

Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project

What is the Explore Thailand Project?

The Explore Thailand Project is a 3- week intensive program which will help you understand and learn the skills of teaching English as a foreign language and then apply those skills in the regional schools in northern or central Thailand. It is an attractive program wherein you will be trained by TEFL International, the largest TEFL teacher training organization in the world, and then will be placed immediately in schools which will give you an opportunity to see how what you learnt works. Teaching for the next four months will help you understand the difficulties and challenges of language learners and the chance to spend nearly five months immersed in a culture so vastly different from yours. So completing the course in Chiang Mai and then getting placed around the area will be an experience one would never want to miss. An international TEFL course and certification and immersion in Thai culture for free seem to be a fair deal.

As soon as you complete the course you will start teaching and earn about 30000 baht per month, a lot more than experienced local teachers.

Are you eligible for the Program?

All you need to be is above the age of 19 and a native English Speaker. Are you just out of university and at a loose end? Do you wish to travel to exotic locations but finance is a constraint? Are you stagnating in your present job and want a career change? Have you been a teacher all your life but want to teach in another country or a different set or level of students? If the answer to any of the above is yes, then the Explore Thailand Project is for you.

The Explore Thailand Project helps you earn while you travel, it gives you the opportunity to just not be a bumbling traveler but someone who is willing to contribute to society while you travel. It gives you the scope to interact with young minds. It helps you assimilate and understand new cultures, people, sample new food and take in sites and sounds that otherwise would have been impossible to experience.

Why should you do it?

There are teacher training courses and organizations dime a dozen but few that maintain international course structure and guaranteed placements. Most organizations conduct the course and aid in placements. But TEFL International not only offers a TESOL course that is recognized internationally but also is able to secure the best jobs for its candidates right after the course. The Explore Thailand Project at Chiang Mai not only gives you an opportunity to earn an international TEFL qualification but also the chance to explore the beautiful northern region of Thailand. Chiang Mai is known to the world as the land of the white elephant - an animal that symbolizes Thai culture and sentiments. The rainforests of Chiang Mai is also the habitat for a host of tropical animals and plants. Therefore it is a haven for nature lovers. Chiang Mai with a 700 year history, has its own very distinctive culture, arts,

architecture, festivals, and traditions as well as an exciting mix of local, ethnic as well as expatriate communities from all over the world.

Benefits and Course Fee

- TEFL Certification at a very competitive cost – 750 USD
- USD 700 each for a couple.
- Accommodation (single occupancy) at a beautiful resort during the course
- Free buffet lunch on all class days. (Monday to Friday)
- Orientation on Thai culture and Thai Language on the first day of the project.
- Non-immigrant visa and work permit suitable to MOE procurement assistance.
- Free Transport from Airport to training site.
- After the course, a salary of 30,000 baht (currently \$900) per month + housing (in comparison, local teachers earn only about 10,000 baht per month so this is more than enough to live comfortably) for the 4 months of teaching in Thai Schools.
- Insurance ,Work permit, Visa papers and Visa assistance
- Contract from 1st week of November until 1st week of March 2008

Please email admin@bestteflcourse.com if you have any query.

Mai (Thailand) Project - About Chiang Mai

The Place

Chiang Mai is Thailand's second-largest city and the gateway to the north. Chiang Mai, with an altitude of approximately 310 meters above sea level, is situated approximately 700 kilometers from Bangkok on the Mae Ping River basin. It's also a modern, friendly, internationally-flavored city with much to offer the visitor – excellent Thai food, beautiful temples, imposing mountains and a unique culture. Chiang Mai's plethora of temples is exhaustive. For variety, there is the night bazaar where one can buy and see tribal art and craft. Local culture is on display at the museums, and for those looking to introspect there is always a palm tree in the city's gardens. There is always something new to discover Chiang Mai. Intriguing diversity among ethnic tribes coupled with breathtaking scenery makes Chiang Mai one of Asia's most attractive tourist destinations.

What is the attraction?

The options for travelers is endless in Chiang Mai. One can wander among the quiet lanes of the old town admiring the beautiful temples and rustic old fashioned lifestyle of the locals, or simply sit beside the pretty moat and watch the world go by. On Doi Sui thep you can admire fabulous views, seek out superb waterfalls and visit intriguing hilltribe villages.

For the adventurous the Peak Rock-Climbing Plaza has one of the largest rock-climbing walls in Southeast Asia. Non-climbers can watch the action from several adjacent bars and restaurants. Thai massages are both famous and infamous. However there are dozens of traditional massage centres all around the city, which are indeed relaxing and therapeutic. Chiang Mai certainly does not have the Thai beaches but it sure has a number of public swimming pools when temperatures rise.

Chiang Mai is an ideal place to delve into Thai culture. The city has a very attractive art and craft trade, often involving traditional methods that have been passed down through generations. Northern Thailand is also uniquely the home to a variety of interesting hill-tribes, such as the Hmong, Karen, Shan (Tai Yai), Akha, Lisu, Lahu and Mien, many of whom have migrated into the region from the Asian interior. With them, they have brought unusual customs and colorful costumes/dress

Entertainment

Chiang Mai's popularity with travelers means there are plenty of night-time options to keep one entertained into the wee hours, from bars and theme pubs to live music, discos, cinemas and cultural shows.

