



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Chiapa de Corzo, Mexico

#### *General Questions*

#### **1. What does the tuition for the program include?**

Tuition, course materials, certification and moderation fees. Airfares and food are not included. Please note that accommodation is not included.

#### **2. What is an average program day like?**

Class time is generally 9:00 am to 12 pm, with mid morning and early afternoon breaks and a lunch break. Then you will have to return for a second session from 4 to 7:30 pm. You will start teaching on the second day of class. By the end of the first week you will have taught your first complete one hour lessons. Between class work, teacher observation and homework you can count on being busy about 7 hours a day.

#### **3. How many students on average are in the program each month?**

**NOT SURE HOW TO ANSWER THIS AS WE HAVENT STARTED YET. A POSSIBLE ANSWER IS:** We accept 10 trainees per group, if there are more then the group is divided to ensure maximum trainer-trainee attention. Most of the participants are American, British, Canadian or Australian, although we do accept non-native speakers of English who have a high proficiency in the language.

#### **4. What are the teaching practice students and classes like?**

We use local students for the trainees' teaching practice. The students are very keen and enthusiastic. The class sizes vary, but rarely exceed 10, so the teaching practice is generally on small groups. The groups are divided by age and by level, allowing trainees to practice on a great range of abilities.

#### **5. What are the program accommodations like? Where are they located?**

We offer homestay accommodations, in which the trainee has a private room in the house of one of the local families. This includes private bath, use of family kitchen to cook, and in most cases maid service. All homestays are located within walking distance of the center. We offer also monthly stays in hostels, which does not include kitchen facilities. There is no air conditioning in either case, just fans.

#### **6. Can I have things shipped or mailed to me at the school?**

Yes! Below is our address.

TEFL International

Av. Coronel Urbina 30

Barrio San Miguel,

Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas

Mexico, 29160

## **7. Can I bring my laptop?**

Yes, we recommend that you bring a lap top. There is wifi at the school and in most of the public parks in Chiapa. Some homestays also allow you to use their internet, but that is a case by case basis.

### ***The job market and teaching in Mexico: Paperwork and documentation***

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

The TEFL job market in Mexico is good at the moment. Finding employment is only difficult if you wait until the last day of the course to begin looking. With just a little patience, you will certainly locate work in no time, usually in the area of your choice. With the higher paying jobs being found in the larger cities, like Mexico City, Guadalajara, Tuxtla Gutierrez, etc.

#### **2. When do I need to start looking for work in Mexico? Where do I start?**

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second or third week of the course.

#### **3. What will TEFL International do to help me secure employment?**

We can give you a list of schools in Mexico and help you with resume and interview preparation. We guarantee job placement assistance, but please note that TEFL International doesn't 'guarantee' its graduates employment in Mexico as such. This job placement assistance program is an integral part of the course and is available for as long as you may require it.

#### **4. What is the average salary like?**

The average salary in Mexico is hard to say, as the salaries vary greatly from city to city. But a good salary is about 100-150 pesos an hour. Again, this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for and whether you work full or part-time.

#### **5. Do most schools provide accommodations for their teachers?**

No, but there are schools that do this. For example, some schools may provide a room for you, either shared or single, probably in an apartment with other teachers and it may or may not be on the school's premises.

#### **6. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in Mexico?**

Most of our course graduates who have wanted to work in Mexico have been able to secure teaching positions.

#### **7. What documents do I need to bring?**

Of course, you need your passport. When you secure work you may be asked to provide notarized copies of your birth certificate, college degrees, transcripts and a verification letter. You should look into having your diplomas apostilled before arriving. You might

also consider obtaining an international driving permit if driving in Mexico should be necessary for you, although the requirement of a driving licence is widely ignored.

#### **8. Do schools provide health insurance?**

Generally yes. If you pay Mexican income tax, you are entitled to Social Security, which gives you medical coverage at a local specified hospital.

#### **9. Do schools provide work permits?**

Your school should help you secure a work permit. In order to apply initially, you get the job offer in writing from your future employer, along with copies of his business registration and Ministry of Education documents. This along with other documents will be taken to the local immigration office and they will process the permit, usually take about 2 weeks. It is important to clarify that you are interested in obtaining a work permit and would like assistance from the school.

#### **10. 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.

#### **11. Can I return to my own country and teach with my certificate?**

Yes, it's possible though the requirements for working in ESL or TEFL in many western countries are different and sometimes need graduate education in ESL or TEFL.

### ***Questions about Chiapa de Corzo: Living in Mexico***

#### **1. What are the average housing and living expenses in Mexico?**

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other teachers or with Mexicans, and of course it depends on where you choose to live. Generally speaking a shared house or apartment will run around 2000 pesos a month. Furnished houses and apartments are difficult to find so sharing with someone is usually the best bet.

#### **2. What if I get sick in Chiapa de Corzo? Are there western-standard medical facilities?**

If you find yourself requiring medical attention, Tuxtla Guierrez, the capital of Chiapas, (which is a half an hour ride from Chiapa de Corzo) has a number of state of the art, hospitals and clinics with well-educated, helpful, bi-lingual doctors. There are two clinics and a few pharmacies in Chiapa de Corzo. If there is any serious injury, please inform the Course Director or one of the staff and transportation will be provided to any Tuxtla Gutierrez Hospital for treatment.

#### **3. What's the public transportation system like?**

Combis (a volkswagen van or a mini bus) are the main form of local transportation. Mini vans and buses run every couple of minutes from Chiapa to Tuxtla, about a 20 minute ride. One way the trip costs 10 pesos. Local transport within Chiapa, costs 3.50 pesos.

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

There are 2 seasons: dry and hot, and wet and cool. The hottest time of the year is right before the rainy season in March and April. Once it starts raining in May, everything cools down a bit. It gets chilly at night starting in November through February, but still warm during the day. Light, cotton blend clothes are recommended, and maybe something for cooler weather if you decide to go up to the mountains on the weekend.

***Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any other questions or concerns.***

***Thank you for choosing TEFL International!***