

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Where is TEFL International located?

Our complete street/ mailing is: TEFL International Buenos Aires
Ayacucho 1571, PB
CP: 1112
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Telephone: +5411 6380 3134
Toll Free: 1-877-go4-TEFL
Email: info@teflbuenosaires.com
Skype: TEFLBA

2. What does the tuition for the program include?

Total fees:	\$1,790US	
Comprised of:	\$500US	non-refundable deposit
	\$1,290US	balance of course fee

Total amount includes tuition, course materials, certification and moderation fees.
Airtfares, accommodation and meals are not included.

3. How do I pay for the course?

By this stage, you should already have paid the \$500 **deposit** either online by credit card or via bank transfer.

You will be invoiced directly by our Buenos Aires School for the balance of your fees.

Payment options are:

- i) To pay online by credit card or eCheck follow the link in contained in your electronic invoice.
- ii) cash (pesos or USD) on the first day of your course - we do not accept credit cards at the centre.

Late fees of \$15 per day may be assessed if payment is not made on time.

4. What is an average program day like?

The course runs, full-time over 4 weeks Monday - Friday. The first two weeks are comprised of 6 hours of classroom work each day, with two 15-minute breaks and one hour for lunch. The final two weeks are spent on lesson planning and teaching practice. **On the first day of your course you should arrive for orientation at 10 am.** At this time you will be given a detailed course timetable.

5. How many students on average are in the program each month?

The maximum class size on the Buenos Aires course is 24. Typically we have around 10-20 trainees. Most of the participants are American, British, Canadian or Australian. We also accept non-native speakers of English who have a high proficiency in the language.

6. What are the teaching practice students and classes like?

We invite local Argentine students for your teaching practice. Argentine students are very keen and enthusiastic and because we don't charge them to attend, all students come to classes purely because they want to!

7. What are accommodations like?

Your course fees do not include accommodations but available options include homestay, private apartments and hostels. Information on finding affordable accommodations will be provided when you apply.

8. Can I bring my laptop?

We strongly recommend you bring your laptop since free Wi-Fi access is available in the training centre. If you don't have a laptop you have to use local internet cafes that cost 2-3 pesos/hour.

9. What about public holidays?

Because of the intensive nature of our TESOL course, time off is not given for local, national or international public holidays that occur during your course.

THE JOB MARKET & TEACHING IN ARGENTINA

1. What is the TEFL job market in Argentina like? Will I have trouble getting a job?

The job market for English teachers in Argentina is excellent at the moment. The best time to start looking for employment is when you are close to finishing your course.

2. What will TEFL International do to help me secure employment?

We give you advice and assistance with writing resumes and cover letters. As well, we provide a list of local English teaching establishments and post available jobs on our jobs board. You should feel free to ask our staff for advice at any time.

3. What is the average salary like?

The average salary in Buenos Aires is about 20-25 pesos per hour. The rate varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, and whether you work full or part-time. We recommend that you do not accept less than 20 pesos an hour unless the school is offering other incentives such as free Spanish lessons.

4. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in Argentina?

The majority of our course graduates who have wanted to work in Argentina have been able to secure teaching positions.

5. Do schools provide health insurance?

Generally speaking, no. However, everyone in Argentina (tourists included) can make use of the national health service at no cost.

6. Do schools provide work permits?

This depends on the employer. Some may, others may not.

7. What is a typical teaching position like?

Of course, it varies from school to school, but you may be expected to teach a variety of courses, ranging from children to business professionals at all levels, in groups or in private sessions.

8. Can I return to my own country and teach with my certificate?

Yes, it is possible, though the requirements for working in ESL or TEFL in many western countries are different and sometimes need graduate and/or post-graduate level education in ESL or TEFL.

PAPERWORK & DOCUMENTATION

1. What documents do I need to bring?

Of course, you need your passport. When you secure work you may be asked to provide copies of your birth certificate, college degrees and transcripts. You might also consider obtaining an international driving permit if you want to drive in Argentina.

2. Do I need a visa to enter Argentina?

All visitors to Argentina are required to carry a passport valid for at least six months after arrival date.