How to get there?

Chiang Mai is very well connected with the rest of Thailand. Chiang Mai's airport takes regular traffic from Thailand's major cities (including seven daily flights from Bangkok), as well as from other regional centres. Buses also ply the route between Bangkok and Chiang Mai several times a day. The trip takes between 10 and 12 hours, depending on the money you pay. Trains also connect Chiang Mai to her southern capital.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Near by places

Places Around Chiang Mai

Although Chiang Mai has lots of interesting places and things to do, such as the moat, beautiful temples, traditional markets and historical monuments, one can utilize their weekends visiting the surrounding areas.

Day trips

A trip to the temple on top of Doi Suietep, an imposing mountain to the west of the city is worth a visit. It is a 15km journey to the summit which can be covered either by local taxi or hired two wheelers. While there you can visit Phuping Palace gardens and Hmong villages, or go walking in the lovely forests of Doi Pui peak.

There are two gorgeous waterfalls, Huay Kaew falls and Monthathal falls. Close by is the Chiang Mai zoo home too a number of Asian and tropical animals.

Closer to Chiang Mai is the Mae Sa valley about 30 minutes' drive, where one can enjoy the magnificent Mae Sa waterfall, orchid farm, monkey and snake farms and botanical gardens. A ride on the back of an elephant is a thrilling experience not to be missed.

Weekends

Northern Thailand is known for its mountains and unspoilt rainforest and Chiang Mai lies at its heart. Therefore it is the starting point for hill treks into the interior. These can be arranged from the many touring companies found in Chiang Mai to explore the heart of rural Southeast Asia. They usually take up to five days, but with less time to spare, a day or overnight trip to the fabulous Doi Inthanon national park - home of Thailand's highest mountain is recommended. The treks include elephant-back rides, rafting rivers on bamboo skiffs, visits to waterfalls and nights stay in villages of the indigenous tribal people who lead a simple lifestyle and follow a unique tradition and culture.

More than a weekend trip

To the north of Chiang Mai heading towards Chiang Dao are a remarkable complex of caves beneath it. Continuing north, one will reach Doi Angkhang - one of the last wildernesses in Thailand bordering Myanmar. However, a popular option is to continue on to Tha Ton and catch an overnight raft trip to Chiang Rai.

Chiang Rai sounds like a twin city of Chiang Mai but is equally historic and offers a more realistic glimpse into a Northern Thailand city. From Chiang Rai it's not far to the mighty Mekhong River and you can follow the banks of this important waterway

for more than 100kms, passing through the former Lanna capital and port town of Chiang Saen.

Pai is a town situated beside a river, among the hills to the north of Chiang Mai. The three-hour drive over mountaintops to get there is spectacular and the town has become a base from which to start trekking. Live music, quaint restaurants and cheap, simple, guesthouses add to its appeal. From here to Mae Hong Son, a border town with a lake at the center and a unique Burmese temple of Wat Jong Kham is the main attraction. What is exclusive to this region are the long-necked Paduang people, who have clung to an old tradition of extending their woman's necks using brass rings, mainly as a means of attracting tourists.

Doi Inthanon National Park, is a one hour drive from Chiang Mai towards the south and is the country's highest mountain. It is possible to drive all the way to the summit, which is often shrouded in mist. On the way up there are three superb waterfalls. On the way there are chalets to rent and a campsite, and numerous points to enjoy on foot the lovely flora and gushing streams. Several hilltribes also live in the park, and visitors are encouraged to visit their villages, observe their traditional ways and buy their handicrafts.

Nan is one of Northern Thailand's most serene and peaceful provinces, providing a good escape from everything. It is roughly 320kms east of Chiang Mai. This quiet province encompasses an area of 11,500 square kilometers and is comprised of many districts, all of which give an idea of what rural Thailand was once like. Nan is home to numerous Thai Lue and other hill tribes, who are one of the most hospitable people.

If you are looking for history and architecture then 100kms south of Chiang Mai, Lampang is the right place for you. It is noted for several Burmese-style temples (including Wat Phra Kaeo Don Tao and Wat Si Chum), the magnificent Wat Lampang Luang, and a Thai Elephant Conservation Centre. The centuries-old Wat Phra Kaeo Don Tao used to be the place where the Emerald Buddha was once enshrined (the same statue now resides in the temple of the same name in Bangkok). Interesting structures include the large chedi containing the hair of the Buddha, a Burmese-style Mondop, an ancient vihan housing a reclining Buddha.

Situated just 26kms south of Chiang Mai is Lamphung. It is well known for its beautiful women, bountiful orchards and the stunning Wat Phra That Hariphunchai, a classic example of northern religious architecture. Similar to Chiang Mai, Lamphung is also surrounded by an ancient moat.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project – Accommodation

Accommodation during the TESOL training in Chiang Mai

Your accommodation will be available from 12 noon on 9th October 2007. This will help you acclimatize to a new surrounding and the local Thai culture.

TEFL International provides well-equipped accommodation for teacher trainees during the training, free of cost. (Single Occupancy)

Accommodation in Chiang Mai for the Explore Thailand will be at a reputed Resort in the heart of the city. The private rooms are air-conditioned with attached bathroom and balcony. Each room has Television with International channels, hot and cold water, Refrigerator. Bed sheet and towels will be changed every 7 days.

