



The Teach Abroad Plan

Setting and Achieving Goals for Your Best Experience Abroad

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
PROGRAM BASICS	4
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	4
DOCUMENTING YOUR SUCCESS	4
HOW AND WHEN DO I BEGIN THE PLAN?	4
WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THIS PLAN?	5
WHAT THIS PROGRAM IS NOT	5
MODULE 1 – PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA	6
INTRO	6
STEP 1: LOCATIONAL RESEARCH	6
STEP 2: PLAN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS	9
STEP 3: LET’S TALK COMMON ‘CENTS.’ HAVE A SAVINGS AGENDA!	12
STEP 4: SCHOOL’S OUT! SOCIALIZING WITH EXPATS VS. NATIVES	13
STEP 5: TRAVEL AGENDA	15
MODULE 2 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD) AGENDA	16
STEP 1: START ORGANIZING YOUR PD AGENDA	16
STEP 2: PEER EVALUATION	19
STEP 3: TEACHER COACHING	20
MODULE 3: TRANSITION TO YOUR NEXT STEP	21
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE	22

Introduction

Congratulations on being accepted to teach abroad! Now that it's official, you are probably excited, nervous, and a little overwhelmed. We have written this plan to make sure that your year (or longer, if you are really bitten by the bug) is as happy and productive as possible!

Whether you are an experienced teacher or a recent college graduate, teaching abroad is a whole new adventure. If you are reading this now, you were probably enticed by the idea of experiencing a new culture in a far-away land. Maybe you have done extensive traveling, or maybe not, but you want the experience of fully immersing yourself in a culture as a resident, not just a vacationer. This romance of being an expatriate was part of what attracted us to the teach abroad lifestyle, and we are guessing you might feel the same way.

If you have the same visions we did—of learning a new language, meeting interesting people, seeing some of the wonders of the world, and growing your cultural and emotional awareness by absorbing new ideas—you are probably wondering how to best achieve these goals. We can say from experience—both our own and that of other teachers we have worked with—that some people come away from the teach abroad experience more satisfied than others. Some come back energized and proud of the wonderful things they have accomplished, happy in their awareness that they can take on major challenges and learn from them. Others, unfortunately, lose sight of their goals and develop unproductive personal and professional habits. They come home discouraged, regretting the opportunities they missed while abroad.

We call this the Teach Abroad Plan because our experience has taught us one major differentiator between those expats who thoroughly enjoy their time abroad and come back satisfied and those who feel like they missed key opportunities and wasted their time: Planning. Those who succeeded thought through their initial goals and defined their approach to accomplishing those goals.

Setting goals is essential for many reasons. One is that once you are living abroad, you might notice that, unlike when you are on vacation, time starts moving at more of a “normal life” clip. Instead of waking up every day with the awareness that you should be appreciating your surroundings and taking advantage of your limited time, you will quickly be consumed with day-to-day tasks. You will be shopping for groceries, commuting to your school, and (hopefully) occasionally cleaning the bathroom. So the key to not getting bogged down with the mundane is organizing your personal and professional goals before you go and monitoring your success throughout the year.

This book is broken up into three modules: Personal Development, Professional Development, and Transitioning Home. Each module gives you guidance on thinking through your goals and ideas about accomplishing them. We really encourage you to use this book almost as you would a journal—scribble away in it! Physically writing down your thoughts and goals is crucial to being able to look back and assess your progress or reorient yourself midway through your time abroad.

If you thoroughly engage with this book, we think you will come out of your teach abroad experience as an excellent teacher and global citizen.

Program Basics

How to Use This Book

Completing the exercises in this book is **completely optional**. Though we are pretty confident that everyone wants to live a fulfilling life abroad, we of course cannot tell you exactly how to do that. But if you are motivated to have your absolute best experience, we can say with a lot of confidence that giving yourself some structure for setting and accomplishing goals will be very helpful. If you are naturally extremely good at pushing yourself to new achievements and never need to rely on any little tricks to motivate yourself or hold yourself accountable—well, good for you! (You robot).

