

Jobs Abroad

www.mid-day.com

The sun never sets on English

There are ample job opportunities for English teachers worldwide

The most readily available overseas teaching opportunities are for English teachers. As people worldwide rush to acquire the new lingua franca of international commerce, diplomacy, and higher education, the main credential you'll need is the ability to speak the language fluently and to have a college degree.

Most employers now also seek experience in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, known by the acronyms of TEFL, EFL, TESL, ESL, or TESOL.

Those with a master's in TEFL, available through a one-year pro-



TEACH IN TIME: All you need is the ability to speak English and graduation

gramme at many universities, can teach virtually anywhere.

The money

Earnings can be good in relatively wealthy countries like Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. In China, Eastern Europe, Russia, etc.; pay may be high by local standards but not sufficient for savings.

There are also prospects in Western Europe countries, for which there are official placement programmes. However, if your main motivation in teaching is to make a lot of money, you will likely be disappointed.

Before you begin

Before you begin your search, determine what you hope to gain from your overseas experience.

Money may limit your choices. The high-

est number of well-paying teaching jobs are in Asia.

Next, try to narrow down your geographic preferences to a few countries or regions.

Finding a job

Most probably the organisation that will provide you with TEFL training will also help you scout for jobs.

The second strategy is to write directly to overseas schools. Chances of success are limited without going to that country for an interview.

The third strategy is to go to the country where you want to work and apply in person.

The major downside to this is cost: airfare, housing and the need to travel to a country to get a work permit once you land a job.