The hotel itself has a restaurant, internet café, lounge area with television and video player, plus laundry and cleaning services.

The resort-hotel is centrally located and is 50 meters from Chiang Mai University. Food, shopping, Spa, Coffee shops, Internet cafes are within 100 meters of the resort. The nearby locations offer excellent restaurants and some great tourist attraction!

Accommodation after TESOL program and before starting teaching assignment

School will provide accommodation 24 to 48 hrs prior the school contract begins. Teachers may have to organize their own accommodation for a period of 3-5 days between the completion of the TEFL program and before starting the teaching assignment. Most of the school assignments will start on 5th November 2007, and our accommodation in Chiang Mai will be available for you till 4th October noon.

Accommodation during teaching at school:

We aim to provide our teachers with the best possible accommodations. As we deal with various schools at various locations at different times, it is impossible to have accommodations pre-arranged for all sites all the year round. Therefore, exact information regarding specifics on accommodations may not be available until a later date. Exact information for some schools/cities may be available earlier than others.

Accommodations in Thailand and throughout SE Asia are generally smaller and have fewer amenities than do Western style accommodations. Most of the schools we work with are in smaller or more remote areas of Thailand and thus do not have accommodations that are up to Western standards. *If you require (cannot live without) Western style amenities (A/C, fridge, TV, DVD, kitchen, washing machine,

etc.), you will most likely not be happy working with us. However majority of the accommodations in the past have had A/C*.

Laundry is easily and inexpensively done by many local ladies (300 - 500 baht/month) or at small coin-operated shops. There are internet cafes everywhere and are usually very cheap. Restaurants and street vendors are everywhere and usually very inexpensive. TV's and DVD players can be purchased for a reasonable price, but there are many other things to do in Thailand other than watch TV and movies.

Accommodations that are arranged by the schools will be provided free of charge throughout the teaching contract. Teachers accepting arranged accommodations must agree to remain in arranged accommodations or may be liable to be charged the security deposit which the school will incur as a result.

Most arranged accommodations will be apartments with en suite bathrooms. Some accommodations for some schools/cities will be shared houses with separate bedrooms for each teacher.

Accommodations will vary from school to school and city to city. All accommodations are scouted and chosen based on location of the school, amenities provided, cleanliness, comfort, and budget. Some accommodations are provided and/or arranged by the individual schools.

All accommodations will include basic amenities such as a bed, fan (if no A/C), dresser, and closet or a clothes rack.

Some accommodations may include extras such as A/C, fridge, TV, table, balcony (most apartments have balconies), etc.

Accommodations do not include kitchens or cooking utensils as most apartments in Thailand do not have kitchens.

Monthly electric, water, and phone bills will be the responsibility of the teacher. Average water bills per month are 50-150 baht. Landline phones generally cost 5 baht/minute. Electricity is generally between 5-7 baht per unit which equates to anywhere between 500-2500 baht/month depending on the use of A/C and/or fan, fridge, lights and other electrical equipment.

Some accommodation may need a deposit for 1-2 months which is refundable after completion of the project. Some schools cover this deposit and deduct the same from the salary while others may ask the teacher to pay for this.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Visa

Non-Immigrant B Visa Sponsorship & Assistance.

All costs related to acquiring the Non-Immigrant B Visa will originally be the teacher's responsibility.

Most teachers will be able to obtain their Non-Immigrant B Visa at a Thai consulate or embassy in their home country prior to their departure. All other teachers may enter the Kingdom of Thailand on a free 30 day transit Visa, and obtain the Non-Immigrant B Visa in Laos for all and Malaysia for South Africans.

Teachers who have attended our training program but were unable to obtain the Visa prior to arrival in Thailand will be assisted by our staff during a 2-3 day trip to Laos to obtain a 90 day single entry Non-Immigrant B Visa. Average costs for this trip in previous years have ranged from 5000-6000 baht per teacher. (This includes all transportation, accommodation, Laos Visa, Thai Non-Immigrant B Visa). The estimated costs for the trip will be prepared and teachers must pay the cost in advance. If the trip is completed under the estimated budget, the remaining money will be returned to each teacher upon return to Bangkok. Teachers will be expected to follow the schedule and plan arranged by us.

Teachers who have not attended our training program may not be accompanied by a member of our staff in obtaining the Non-Immigrant B Visa in Laos. However, an information package will be provided, complete with Thai and English instructions. Also, teachers will be assisted and accompanied until their departure at Bangkok's Morchit bus station. All teachers must have a Non-Immigrant B Visa before they are able to begin teaching.

Work Permit

Schools will pay for the processing fees in obtaining the Work Permit for teachers signing a longer contract. Teachers are responsible for the cost of, supplying with, any required copies of educational documents, passport pages, health certificate, and pictures. The application for Work Permits cannot be made until a Non-Immigrant B Visa is secured. Applications will begin roughly 2 weeks after teaching begins.