A major benefit of completing the exercises in this book is **accountability**. We said that writing down your goals is very helpful, and so is sharing them with others. When you talk to others about your goals, **you are far more likely to achieve them**. This book can be like your private journal, but you can also use it to share your ideas and thoughts with fellow teachers. We always check in with our teachers before departure and during their year abroad about these topics, so this book can also act as a helpful way to organize your thoughts in preparation for those discussions. The more detailed you are, the more support we can give you!

Documenting Your Success

Speaking of accountability and making your goals public: we strongly encourage you to **start a personal website or blog** (if you don't have one already); to this end, we offer a [great platform for blogging on Teach Abroad Network](#) with a double benefit of being visible to our network community and getting promoted on our social media pages. We will give more details in subsequent sections on using this to document your personal and professional achievements. You can complete it at whatever pace you would like, and it can be as grand or bland as you wish.

On a personal level, you will want this as a way to keep track of valuable and memorable experiences and keep your family and friends back home up to date on your adventures. But also think of it as an extension of this plan to set and achieve your goals. If traveling to five different countries is on your to-do list, think of every smiling picture as solid evidence that your goals are being achieved!

As a bonus, a personal website can also help you get a job once you return home. How, you ask? According to *Forbes*, “56% of all hiring managers are more impressed by a candidate’s personal website than any other personal branding tool—however, only 7% of job seekers actually have a personal website.” When your future employer sees all that you accomplished during your time abroad, you will have a definite leg up!

How and When Do I Begin the Plan?

Before your departure, we will have a pre-departure discussion with you to go over need-to-know arrival information and cultural preparation as well as the ideas outlined in this plan. You should read each module of the program and write down your thoughts for each **ACTION!** item before we have our chat, so that we can address any questions you have about developing the plan before you go.

Once you are situated in your school and town, you should review each module and see if you have any goals to add. We will contact you every few months to hear how you're doing and ask whether you need any specific advice. Our goal is to be supportive and provide research when needed—whatever we can do to help you achieve your goals. Before each check-in might be a good time to review your plan and ask questions about any areas where you feel like you need additional support in order to achieve your goals.

What Is the Benefit of This Plan?

A better life. Honestly, goal setting is important to anyone, anywhere. But, as we said above, you probably chose to go abroad in order to accomplish things that you cannot do in your everyday life, so setting specific goals for this will contribute greatly to your happiness while abroad and help your transition back home go more smoothly.

What This Program Is Not

This program is not a cultural orientation guide (let us know if you want recommendations for those, though!). This program is intended to equip you with the means to accomplish your personal and professional goals while teaching abroad. Cultural adaptation, however, can be one goal within your personalized program (for example, *becoming fluent in Korean*).

Module 1 - Personal Development Agenda



Intro

As we said previously, you likely already have some specific ideas about how you want your teach abroad experience to impact you on a personal level. This module will lead you through some exercises to help you think through those ideas and form concrete goals. The goals can be big or small, but this will help you refine them and make a plan for how to achieve them.

Before I arrived in Seoul, I knew that I wanted to play in a sports league, learn Korean, and immerse myself in the culture. A basic search online helped me have some places to go and people to meet in Week 1, which was important to stave off the occasional pangs of homesickness early on. Through DavesESL (a popular expat teacher forum), I found my expat baseball team (the Whalers!). Through YouTube channels, I learned where to go shopping in the city (Dongdaemun!) and what to expect in daily life and interactions with Koreans. It was through Meetup.com that I joined a fun language-learning group. Invest some time in exploring the Internet for activities you want to participate in, and you'll hit the ground running. – James, Korea

Step 1: Locational research

Before getting too deep into true personal development goals, you need to first do some research about where you will be living. **Learning as much as possible about your future neighborhood and city will help you set realistic goals for yourself.** This is exciting stuff! Google is a good place to start, of course, but also search the country's most popular search engine for your city (Baidu in China, Naver in Korea, etc.). Let your search take you wherever you want: Watch videos. Look at restaurant reviews. Search for groups, clubs, and activities that align with your interests.

