrangement + Airport Pick up

We will set up your plane ticket for you and provide you with all of the information you need prior to departure. We will also make the necessary arrangements for your arrival and pick up once you land.



I was extremely satisfied with the Travel and Teach program. All of my questions were answered in a timely manner. My recruiter was very helpful and provided me with a ton of information that made it easier to transition to my new life in Korea. I would absolutely recommend using this service to other people. I would absolutely recommend using this service to other people.

- Kyle Kenney

**PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS**

**VS**

**PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

**AND THE  
DEATH OF EPIK**



A common way of thinking for someone from the USA or Canada, would be that a government-run program of any kind is much more reliable and trustworthy than any private program. Why? Because it's the government! This way of thinking unfortunately does not carry over to how things are in Korea, namely with the public school program EPIK (English Program In Korea).

## The original goal of EPIK (that failed)

EPIK was first created in order to stop parents from paying the high fees that private schools (hagwans) charge. It also aimed to have English taught properly by foreign English teachers in public schools across Korea. The intention was great, but the results have not been.

## Why public school (EPIK) positions may *seem* better but are not

All too often, people looking to teach in Korea are too focused on things like location, working hours and vacation time. EPIK, for the most part, offers better vacation than private schools (about 5-7 days per year more). **Location is not guaranteed, even though you are told that before arriving in Korea** and the daytime hours are what most private schools are now offering.

What people are forgetting are the things that are really important, such as job security, job satisfaction and your personal life in Korea. As EPIK treats teachers as numbers, there is no real concern given to the individual and their overall well-being and experience while in Korea.

## Why the EPIK program has failed

As Korean parents sacrifice everything for their children and their future, they want the best of the best when it comes to English lessons, as speaking the language offers so many more opportunities. The curricula that EPIK provides is generic in nature, so students with medium to high levels of English learn nothing they don't already know; while the students with little or no knowledge of English learn the very basics.

Lessons are also taught to 40 students at a time (with only 1 teacher!), so there is no focus on individual speaking as there is in private schools, where there are classes of 8-12 students, all who have the same level of English ability. This aspect alone is very demanding and difficult for you as a teacher to be able to do your job on a daily basis.

As parents realized that their children were receiving mediocre English lessons at best, the complaints started coming in and the enrollment in the private schools rose again.

### Why teaching through EPIK isn't a safe option for teachers

At first, we thought that it would be great to be able to offer both private and public school positions to our teachers, depending on individual preferences. We therefore worked with EPIK for 4 years before multiple problems started happening, making it obvious that EPIK was no longer a safe option for our teachers



**PROBLEM #1: THE APPLICATION PROCESS REQUIRES APPLICANTS TO APPLY 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE**

**PROBLEM #2: EPIK HIRES TWICE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THEY NEED.**

**PROBLEM #3: EPIK PROMISES THAT IF YOU GET YOUR VISA DOCUMENTS SENT TO KOREA IN A HURRY, THAT YOU WILL SECURE YOUR DESIRED LOCATION, WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE**

**PROBLEM #4: GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS STARTED TO BECOME A COMMON OCCURRENCE**

**PROBLEM #5: TEACHER SUPPORT THROUGH EPIK IS ESSENTIALLY NON-EXISTENT**

# Why Travel and Teach Stopped Working with EPIK

In addition to the problems outlined above, in late 2009, 150 jobs were cut 1 month before teachers were departing for the fall intake.

25 of these teachers were recruited by Travel and Teach on behalf of EPIK.

Teachers who had completed the visa process, purchased their ticket for Korea, gave up their jobs and apartments were informed by EPIK – by email, no less – that they were now without a job.

Once we realized that we essentially had no control over the security of our teachers' positions, we decided to stop working with EPIK once and for all.



# The Misperception of Private Schools (Hagwans)

Is it true that some private schools will not pay you on time, add on extra teaching hours or fire you in the eleventh month of your contract to save on severance and plane ticket payout? Unfortunately, we still hear stories like this. However, these stories are usually from people who have either:

- 1) Been hired directly through a school or
- 2) Have been placed through a Korean recruiting agency.

While not all schools that hire directly are bad, nor are all Korean agencies, the fact is once you are in Korea and have a visa sponsorship with a school where you are not happy, your only two options are to quit, go home and do the visa process all over again or stay put and deal with the poor treatment and working conditions.