In the case of changing school; if the teacher has already received the work permit but prefers to change to a new school (different province), the cost of obtaining the work permit for the new school will be the teacher's responsibility.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Job Placement

After completion of the TEFL Program teachers will be placed in schools through out Thailand. There is a range of educational institutes in Thailand. From temple schools in small villages, miles from any city, to private schools only open to the elite.

However descriptions of most English teaching jobs in Thailand are as follows:

- Teachers normally teach not more than 24 classes per week. Most schedules vary between 20-22 hours per week. Classes are 50-60 minutes long depending on the school. Most teachers will teach each class once per week.
- The teachers will be required to hand in a lesson planning every month at the end of the month.
- For Thai Schools Teachers will work at the school Monday-Friday from the hours of 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. (Timing may change for different schools but general timing is mentioned) For Language Schools, teachers have teaching sessions mostly during the evening and week ends.
- Teachers will not be required to teach on Thai National holidays. Saturdays and Sundays there is no class for Thai schools but Language Schools are more busy during the week ends.
- Teachers will attend the morning assembly which usually begins between 8:00 am. depending on the school.
- Teachers will prepare (hopefully creative) lesson plans each week for each level/grade that they teach. Teachers will likely be asked by the school and us to provide examples of lesson plans.
- Teachers will act in a professional manner both inside and outside of school. You will be a representative for us, your country, and most importantly yourself.
- Attendance / Punctuality
- Smart / Neat Appearance and Dress
- Organize lesson plans
- Adaptability to Thai culture
- Relationship with Thai teachers
- Teachers will dress in an appropriate fashion.
- In schools, males are expected to wear dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants) and a button-up/collared long or short sleeve dress shirt (no golf shirts). Ties are required on Mondays and all special occasions/days/festivities (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Day). Ties may be required by some schools on a daily basis. Brown or black dress shoes are accepted (no running shoes or sandals). Males are expected to be clean shaven. Facial hair is allowed only if it is properly trimmed and is presentable on a daily basis. Earrings or visible facial rings (eyebrow, lip, nose, chin, etc) are not accepted. Visible tattoos are not accepted. Generally hair should be short and presentable. Males with long hair may be expected to wear it pulled back and presentable.
- Outside schools, males are free to wear what they please, with a reminder that no matter how hot it is, it is not acceptable (in Thai society) to not wear a shirt in public (unless at a beach, etc).
- In schools, females are expected to wear knee length or longer skirts with a presentable blouse (no low cut or revealing shirts). Shoes should be dress shoes – open toe and high heel shoes are acceptable (no sandals or running shoes). Visible facial rings (eyebrow, lip, nose, chin, etc.) are not accepted.

Earrings are accepted providing that they are not worn in excessive numbers (E.g. 4 earrings in each ear). Hair should be presentable. Visible tattoos are not accepted.

- Outside schools, females are free to wear what they please, with a reminder that revealing clothes are not considered acceptable for female teachers at any time (in Thai society).
- Dress codes in Thai government schools may seem strict at first, but appearances and first impressions are extremely important in Thailand. If you are a teacher, you will be expected to dress accordingly especially in school
- Teachers will participate in an English club for students once per week. This is scheduled during school hours at the same time as various other clubs available to students. This can usually be done as a group with any other foreign teachers at the school.
- Teachers will respect all rules and regulations of the school unless otherwise notified by us.
- Teachers will keep organized records of student's weekly attendance as well as grades and additional notes
 - Teachers will evaluate the listening and speaking skills of each student throughout the year.
- Teachers will perform the greeting activity once per week. This consists of simply greeting students and parents at the school front gates from roughly 7:30am-8:00am. All Thai teachers rotate this responsibility as well.
- Teachers will perform the English 1 minute activity once per week. This consists of planning a short (2-3 minutes) speech/message to present during the morning assembly in English. Topics may include ideas such as public service type announcements, riddles, tongue twisters, idioms, slang, nursery rhymes, etc. This can be done as a group with any other foreign teachers at the school.
- Teachers will perform the Star Talk activity for 5 minutes before starting each class. This consists of teaching the students a short introduction and then having them introduce themselves to the class using the format you provide.
- Teachers will attend 1 English Camp for their school per semester. The dates will be arranged by the school. There is little to no preparation required, just attendance and participation. English Camps generally fall on a Saturday and run from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- Teachers will teach an after school English class to the Thai teachers. This is generally once per week and can usually be performed as a group with other foreign teachers or split with other foreign teachers. This does not count towards the limit of 24 classes per week.
- Teachers will be at school for all Non-Thai national holidays. This includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter, Valentines Day, etc. Most schools have special celebrations on these days and you will be asked to help organize them as you will be the resident expert on Western holidays.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Job Description

Teachers are required to teach not more than 24 classes per week. Most schedules vary from 20 to 22 hours per week. The length of each class is about 50 – 60 minutes.

The teachers will be required to hand in a lesson plan every month at the end of the month. Teachers will work at the school Monday-Friday usually from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. (Timing may change for different schools)

Teachers are not expected to teach on Thai National holidays, Saturdays or Sundays.

Teachers are expected to attend the morning assembly which usually begins at 8:00 am. Teachers should prepare (hopefully creative) lesson plans each week for each level/grade that they teach. Teachers will likely be asked by the school to provide examples of lesson plans. Teachers will act in a professional manner both inside and outside the school. After all you will be representing us, your country, and most importantly yourself.