Manage your expectations: well-known areas and cities will have more information on the web than lesser-known cities and towns. If you've tried to research your town where you'll be living and cannot uncover much, ask the school to give you the contact information for a current teacher at the school (similar age level) with whom you can Skype or email. If you're going to be the only foreign teacher at the school (this is often the case at public schools), ask to speak to their teachers at nearby schools.

Once you have done this initial research, you are ready to begin planning your goals for the year. Try to be as specific as possible—“visit Gyeongbok Palace, [Changdeok Palace](#), and Bukchon Village” is a more achievable goal than “visit top tourist sites in Korea.”

Jane recently accepted a job offer to teach English at an ESL academy in Nowun-gu, Seoul, Korea. She started her locational research by Googling the following phrases:

- Living in Nowon-gu
- History of Seoul / Nowon
- Nowun-gu activities
- Seoul tours
- Find a language partner Nowun-gu
- Playing basketball in Nowun-gu
- Nightlife in Seoul
- Expats in Seoul

By performing such targeted searches, and scouring the websites, blogs, and YouTube channels that they led her to, Jane was able to tailor her expectations about what it would be like to live in Nowun-gu and felt much more comfortable upon arrival. She was also able to create a very specific initial list of things she wanted to do and see during her year abroad—which is your first **ACTION!** Item on the next page...

ACTION!

🕒 Before you depart 🕒

Write down 5-10 places, activities, or other things you may want to see and do.

Here's a sample list of someone moving to Nowon-gu, Seoul, Korea:

- Explore one of the biggest seafood markets in the world at Noryangjin
- See university students perform free outdoor concerts at night in Hongdae
- Attend Jinju Lantern Festival in the south
- Go to all of the major bus/subway stops nearby to get to know them well
- Go to Hyehwa neighborhood and check out the various music venues
- Go to a language exchange group via Meetup.com or sign up for classes at Kyunghee University or another local university
- Go buy some fashionable Korean clothes at Hyundai Shopping Center in Gangnam
- Go to Hanguk University on subway line 1 and check out which student groups and language clubs to join

Write your own:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Step 2: Plan personal development goals

We will get to professional development in the next section, since obviously your work will be an important part of the experience, but here we want you to focus on what personal goals you want to achieve. **Think beyond the places and activities you listed in the previous step to what is most important to you**—is it connecting with other people? Making sure you hit all of the cultural hot spots in the country? Traveling every weekend? Becoming fluent in another language? (Reading through your locational research list might help you define this—is there a theme running through the places and activities that appealed to you?)

Really think about what motivated you to teach abroad in the first place, and then think about what goals you can set that will allow you to feel like your time abroad was a success. If you are most interested in immersing yourself in a culture and learning a language, you probably should not plan to travel out of the country every vacation. But if you will feel like you failed if you did not hit every country in Southeast Asia, then make sure you are budgeting accordingly and researching itineraries!

While abroad, I had made it a priority to master beginner-level Mandarin. When I came back home, I took my friends out to dinner at a restaurant in Chinatown and ordered for everyone in Chinese. After a year of sounding completely foolish (which I now know is a requirement of learning a language), that moment made it all worth it. The impressed looks on my friends' faces really made me realize I had done something good with my time abroad. It continues to be a source of pride for me—and one that has offered professional advantages as well. – Katie, China

See the action items on the next page...

ACTION!

 **Before you depart** 

Write down at least 3-4 goals you want to achieve that would make your time abroad a success on a personal level. Goals need to be realistic and measurable. If you can't define what "achievement" of each of these means, they are not good goals.