Unlike what the so called 'pundits' of the ESL teaching industry in Korea say online on Dave's ESL Café or other forums, **the majority of private schools are well-run institutions that would never risk their reputation for the sake of saving some money on a teacher's salary.**

At Travel and Teach, we have always been very selective about which schools we work with, which gives us full confidence in sending teachers to fill our schools' teaching positions year after year. With these great relationships that we have cultivated since 2001, we are able to pass on as much information to prospective teachers so they feel fully informed as to the role that they will be taking on in Korea



**I would absolutely recommend using Travel and Teach to other people. Honestly, I don't think there is anything else T&T could improve on. Keep working with the reputable schools, as the horror stories of some of the other teachers in town were very scary!!!!**

**-Sarah Markel**



# ABOUT THE TEACHING

What will I be teaching?

Most schools will have you teaching conversational English as your focus. Grammar, vocabulary and the technical side of learning English is usually taught by the Korean teachers at the school.

What ages will I be teaching?

Many schools these days have the kindergarten program as well as elementary and junior school kids, so you will be teaching students from the age of 4 up to 14 years of age. Students in high school rarely have the time to learn English as they are studying for their university entrance exam. Some of our schools also teach adult and/or business classes.

### What are the hours like?

The standard number of teaching hours per week is 25-30. Preparation time is usually about an hour per day. If you are teaching kindergarten, you will start classes in the morning around 9-9:30 am and finish from 4-5 pm. If you are teaching older students, your teaching hours will be from the afternoon until evening.

### How many students will be in my class? Will I have an assistant teacher?

Standard class size is 8-12 students per class, all who are at the same level of English. You won't have (or need) an assistant teacher as you would with public school positions, as the students will have a good enough understanding of English that you won't need a translator.

### Do I need ESL teaching experience?

If you don't have any ESL teaching experience, it's best to [get yourself a TEFL certification](#), as this will not only look good to schools you are applying to, but will also train you before you begin your new job.

If you have time, getting some volunteer work on your resume also looks good. Anything to do with teaching or children in general will improve your chances of obtaining a placement.

### Are there higher paying jobs for Education majors or those with teaching experience?

Yes! We have large number of our schools who specifically hire those with degrees in Education, or those with teaching certificates/in-class teaching experience. These schools pay an additional \$300-600+ more per month.





# WHICH IS THE BEST CITY IN KOREA TO TEACH AND LIVE?

Too many people that apply to us tell us that they have to be either in Seoul or Busan. The reason for most people is because these are the only two cities in Korea that they have heard of, or because the 'ESL forum experts' told them that is where they should go.

## Cities in Korea differ mostly in population size

The truth is that from city to city, Korea is really not that different, other than the varying population sizes. Of course this is not the case when comparing a rural town to Seoul, Daegu or Incheon, but both medium sized cities and large metropolitan areas have everything you need.

Korea is such a small country geographically that a 'small' city will have a population of 300,000 people and a mid-sized city will have anywhere from 500,000 to 2 million people. The Seoul capital area has a population of 25 million people.

In medium to large cities across the country, you will find endless restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and pretty much any activity you can think of.

## The pros and cons of small and mid-sized cities vs. large cities

Travel and Teach does not send teachers to rural areas of Korea as there really isn't much to do. We only work with cities of populations in the hundreds of thousands, which are considered small by Korean standards.

**Small to mid-sized cities** are great to live in as they provide larger apartments, less crowded streets and subways as well as a lower cost of living.

**Larger cities like Seoul** are fun and exciting, but can sometimes be overwhelming with the number of people, noise and lack of outdoor space. Apartments are much smaller and often in older buildings.

## How do I know which city I should teach in?

Your qualifications and the date you are able to go to Korea are usually the two biggest factors in the city you will end up. Each school will need teachers at different times of the year, so when you know when you are ready to go you will be able to see what options are available to you at that time.

Once you have gone through the application and interview processes with us, we will determine when you can actually be in Korea and will then begin looking into possible job options for you. **We always take the time to match our teachers with the best school for them.** With our years of experience and thousands of happy teachers placed, we're confident that we will find you something you love!





What will my apartment be like?

Will my apartment be furnished?

Will I have a single apartment to myself?

What are the monthly bills like?

## Apartments in larger cities vs. small-mid size cities

Apartments in Seoul or larger metropolitan cities are often one room, bachelor style and usually in older buildings. Apartments in small to mid-sized cities are often 1.5-2 times the size.

### Will my apartment be furnished?

Yes! All apartments come with a bed, table and chairs, kitchen supplies and a washing machine.

### Will I have a single apartment to myself?

Yes! The only time you would be sharing an apartment is if you are placed with your partner, where you would be living in a shared apartment, just the two of you.



What are the monthly bills like?