Teachers will dress in an appropriate fashion.

- In schools, males are expected to wear formal pants (no jeans or cargo pants) and a button-up/collared long or short sleeve formal shirt (no golf shirts). Ties are required on Mondays and all special occasions/days/festivities (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Day). Ties may be required by some schools on a daily basis. Brown or black formal shoes are accepted (no running shoes or sandals). Males are expected to be clean shaven. Facial hair is allowed only if it is properly trimmed and is presentable on a daily basis. Earrings or visible facial rings (eyebrow, lip, nose, chin, etc) are not accepted. Visible tattoos are not accepted. Generally hair should be short and presentable. Males with long hair may be expected to wear it pulled back.
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- Dress codes in Thai government schools may seem strict at first, but appearances and first impressions are extremely important in Thailand. If you

are a teacher, you will be expected to dress accordingly especially in a school
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Teachers will participate in an English club for students once per week. This is scheduled during school hours at a particular time as there are various other clubs for students.

Teachers will respect all rules and regulations of the school unless otherwise notified by us.

Teachers will keep organized records of student's weekly attendance as well as grades and additional notes.

Teachers will evaluate the listening and speaking skills of each student throughout the contract.

Teachers will have to perform the "greeting activity" once per week. This consists of simply greeting students and parents at the school front gates from roughly 7:30am-8:00am. All Thai teachers rotate this responsibility as well.

Teachers will perform the English 1 minute activity once per week. This consists of planning a short (2-3 minutes) speech/message to present during the morning assembly in English. Topics may include ideas such as public service announcements, riddles, tongue twisters, idioms, nursery rhymes, etc. This can be done as a group with any other foreign teachers at the school.

Teachers will perform the "Star Talk activity" for 5 minutes before starting each class. This consists of teaching the students a short introduction and then having them introduce themselves to the class using the format the teacher has provided.

Teachers will attend 1 English Camp for their school per semester. The dates will be arranged by the school. There is little to no preparation required, just attendance and participation. English Camps are generally held on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Teachers will teach an after school English class to the Thai teachers. This is generally once per week and can usually be performed as a group with other foreign teachers or shared with other foreign teachers. This however is not considered as a part of the 24 classes per week limit.

Teachers will be at school for all Non-Thai national holidays. This includes Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter, Valentines Day, etc. Most schools have special celebrations on these days and you will be asked to help organize them as you will be the resident expert on Western holidays

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project TEFL Teach In Thailand Project - Frequently Asked Questions

It is highly recommended that you look through the following Frequently Asked Questions as there are many important aspects involved with traveling to and working in Thailand that we sometimes forget to ask about

▶Will I be able to save money or pay off student loans while working with in this project in Thailand?

▶How much money will I need to get set up and to live until I start receiving my salary?

▶What is it like teaching English in a Thai government school and Private schools?

▶Will I get to choose which city and school I will work at?

▶What documents will I need to bring with me to get the Work Permit and Non-Immigrant B Visa? What is the process?

▶What are the students and schools like?

▶Is there any way for me to make some extra money in my free time?

Q. Will I be able to save money or pay off student loans while working with in this project in Thailand?

A. This is simply a matter of the lifestyle you are prepared or are able to live. There are people who claim that trying to live off less than 30,000 baht/month is difficult, and yet there are teachers that are able to pay loan payments and live a comfortable lifestyle on the same salary. If you are able to adjust to the Thai lifestyle, weather and food, than you will be able to save money. If you require western style food all or most of the time and need western amenities (t.v, stereo, dvd, personal computer, 24 hour air conditioning, etc.) than you will be waiting for pay day every month. *In general, if money is a major concern for you at this point in your life, then you may be happier working in places such as Korea, Taiwan, or Japan that are able to offer much higher salaries than Thailand.*

Q. How much money will I need to get set up and to live until I start receiving my salary?

A. Again, this will vary on your needs and abilities to adapt to Thai lifestyles. As your accommodations are provided during the course and during your teaching time, you

will only need to worry about accommodations if you arrive prior to the course and 5-7 days between the TESOL program completion and beginning of the teaching assignment. Accommodations in Bangkok are available from as low as 200 baht/night or as high as 6000 baht/night. On average you will probably want to spend about 500-800 baht for a decent place. You will receive your first pay after 1 month of teaching, so you will need enough money to last you at least 6 weeks. It is recommended that you bring (or have at your disposal) a minimum of 30,000-45,000 baht (about \$1000-\$1500). Any ATM cards with PLUS or CIRRUS can be used at most Thai bank ATM's.

Q. What is it like teaching English in a Thai government school and Private schools?

A. Working in a Thai schools are different than working in western schools, where most people tend to work

Benefits of working in a Thai School

1. You are generally welcomed enthusiastically by the school and the entire community
2. You have the opportunity make many work/social contacts
3. The students are generally more appreciative
4. You become a part of a team and community
5. You would be able to learn much more about Thai culture
6. You will teach only basic conversational English (you don't have to be a grammar expert, although grammar knowledge doesn't hurt)
7. Very little weekend work
8. You receive holidays during semester breaks and often don't teach (but be expected to attend) due to many school functions and activities that fall during regular school hours.