Here are some examples our teachers have shared:

- Attend and complete a beginner-level Chinese class
- Join a weekend baseball (or other sport) team
- Earn an online MFA in creative writing
- Study for the GMAT and get a 700
- Travel to 3 countries and start a travel blog (use [TAN's blogging platform](#))
- Learn to cook 3 dishes with Chinese ingredients
- Get in shape and lose 15 pounds
- Save \$500 each month
- Join (or start) 3 hobby groups (examples: Mrs. Kim's Kimchi Club, City Hikers, Seoul Ski Club)

Write yours here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

ACTION!

 **Before you depart** 

Sign up for a blog, website, or other type of online portfolio (you can use [Weebly](#), [Google Sites](#), or a blog like [Wordpress](#) or [Blogger](#), but we recommend [Teach Abroad Network](#) because blogs published there will be visible to a community of likeminded teach abroad professionals, including potential future employers – and we're likely to promote your articles on our social media). Research, compare, and choose one. Your first entry/page can outline the research you did in Step 1 and the goals you formulated in Step 2.

Write down which platform you chose:

Write down how often you will commit to writing:

ACTION!

 **Frequently while abroad** 

Write something! We suggest you write about these two things each time you write: 1) Something valuable you did outside the classroom (personal growth) and 2) something valuable you did to improve your teaching (i.e., professional development—we will discuss this in more depth in Module 2). Use your blog to reflect on your goals. Share it with your family and friends...they will love you for this, and it will keep you close even while you are thousands of miles away!

Write a list of possible blog topics (revisit this list for inspiration and adjust as you settle in):

•

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Step 3: Let's talk common 'cents.' Have a savings agenda!

Saving and budgeting is a great habit to develop, and it can be especially crucial while living overseas. Your savings goals depend on your salary as well as your lifestyle and travel goals.

Why have a budget? It's not the most romantic part of living abroad, but setting realistic financial expectations is key to achieving the goals you set out in Step 3. Here's a quote from one of our teachers that contrasts those who save with those who don't:

Guys, my colleague and I are five months into our contract and sitting here excitedly at Incheon International Airport, preparing for vacation in the Philippines. I convinced him to take part in my adopted savings plan, but unfortunately, another colleague of ours [is] broke and not going anywhere for vacation. - Miles, Korea

The following savings plan is based on six categories of spending and saving. We heard from one teacher who followed a budgeting strategy he read about on CNN: He kept six physical containers in his apartment into which he deposited his monthly earnings, to make sure he was allocating correctly. This might not be your style, but it is a great way to think about separating your spending money from your savings. Do what you need to do to maintain your own budget.

ACTION!

🕒 **Before you depart** 🕒

Consider the following categories and write your own ideal budget on the next page. Adjust your monthly savings according to your biggest priorities. If you do not have salary information yet, you can think about your ideal percentages and then adjust once you have a settled salary amount.

- **35-50% Monthly Expenses:** Monthly bills, food, and common expenses
- **10-25% Long Term Savings:** This is money you save over time and you never touch (except in dire emergencies!). If you have the goal of returning home with a certain amount of savings, calculate how much you will need to save each month to reach that goal.
- **10-20% Short Term Savings for Spending:** This is money you save over a few months or so and use to book a trip or flight, purchase a somewhat expensive item you need, pay fees you know will arise at some point, etc.
- **5-15% Education:** This money is used toward anything that will educate you or further your career goals, like language classes, online education sites, books, etc.
- **10-20% Play:** This money is for the weekends, holidays, shopping, and travel!
- **0-10% Give:** Considering the philosophy that everything comes back to you in the end, you might think about donating a bit of money each month to your favorite charity in your host country or elsewhere.