In a word: inexpensive. Your gas and water bills are very small, as will be your hydro bill, unless you are running your air conditioner all day when you are teaching at school! Other bills such as internet and cable TV are optional.



**DO I NEED TO  
SPEAK  
KOREAN TO  
TEACH AND  
LIVE IN  
KOREA?**

**Ask yourself this:** Do you need to speak English to live in the USA or Canada? Maybe not, but think about how much more difficult your life would be without at least some basic knowledge of the local language - this is no different when living in Korea.

# REASONS WHY YOU NEED A MINIMUM OF A BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF KOREAN

- 1) Greeting your new boss in Korean is a great way to get your relationship off on the right foot!
- 2) Ordering food at a restaurant or to your door are two things that you won't be able to do if you don't have a basic grasp of Korean.
- 3) Buying tickets to travel around Korea. Being able to purchase tickets and understand what time your train leaves will give you the freedom and confidence to travel throughout the country.
- 4) Shopping in Korea for the latest fashions! You'll need to ask the price of items (or for a discount!) and understand what the clerk says, to be able to shop.
- 5) Mingling with the locals - or a love interest. You'll discover so much more about the Korean culture and its people if you are able to interact even at a basic level.

# THE BEST WAY TO LEARN KOREAN

**beeline**  
LanguageKorean



[Beeline Language](#) teaches *conversational* Korean, all taught in an online video series over 3 levels of learning. Each lesson is built around situations you will find yourself in while living in Korea, such as eating at a restaurant, shopping at a store, taking a taxi and more.

The Beginner level teaches you the very basics, starting with 'hello'. Work your way through 48 lessons, including Grammar and Expressions and Vocabulary Builder Videos.

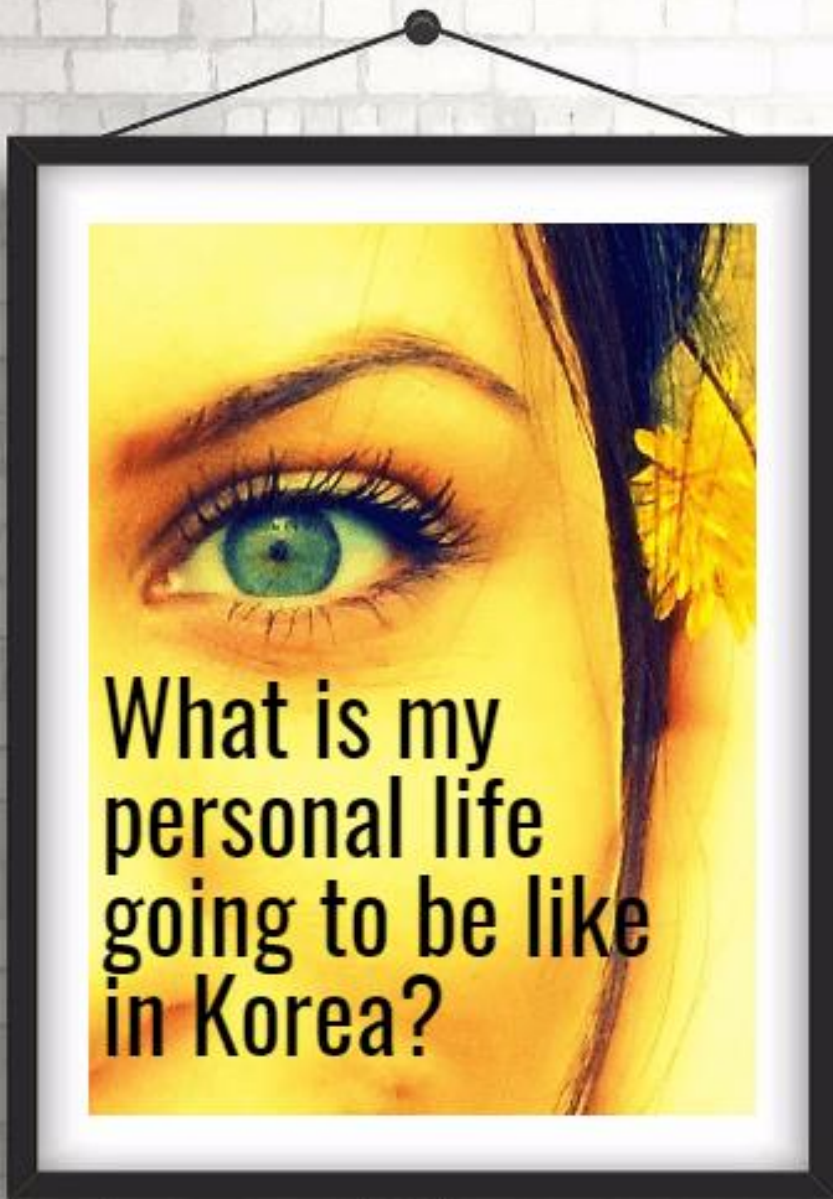
In Level 2, you will learn everything there is to know about reading and writing Korean – Hangul – so that you can increase your overall understanding of the language.