Visitors to Argentina from the following countries can stay in Argentina for a maximum of 90 days without a visa, and this can easily be extended. :

Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Granada, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Santa Lucia, Serbia & Montenegro, Singapore, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, United States, Uruguay, Vatican and Venezuela. *As this information is subject to change at any time, we advise you to contact your local consulate for current travel regulations prior to planning your trip.*

Citizens from all other countries should contact their local Argentine consulate to obtain current travel regulations.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BUENOS AIRES & LIVING IN ARGENTINA

1. What are the average housing and living expenses in Argentina?

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other teachers or with Argentines costs vary depending on where you choose to live. A room in a shared house or apartment in a good neighbourhood costs from 800 to 1200 pesos a month. A shared room in a hostel starts at around 400 pesos. It is fair to say that TEFL teachers are quite well paid by local standards in Argentina. A starting local (Argentinean) schoolteacher earns around 800 pesos a month while a TEFL teacher can expect to earn around 25-30 pesos per hour. While this may not sound a lot by N. American standards, it means you can live quite comfortably in Buenos Aires. As a rule of thumb, for everyday articles, 1 peso in Argentina generally buys the equivalent of 1 Dollar in the USA.

2. What if I get sick in Buenos Aires? Are there western-standard medical facilities?

If you find yourself requiring medical, however we do recommend that you get health insurance before you travel.

3. What is the public transportation system like?

There is a metro/subway/underground rail system that reaches most parts of central Buenos Aires. Tickets cost around 1.10 pesos per trip (about 30 US cents). There is also an extensive public bus system, the "colectivos", which operates in central and outlying Buenos Aires. Tickets cost around 1.20 pesos per trip. Lastly, there is a commuter rail service that services some parts of Buenos Aires. Ticket costs depend on the distance traveled, but compared to the US, Canada and UK for example, these costs are still very low.

4. What's the climate like? What kind of clothing will I need to bring?

Buenos Aires never gets really cold or really hot so bring clothes that you feel comfortable, taking into account the average seasonal temperatures shown below. Don't forget to pack some smart clothes as well as you'll be required to dress smart casual during the course's teaching practice sessions and of course your employers will also expect to be smart at interviews and when working.

Don't forget that Argentina is in the southern hemisphere so the seasons are reversed, summer begins in December and winter begins in June.

Quick temperature guide:

- Winter (Jun, Jul, Aug) - cold (5° to 10° C);
- Spring (Sep, Oct, Nov) - pleasant (10° to 20° C);
- Summer (Dec, Jan, Feb) - hot and humid (20° to 34° C);
- Fall/Autumn (Mar, Apr, May) - pleasant (10° to 20° C).

As this description is an average, we highly recommend that you check current weather conditions prior to departure to assist you in your travel preparations.

ARRIVING IN BUENOS AIRES

How do I get to downtown Buenos Aires from the airport?

Bus from Ezeiza Airport to downtown Buenos Aires:

Buses are run by Manuel Tienda León and cost about 50 pesos. They leave every thirty minutes from 6:00 a.m. to 00:45 a.m. They are a quick, reliable and cheap way to get downtown. The buses drop you at the company's central terminal on the corner of Avda. Madero and Calle San Martín. You will need to take a taxi from the bus terminal to your accommodation.

Taxis:

Go to the official taxi stand in front of the exit into the main hall. A ride downtown will cost about 110 pesos and you have to pay up-front. An official will then take you to your taxi. **Do not go with anyone who approaches you and offers you a ride - even if they appear to be legitimate taxi drivers.** They are not licensed and not insured to take passengers.

Private Transfer:

TEFL International will be happy to arrange a private car service to greet you at the airport and transfer you directly to your accommodation; the cost depends on your final destination; between 90 to 120 pesos (25 to 35 USD). Please email info@teflbuenosaires.com if this option interests you. **Private transfer must be arranged at least 1 week before your scheduled arrival and you will need to inform us of all your flight details.**

If you have more questions please contact us at:

Email: info@teflbuenosaires.com
Telephone (BA): +5411 6380 3134

Thank you for choosing TEFL International Buenos Aires!