Define your budget:

Category	Percentage	Predicted Amount
Monthly living expenses		
Long-term savings		
Short-term savings		
Education		
Play		
Give		

Step 4: School's Out! Socializing with Expats vs. Natives

If you decide to teach abroad rather than in, say, Denver, that probably means you want to meet a wide variety of people and have great cultural experiences. Most people do not decide to teach in China just so they can hang out with other expats. But it is all too easy to stay within your comfort zone once you actually hit the ground. So it is essential to set specific goals about trying to experience the city and country as a local would.

I spent my first birthday in Korea with my expat coworkers, and we had fun exploring Itaewon, the foreign district of Seoul. I spent my second birthday with my Korean co-workers and boss. They taught me something I will never forget: the Korean Birthday Drink. It is a foul concoction, into which anyone can put anything. Mine included ice cream, hot sauce, soju, and I think salt. Both birthdays were fun, but I will always cherish the path less traveled. – Elena, Korea

See your action item on the next page...

ACTION!

 **While abroad** 

For each day/night out you spend in an expat environment, spend one day/night out in a native environment. This is simply a good rule of thumb. It prevents you from getting into the “expat groove” of only frequenting Western restaurants and venues with expat friends.

Just the process of researching where the natives hang out is a good activity—by asking around for ideas, you might find you’ve made some new friends who are willing to show you around to some of their favorite places!

Chat with some locals and draw up a list of native spots to check out:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Step 5: Travel Agenda

You are obviously the adventurous type, so we don't need to sell you on traveling as one of life's greatest pleasures. But we can help you maximize your positive travel experiences while abroad. Planning in advance, budgeting, and choosing the right location can turn good trips into treasured memories (and occasionally help you sidestep major snafus).

Of course I was excited for the sun, sand, and excitement of vacationing in the Philippines. But the thing I remember most? An orphanage I visited in Cebu City. What I thought would be a quick visit to this orphanage (Children's Joy Foundation) became one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. The kids had prepared songs and dances for us all to enjoy, and the whole thing left me speechless. It was the best travel decision I ever made. - Matt

ACTION!

 **At least once while abroad** 

Plan a major trip for 5-9 days to another country. But don't just go on vacation—do something you'll be proud to talk about later in life. When you, a friend, or a potential employer are looking at your travel blog/portfolio in the future, think about what will seem most worthwhile: Pictures of you lying on a Thai beach all day OR pictures of you volunteering to teach members of a Long Neck Tribe in the mountains of Chiang Mai? A mix of both is best, of course (and it's okay to mix pleasure with valuable experiences!), so we highly recommend researching your voluntourism in advance.

Ask your new boss for your vacation schedule and write down your best dates for travel:

Long trip:

Weekend trips:

Day trips:

Write down the amount you have budgeted for each trip (compare with your budget in Step 4):

Long trip:

Weekend trip:

Day trips:

NOTE: If you can't afford a 5-day, or longer, trip and are really trying to save as much as possible, you may still be able to enjoy a 3-day weekend. To make this an especially affordable option, purchase a round-trip flight to a nearby country for around \$200 and stay in a hostel. Some of the sites we recommend for booking flights, accommodations, and activities are airasia.com, jinair.com, kayak.com, hostelworld.com, agoda.com, and even lonelyplanet.com.

Module 2 - Professional Development (PD) Agenda

Right, this is not all about travel and cultural experiences: You are also going to be teaching!

We can say with certainty that all teachers will eventually run into problems managing their cross-cultural classrooms and need advice. Preparing for ongoing professional development (PD) will help mitigate those problems. As a bonus, chronicling your PD efforts will look great in your online portfolio when you are making your next career move.

Last month, I was having difficulties with my class not paying attention, [and] with one student in particular. . . . I asked a co-worker how he might handle it, and he told me about his own “Learner’s Position” rule: Whenever he spoke those words, the kids knew they had to sit upright, with hands folded and eyes locked on the teacher. . . . Combining this with my points system to reward good behavior, my students immediately understood the expectation and results, and [it] provided me a simple discipline system that allowed me to focus on their learning rather than their behavior. – Excerpt from our friend Amber’s blog, China

Step 1: Start organizing your PD agenda

ACTION!