In Level 3, the Intermediate level, you will learn to speak in full sentences and will expand on the knowledge you learned in the first two levels.



If you want to learn Korean online to know enough to get by or if you are striving to become fluent, [Beeline Language Korean](#) is our recommended way to get you there. With 3 payment options, there's no reason to delay! [Get started today for free!](#)





Remember the first day of university where there seemed to be endless possibilities of things to do, people to meet, experiences to discover? That is pretty much how you'll feel when you get to Korea. It's all new - and it's awesome.

How much money can I actually save in Korea?

With your rent being paid by the school, a tax rate of 3.3-5%, no tipping (not done in Korea!) and a low cost of living in Korea in general, you are able to save most of your pay each month. Of course this will depend on one's spending habits, but if you are

interested in paying off your student debts and want to save up to travel more, teaching in Korea offers you the opportunity to do both.

Even if you end up spending more than you planned during your year, your final paycheck includes 1) your last month's pay, 2) your severance (equivalent to one month's pay), and 3) your pension contributions for the year. **All told, you're looking at essentially three paychecks that you'll get at the same time!**

**Did you know** that if you live in smaller cities outside of Seoul, you will be able to save far more money? As Seoul is the most expensive city to live in Korea, the cost of living in general is higher. This is something to consider when deciding which city to teach in.

Did you know that according to Numeo, [Korea is the safest country in the entire world to travel?](#) . Since 2001, Travel and Teach has not had even one report from any of our female (or male) teachers, where safety was a concern. Korean men in general are not very aggressive towards Western women, and tend to be shy than anything around them. Korea also boasts some of the lowest crime rates in the world; so if your overprotective father has any concerns, you can tell him that you'll be just fine!



## Where and what will I eat?

If you haven't tried Korean food, you are in for a special treat. Not only is it healthy and delicious, there are endless options to not only buy Korean food at the grocery store or at a restaurant, but also on the street or to order it to your front door.

[Ordering take-out to your door](#) is an experience in and of itself! As long as you know a little bit of Korean, you will be able to order a variety of food that will come right to your front door, on actual plates with real cutlery. The delivery man will be there before you know it and will look at you funny if you try to offer him a tip! Once you're done with your meal, just leave the dishes outside your front door and they will be picked up later! Fast, cheap, environmentally friendly and delicious!

## Can I find Western food in Korea?

Yes! As Korea is becoming more of a globalized nation, Koreans are growing more partial to western tastes. You will be able to easily find things like bread, cereal, milk and juice in your local grocery store but you'll also find fine cheeses, meats and more at E-Mart or Home Plus, which are similar to Walmart or other box stores back home.

## What can I do in my free time outside of school?

Whatever you want to do! One of the biggest differences with being a teacher in Korea compared to teaching back home is that you won't have any marking or preparing to do once you leave the school for the day, as it's all done before your classes at school. This leaves you the mornings, evenings and weekends to yourself.

In the mornings, people usually get involved in one of the following activities:

- **Yoga**, which has grown tremendously in Korea, where there are now studios in most neighborhoods.
- **Working out at the local gym!** You will be able to find a local gym near your apartment. Membership fees are reasonable at around 50,000 won/month.
- **Swimming!** Pools are also quite common, if that is your preferred form of exercise.
- **Taekwondo!** Dojos are on almost every corner. Enroll in an adult class in the mornings and obtain black belt status in a year!
- **Learning to speak Korean!** Korea is obviously the best place that you can study – and practice – your Korean, so take advantage of those conversations with the locals! Your Korean speaking ability will skyrocket as will your confidence, so take advantage!
- **Joining a club** – soccer, baseball, hockey, diving, Frisbee – the options are endless. If there's an interest, someone has organized a club around it.

## What if I can't meet any friends?

The good news is that this scenario is highly unlikely! Each of the schools we work with has at least a few (some as many as 20!) teachers working there who will take you under their wing when you first get there, just to show you the ropes. As everyone has been in the same situation themselves, people are always very kind and welcoming to new teachers.

In addition to your co-workers, you will meet other western teachers in your community when you go out to local restaurants, bars or other places westerners hangout.