Cons of working in a Thai School

1. Large class sizes (40-55)
2. You MUST be in school 8am-4:30pm Monday - Friday
3. There can be communication errors/gaps between school and teacher (that's where TEFL International tries to help)
4. Less and lower quality available resources
5. Generally offer lower 'BASE' monthly salaries

6. You will be expected to be involved with school administrative activities or extra-curricular activities such as staff meetings, morning assembly, gate greeting and school sponsored outings) – This is often a benefit for people who like to get involved.

Q. Will I get to choose which city and school I will work at?

A. As we have to take into account both the teacher's and the school's requirements and preferences, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in the exact city or exact school that you desire. However, we will do our best to make both sides happy and have rarely had any major difficulties in this task. The more qualified you are, the more options you have. Many factors must be considered. Some schools do not want couples, some prefer them. Some schools refuse to have teachers older than 40 working for them, some don't care. Some want female teachers, some don't care. Some require teachers with experience; some just want good friendly, easy going, reliable people that will try hard to improve their teaching skills as they go. Please inform us of your preferences and your reasoning for them. Your flexibility is appreciated. The sooner that you can commit, the better your chances will be of acquiring a position that you desire.

Q. What documents will I need to bring with me to get the Work Permit and Non-Immigrant B Visa? What is the process?

A. You will need to bring your degrees (copies are ok usually, but bring originals in case) and any other certificates, diplomas, awards that you have regardless of their relevance to teaching. Basically the more paperwork and fancy signatures or seals you have, the better. All other documents you will need will either be supplied by us or will be arranged in Thailand, such as Health certificate, a plethora of pictures, and multiple copies of all your passport pages.

The process is complicated, arduous, and involves a lot of red tape. The nice thing is that this is all done for you. 1st - get 3 month Non-Immigrant B Visa. 2nd - Apply for Work Permit at provincial Labor Office to match your Visa. 3rd - Take Work Permit or receipt for Work Permit to Immigration to apply for an extension on your Visa. 4th – Take new Visa to provincial Labor Office to apply for an extension on Work Permit to match your new Visa. There are many other steps along the way, but these are the only steps that you will be involved in. * We are usually able to obtain the initial 3 month Non-Immigrant B Visa before your departure, however it is not always possible due to certain countries and variations between numerous Thai embassies and consulates around the world. Those who do not obtain a 3 month Non-Immigrant B Visa before departure will go to Laos or Malaysia prior to their start date (if possible) to obtain the proper Visa. People from most countries are allowed to enter Thailand on a free 30 day transit Visa.

Q. What are the students and schools like?

A. As we generally only work with schools in Bangkok and adjoining areas, the schools are generally quite high in resources. Most schools have beautiful campuses, All will have either a blackboard or whiteboard. Some will have TV's, CD players, DVD players, overhead projectors, etc. Government schools will simply have fans, but occasionally some classrooms have A/C (most teachers' offices have A/C). Almost all Thai schools have computers and access to the internet for their teachers. How fast it will be is another question. Usually school cafeterias have good food at an extremely low price. The students are almost always extremely respectful towards teachers. Because of large classrooms, it can get loud during your English class, but they are almost never malicious or overtly rude to teachers. They might not listen because they don't really like English, but that is no different than when most of us were in high school in a subject we didn't like. In the smaller cities/towns, you will be treated with awe and reverence for the first few weeks with students being very shy and running away from you. A big smile and many, "Hello, How are you?" s later, they will start to open up and feel comfortable.

Q. Is there any way for me to make some extra money in my free time?

A. While you are not permitted to work with any other company or school while under contract with us, you are more than welcome to do private tutoring or lessons throughout your community. Inevitably, if you are a reliable, fun, easy-going and friendly teacher and person who is involved with the school and community, you will have many people approach you to do private lessons. If you sit at home every night or go to the bar every night, don't expect people to come chasing after you. There are also many opportunities to work at English camps on the weekends or during the holidays. We have good connections with 2 English Camp organizations that provide camps for schools year round.

Please email admin@bestteflcourse.com if you have any query.

Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Important Dates

Date of landing

Don't land later than 11th October 2007 noon, as our program starts on 12th sharp at 9 AM. We always recommend landing a few days earlier to get adapted to the place and for this we have arranged for accommodation from 12 noon of 9th October 2007.

Airport Pick up and transfer

- We have free Airport pick up and transfer to hotel for any day and any time from the Chiang Mai International Airport between 9th October and 12th October.
- For those landing in Bangkok Airport, we have pick up at 12 noon from Suvharnabhumi International Airport only on 10th October 2007 and transfer to Chiang Mai on 11th October 2007.
- We have arranged for a one night free stay in Bangkok near the Airport on single occupancy basis. (excluding food) on the 10th.
- Teachers landing before 10th October in Bangkok, can arrange for their own stay and join us at our hotel on 11th at 10 am for the transfer to Chiang Mai.

