

Interested in teaching English overseas?

"I became a regular at the massage and manicure salons"

Read on to get a first hand account of what it's like teaching English in China, by Amy O'Brien, an i-to-i TEFL course graduate.

"One month into my job teaching English in China, I had discovered that in a classroom the bigger a fool you are prepared to make of yourself, the better entertained the kids will be. I also learnt that the best way to eat frog is in a Sichuan sauce, that I could easily live on jaozi (dumplings) even if it meant beginning to look like one, and the only way to barter is unforgivingly hard. Arriving and living

in a foreign country can be a daunting experience. So can standing in front of a class of expectant faces for the first time. My fear of public speaking had born thought to a room full of students ready to rebel into a frenzy of madness at the very first sign of weakness from the new teacher. However completing a TEFL course before I left, provided me with the confidence and knowledge to best adapt to not only teaching situations but also the cultural change to which I was subjected.

My teaching schedule was pretty cruisy. Finished by



lunch on most days, I was free to engage in other activities like attempting to promote my language skills beyond ordering my

favourite food, counting backwards in mandarin in my yoga class and bartering over the latest Gucci bag at the markets.

You can live pretty well on the salary paid and I became a regular at the massage and manicure salons. Weekends and

holidays were spent exploring the country or throwing together a makeshift hot pot dinner with my Chinese co-teachers.

So if you're seeking a new perspective on life, consider teaching English overseas. Knowing that you have personally contributed towards students achieving their goals gives you a real sense of satisfaction and is a rewarding way to earn a living while making your way around the world. By embracing local culture and immersing yourself in community activities, you will allow yourself an intimate look at a world unknown to the average tourist.

Working overseas is also held in high regard by most employers and can greatly increase opportunities in the workforce. Teaching demonstrates an ability to work with people from cross cultural backgrounds and setting out on your own adventure displays initiative and independence.

Above all, it's an amazing experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

For more information on teaching English overseas and TEFL qualifications, check out i-to-i.com

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