# WHAT IF I GET HOMESICK?

As we want your time in Korea to be as enjoyable as it can be, we are also more than happy to introduce you to other teachers in your area, should you have a hard time meeting people or making friends. Again, this is rare, but we're there to be a helping hand in any situation, including this one.

Homesickness is something that a lot of people go through at some point in Korea. It usually happens soon after you arrive but doesn't last for long. As there is a lot coming at you in your first few weeks in Korea, there isn't too much time to think about how things are back home!

If you do get homesick, [there are certain things that you can do](#) to that will make things better for you, including making friends and *not* calling home too often. Part of the experience is being outside of your comfort zone, which is something that everyone should experience at some point in their life as it will simply make you stronger as a person.



**It's been an amazing journey so far in Korea! I've enjoyed every second of it - from the very beginning working with Travel and Teach to actually being in Korea and teaching. Niko was more than helpful in every step of my journey - he found me a great placement and has continued to check up on me since I arrived. I've been able to experience a new culture and meet new people all while having a rewarding job. I've also been able to have a slice of home by joining a baseball league. If you're thinking about teaching in Korea, I'd definitely recommend the Travel and Teach program. Just do it!**

**-Zach Kuykendall**



## Why you need to use a recruiting agency

The best advice that we can give to anyone thinking about going to Korea, is to use a reputable recruiting agency. Whether that is [Travel and Teach Recruiting](#) or another company, be sure to do ample research as you could get yourself into trouble.

### Why would a school cheat a teacher?

Schools don't set out to cheat teachers out of money on purpose. This can happen in a situation when the school has lost students and therefore cannot afford to pay you. *If you are without proper representation, a dishonest owner may decide not to pay you what you are owed if there are no repercussions.*

### Why Korean recruiting agencies won't have your back when you need them to

Korean recruiting agencies quite often have a lot of jobs available to offer you, **but the most common complaint is that when things go bad, they disappear.** This is something that has to do with the Korean culture and face value, where one losing face is the ultimate insult. As an example, if a teacher were to complain to their agency about a school breaking their contract, the agency would then have to confront the school on the issue, causing the school to lose face, which would not be good for their relationship; by acknowledging that they have sent you to a school that would break a contract, they would be acknowledging that they have done wrong by you, causing *them* to lose face. Either situation does not bode well for the agency, so the best and most common way to deal with any such issues is to ignore them, leaving the teacher to fend for themselves.



# Why getting a job directly through a school is a bad idea

With so many reputable agencies out there that offer a free service as T&T does, there is really no reason for you to find a job on your own. It's unsafe and here are some reasons why:

- Many schools that don't use a recruiting agency have been blacklisted, whereas no one will work with them.
- They will tell you what you want to hear to get you to Korea but don't deliver on their promises. High pay, low working hours and extra vacation time all sound great until you realize that this isn't the case upon arriving in Korea. By that time you have two options: 1) fly home at your own cost and redo the entire visa process, or 2) deal with the poor situation for a year and hope you are paid what you are owed at the end of it.

- Working unpaid overtime hours is not uncommon to Korean employees so some schools are known to expect the same from western teachers.

## Situations you might find yourself in where you'll need help

- 1) If your school loses a bunch of students and needs to close down...
- 2) If you want to transfer your visa to a new school but your current school won't let you - who will assist you through this process?
- 3) If you are working more hours than what you agreed to in your contract...



4) If you need to go home and end a contract early - how will you be sure the school will pay you what you are owed?

There is a Labor Board in Korea that is set up to protect teachers from schools taking advantage of them and not honoring contracts. However, since you are likely leaving Korea after ending your contract, you would essentially need to fly back to Korea to attend court proceedings, which is unlikely.

Play it safe and do your research! Dot those i's and cross those t's before taking off to Korea to ensure that your year goes smoothly.



When I finally decided to work and travel abroad, I had no idea where to begin. What country do I go to? How do I find a decent job that I won't hate? I was skeptical at first because this service was free and guaranteed job placement. However, I was proven wrong when just that happened.

Not only did my recruiter hold my hand (figuratively speaking of course) throughout the entire process, but he was there to answer all of my questions (no matter how small or trivial they were). This included visa assistance, appropriate resume preparation, job searching, and setting up interviews with employers. Once I was in Korea, he continued to follow up on my cultural and job adjustment to ensure a smooth transition. After years of working abroad, this experience has proven to be by far the most convenient, cost friendly, and successful experience to date.

-Zack Conrad



What are you waiting for?

**APPLY NOW**

<http://www.travelandteachrecruiting.com/apply-now/>