Accommodation Availability

- Accommodation in Chiang Mai is available from 12 noon 9th October 2007. Teachers landing before that, must arrange for their own accommodation
- Accommodation in Chiang Mai will be till 4th November 12 noon; We will try our best to transfer you to the school accommodation by then. But if the school semester starts a little later (max 3-5 days) you will need to arrange your own accommodation for those few days. From our past experience we have seen many teachers take advantage of this gap and make short trips to nearby places. However this is only possible once you know your start date with the school.
- We will provide one night free stay in Bangkok on 10th October before we transfer you to Chiang Mai. This facility is for teachers landing in Bangkok. However we recommend that you book your flights till Chiang Mai.

TEFL Program

- The TESOL Program starts on Friday 12th October sharp at 9 AM
- Program will be from Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM with sufficient breaks
- There is no TESOL program on Saturdays and Sundays
- The TEFL program will end on 31st October 2007

Please email admin@bestteflcourse.com if you have any query.

Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project

- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ Alcohol
- ▶ Drugs
- ▶ Thai culture
- ▶ Health / Illness
- ▶ Extra Curricular Activities
- ▶ Discrepancies

Smoking

Smoking is not accepted at any time on school grounds and/or during school hours. You are free to smoke in your own time outside of the school. *It is very uncommon for professional females to smoke in Thai society. Basically, in Thai society, "respectable" females do not smoke in Thailand. This does not mean that you cannot smoke, but you should be prepared for even more than the usual stares and subsequent repercussions (E.g. not getting a tutoring job because someone saw you smoking - they (Thai's) won't tell you this directly, but it may be the case)*

Alcohol

The use of alcohol is not accepted during school hours. Only during school sponsored activities/parties is the use of alcohol acceptable on school grounds. Use of alcohol or being found under the influence of alcohol on school grounds other than specified and arranged times, is grounds for immediate dismissal. Alcohol consumption outside of the school is under the discretion of the teacher with the reminder that being a teacher carries responsibilities and expectations from the community. Excessive alcohol abuse is not considered acceptable behavior for a teacher in any country. *Again, the same stigma is attached to females who drink excessively as is for smoking

Drugs

The use of illegal drugs at any time is grounds for immediate dismissal and possible prosecution under Thai laws. Thailand has extremely strict regulations and subsequent penalties regarding the use and trafficking of illegal drugs. * It is the foreigner's responsibility to understand the laws and regulations of the country that they choose to visit or live and work in

Thai culture

Thai people are extremely proud of their culture and are generally passionate about sharing it with foreign teachers. It is expected that foreign teachers make an effort to learn about Thai culture. While this is not a requirement, it is a healthy suggestion that will improve your standing as a teacher and person within a Thai government school and community. Also, a greater level of understanding and/or acceptance (at the very least knowledge) of Thai culture will make your time in Thailand much more

enjoyable. All teachers are expected to respect all aspects of Thai culture and act accordingly.

Expressing anger or having confrontations (which results in a "loss of face") are avoided at all costs and are not considered acceptable behavior in Thai society. By expressing anger towards someone, especially to someone in a higher position than you and particularly in public, you cause not only yourself but the other person to "lose face". This is extremely negative in Thai society. It is strongly suggested that you will express and discuss problems that you may encounter with us in a similar fashion. NO Thai person responds positively to anger, insistence, and yelling

Teachers are expected to understand this element of Thai society or at the very least respect and accept it. While this and many other elements of Thai society may seem "ridiculous" or even "stupid" to some foreigners, it is a part of the culture in which you choose to live and therefore must be accepted.

A calm, friendly, understanding, patient and smiling person will achieve far greater things in Thailand than someone who is hot-headed or quick-tempered. Expressing anger will only be taking steps backwards in any situation.

Health / Illness

It is not uncommon for people who choose to live in a foreign country to have difficulties regarding health in the initial stages while their bodies are adapting to a new climate, diet, and way of life. It is therefore strongly recommended that all teachers purchase travelers/health insurance for a minimum of 3 months to cover emergencies. Health care is extremely cheap in Thailand relative to most Western countries. Health care in Thailand also meets a relatively high standard. Basic services such as medication and doctor visits are very inexpensive. Basic Thai Health insurance is obtainable through various organizations such as BUPA or AIA.

Teachers are allowed paid 6-10 (depending upon the school) sick days for the semester. Sick days exceeding this limit: teacher's monthly salary will be reduced at a rate per day. Teachers may be required to provide a doctor's note proving illness in the case of any discrepancies (E.g. frequent illness on Mondays/Fridays/before or after long weekends). For any unexplained absences, the teacher's monthly salary will be reduced at a rate of 2000 baht/month. *Excessive illness without doctor's certificate may be grounds for dismissal.

Teachers must notify both the school and the company before 8:00 am on the day that they will be absent. It is highly appreciated if teachers phone the evening before so that preparations can be arranged to cover your classes. Failure to notify both the company and the school before 8:00 am of the day of absence will be considered unexplained

There are no substitute teachers in some schools. Standard procedure is for other teachers, when they have a free period, to teach in place of the absent teacher. If a teacher is absent, foreign or Thai, you may be asked to substitute in your free periods (no teacher should teach more than 5 periods without a break). In the case of an extended absence, overtime will be paid (see contract) Keep in mind that the same courtesy will be extended to you and your classes when you are absent. In some cases, a spare teacher will be arranged by us.