Before you depart

Imagine your first day at work. Everything is new. You're a little (maybe a lot) nervous. You walk into your classroom... what are some things you expect might be challenging? Think about students, bosses, coworkers, curricula, etc. Write down 3-5 of the biggest questions in your mind. Let's discuss them during your pre-departure talk.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

ACTION!

🕒 Before you depart 🕒

Setting the tone is crucial for any teacher's first week. Think about what type of classroom culture you want to develop for the whole year, starting on day 1. Circle 3 to 5 characteristics of a good learning environment from the list below, or choose your own and write them below.

Assignment and assessment expectations are clear.

Students are curious and ask good questions

Questions are valued over answers

Instruction is varied

Students are engaged

Learning is related to life

Learning is student-centered

Learning is personalized

Learning habits are constantly modeled

There are constant opportunities for practice

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

And now, write down what you will do to realize these values (literally, what will you do starting on day 1 to make sure your classroom has the above characteristics):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

ACTION!

🕒 Once a month while abroad 🕒

Describe a way you improved as a teacher in your online portfolio/blog. Most of your blog entries will likely focus on fun and travel, but also commit to mixing PD topics into your blog entries. One approach that has worked for our teachers is to end every entry with a section on “How I Improved as a Teacher This Month.” Future employers will look very favorably upon an applicant who is proactive about his or her own professional development.

Here are some examples of things you might include:

Lesson plans/videos*

Post your best lesson plans, especially ones that correlate with your own state’s standards if you’re thinking of getting a teaching position back home.

Pictures of your class, field trips, activities, and projects*

Pictures are worth 1000 words. Videos are worth 10,000. Use these to show your teaching abilities and classroom culture.

Peer evaluation experience

After completing Step 2, below, share your thoughts about the experience.

** Most of our schools allow teachers to take videos of their class (but ask your boss first, and explain it’s for professional development purposes)*

Write some ideas about PD topics for your blog:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Step 2: Peer evaluation

There is often at least one other teacher in your school who would want to participate in and benefit from peer evaluation. Don't only ask foreign teachers; ask the native teachers as well. Peer evaluation activities are actually especially interesting when your partner has culturally different pedagogical approaches.

ACTION!

 **Once every 4 months, or as often as you feel the need for peer advice** 

Find a teacher with whom you can collaborate, who is dependable and equally excited to get and give classroom feedback. Sit in each others' classrooms, watch each others' classes, and fill out a peer evaluation form.

You can save and print one of these:

<http://oregonstate.edu/cla/sites/default/files/mentoring/peer-evaluation.pdf>

<http://www.nhcs.k12.nc.us/snipes/Forms/PeertoPeerClassroomObservationForm.pdf>

Or you can create your own peer evaluation form based on the following categories:

1. Curriculum/Course Content
2. Teaching Methods
3. Student Reactions
4. Classroom Environment

From these forms, choose five areas you would hope to ask a peer to comment on after watching your class (what do you anticipate being most difficult for you as a teacher?):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Agree on a time to meet after classes are done to go over your observations. Think about what each teacher did well in each category, and how they could improve. Be sure to give very specific feedback, and encourage your partner to do the same. Learn from each other!

Step 3: Teacher coaching

We encourage you to reach out to your supporters and groups at Teach Abroad Network any time for feedback on your teaching skills. We are trained and experienced educators in our home states and provinces, with teaching and TESOL certifications from the US and Canada.

ACTION!

🕒 At least once every 4 months, or whenever you feel in need of expert advice 🕒

Use your phone to take a video of your class and upload it to a peer group in Teach Abroad Network (filming classroom lessons is legal in most of our schools, but make sure to ask your boss first and to explain that the video will be used for PD purposes). We will review the video and take notes in a “teacher evaluation rubric” and then schedule a time to talk with you about it. If you have any specific questions about issues you are facing in the classroom, tell us and we will make sure to address those.