Extra Curricular Activities

There are often many school activities/parties/special days that may or may not fall during regular school hours. You may be asked to join in these activities. It is strongly recommended that you join at least SOME of these activities or it will be thought that you don't like the school or the teachers in the school. Often these are great fun and a way to meet important people in the community. Activities may include staff parties, field trips to other areas of Thailand, weddings, dinner invitations, after hours work (paid), etc.

Discrepancies

As many of the schools we work with have never had foreign teachers or have had little exposure to foreign teachers and cultures, there will undoubtedly be some 'hiccups' along the way. Any discrepancies that arise between what the school asks you to do and the contract you have with us should be reported to our Coordinator. Often times these discrepancies result from a communication error. By allowing the school and us to discuss the matter, it is hoped, and been proven, that most of these issues can be resolved much easier, faster and with less cultural tensions than if you attempt to resolve them alone. Often these schools want you to do many extra little things because they want to take advantage of the fact that they finally have a foreigner working at their school. It can be easy to get frustrated and angry, but this will get you nowhere in Thailand. *If you don't mind doing a few extra little things... great, AND this is the best way to get involved and score extra PAID work after school hours. The more involved you are, the more liked you will be and the more people you will meet, thus more opportunities will arise. However, we all need our own time and you will need to know when to say "Sorry, I can't do that".

Please email admin@bestteflcourse.com if you have any query.

Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Other Terms & Conditions

Please fill in the application form and attach your resume and picture scan.

- After successful application, and approval, you will be asked to pay a training fee of **USD\$750** which is non refundable.
- If for any reason you wish to subsequently cancel your place on the course after your fees have been paid, TI cannot provide any refund except for exceptional circumstances. The project organizer's decision is final. In any case, the payment is non-refundable. The reason for this is that the staffing for the course and accommodation have fixed costs which have to be paid for in advance and based on a specific number of course members in the group. The college cannot guarantee to replace course members who subsequently drop out.
- Wish to make an alternative payment arrangement apart from online credit card, please write to admin@bestteflcourse.com. Please contact the course organizer in advance if you wish to make an alternative payment arrangement.
- As part of our pre-screening process, applicants are requested to submit an account of their personal history and background and of their motives for joining the project, as well as their future aspirations. Inaccuracies or fraudulent claims in the application are grounds for dismissal from the course.
- The project fee is based on your satisfactory completing all the course assessments, including Teaching Practices, within the three weeks. If for any reason you do not complete these satisfactorily within the period and it is agreed that an extension of time or further Teaching Practices are possible later, you will be liable to additional charges to cover additional staff time. These are USD\$35 for each Teaching Practice and USD\$20 for each piece of written work. If you withdraw from the moderation of your current course and wish to enter moderation on a later course, an additional moderation fee must be paid.
- Any participant withdraws from the project after completion of the TEFL program will have to pay a fine of US\$ 500 or may decide to pay the original balance fee for the TEFL program (US\$900) and take their certification.
- Participants during the 4 months teaching assignment if dishonor the understanding will have to pay a fine of US\$ 500 and will also not be eligible for the TEFL Certification
- The TEFL certificate is graded and the final certificate will usually be available on the last day of the project completion (1st week of March 2008).
- All course members are liable to the disciplinary regulations of the center. The course director's decision is final and dismissal from the course is not grounds for a refund.
- TEFL International offers TESOL Certificate courses. Often extra activities and services are also advertised. While the TEFL certificate course will not significantly change in content, the extra activities and services may change due to local circumstances.

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Chiang Mai (Thailand) Project - Schools

No.	School	Age	Province	Location
1	Patanadek school	4-5	Khon Kaen	Northeast
2	Benchamatheputit school	12-15	Petchaburi	Central-south of Bangkok
3	Saraburi Wittayakom	13-15	Saraburi	Central-North of Bangkok
4	Anuban Nakhon Ratchasima	7-11	Nakhon Ratchasima	Northeast
5	Tangtrongchit Commercial College	15-18	Bangkok	Central
6	Wimol Commercial School	15-18	Bangkok	Central
7	Wimol Business Administration College	15-18	Bangkok	Central
8	Phuket Technology College	15-18	Phuket	South
9	Kantabut School	15-18	Bangkok	Central
10	Nuntawan Thawipas School	7-11	Samutprakan	Central-Greater Bangkok
11	Rajprachasamasai under The Royal Pratonage	7-12	Samutprakan	Central-Greater Bangkok
12	Kasintorn Vittaya	4-9	Bangkok	Central
13	Kasintorn Academy	6-9	Bangkok	Central
14	Kasintorn St Peter	3-6	Nonthaburi	Central-Greater Bangkok
15	Bang Pa-in Racha	12-15	Ayuttaya	Central-North of Bangkok
16	Sena "Sena prasit"	12-18	Ayuttaya	Central-North of Bangkok
17	Phachee "Soontornwittayanukul"	12-15	Ayuttaya	Central-North of Bangkok
18	Prasartwit	7-12	Ayuttaya	Central-North of Bangkok
19	Thai Christian School	10-11	Bangkok	Central-North of Bangkok
20	Wat Don Kaitia	7-11	Petchaburi	Central-North of Bangkok
21	Namphong Suksa	12-18	Khon Kaen	Northeast
22	Assumption College Sriracha	7-15	Chonburi	East

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