If you feel uncomfortable taking a video of yourself teaching, we can also have a phone consultation about difficulties you are having in your lessons. Just ask on the website.

Whichever method you prefer, email us, and we will give feedback on all facets of your pedagogy, from lesson objectives, to delivery, classroom management, and much more. It will be both positive and constructive, and we will make it worth your while.

In your email, include the following information:

- Age of students
- Number of students
- Topic of lesson and class
- Achievement level of students (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
- Start and finish times of lessons.
- Overall learning objective for students
- Any specific concerns you have (you can list those below)

Specific concerns:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Module 3: Transition to Your Next Step

What do you want to do next? Find a job back home? Go to graduate school? Spend another year teaching abroad, perhaps in another country? These are all exciting options, but making them a reality requires some advance planning. (We are just assuming here that you do not want to spend the year after your fantastic abroad experience living in your parents' basement. Not that there is anything wrong with that.) Application deadlines approach quickly, so don't get caught unprepared.

ACTION!

 **4-6 months before your contract ends** 

Develop a plan for what you want to do next. If you are unsure, discuss it with us. We have been there! Figure out your next move, research the application deadlines, and schedule yourself some time each week to prepare for that move.

Numerous co-workers of mine attended grad school after their first or second years in Korea. The application deadlines were circled in bright red on their calendars, and the two months leading up to those dates were filled with GMAT and LSAT practice tests! - Mike

For those interested in grad school:

Testing deadlines:

Required documents:

Application deadlines:

For those interested in spending another year abroad:

Preferred locations/schools:

Application deadlines*:

Required documents:

*NOTE: **If you want to apply for a new position at one of our other schools**, you should notify us at least 3-4 months in advance. For those who qualify for international and top private schools, 6 months in advance is preferable. Remember that it may take months to get documents in order for the same or new countries you wish to work in, so be organized and apply with us in advance.

For those applying for jobs back home:

Application deadlines:

List of contacts to approach:

Other materials needed (résumé, etc.):

Choose Your Own Adventure

Teaching abroad is a “Choose Your Own Adventure” story, basically. The thing is, every moment is an adventure. Ordering a hamburger at McDonald’s is an adventure. Are you going to order using English and hand gestures, or are you going to stretch your limits and try to use that new Chinese phrase you just heard? Everything you do while abroad is a choice in comfort vs. immersion and personal growth.

You can decide now: what kind of expat do you want to be? The following descriptions might seem extreme, and we know that no one WANTS to be “that guy,” but planning ahead and realizing where you might slip into certain negative tendencies can really help you stick to your good intentions.

Expat 1: Billy Bad Thornton

- Went abroad without having written down any specific goals
- Was turned-off by cultural characteristics he found strange; never took part in cultural/language exchanges
- Wasn’t actively trying to meet new people or do new things
- Drank too much, spent most of his time and money in the foreign district of town, and traveled solely to party without purpose
- Had no transition plan at the end of his contract and barely had any savings

Expat 2: Jane B. Goode

- Set goals before she went abroad
- Researched and joined an affordable university Chinese class near her school
- Tried to absorb her new culture and reflect it back; didn’t fear looking foolish
- Went out of her way to meet and hang out with new friends from all over the world
- Had intelligent discussions and went on trips with friends from her Kung-fu classes
- Knew she wanted to get an M.Ed degree back home, sent in applications, and had a smooth end to her year abroad
- Leveraged her well-documented online portfolio to help get accepted to a school

TAN wishes you a happy, healthy, and highly productive year of teaching abroad. With your efforts and optimism, you can achieve many things in and out of the classroom, making it one of the best years of your life. Always remember: You are the author of your life, so start writing. Welcome abroad!

With Continuous Support,

James and Matt

www.TeachAbroadNetwork.com