

TESOL Certificate Course Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Course Information:

How much does the course cost?

\$1390 USD – includes certification and course materials



What are the living accommodations like?

You can choose to stay in a private hotel room (10 minutes from the school) or an apartment located near the school building. All rooms have air-conditioning, a private bath, and are clean and adequately furnished for about **\$200** for the entire month.

What is an average program day like?

Class time is 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Monday – Friday), with mid morning and afternoon breaks and a lunch break. For approximately two weeks, you will be preparing to teach—learning all of the things you need to know in order to be successful in the classroom. For the other two weeks, you will actually be teaching each morning and preparing your materials in the afternoons.

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

The maximum class size is 18. 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.

What are the teaching practice students and classes like?

We use local Vietnamese students for the teaching practice. Because we don't charge them to attend, all students come to classes purely because they want to. They are eager to encourage you during your own learning process. Your trainers will observe each session and offer feedback following your classes.

Is there a dress code?

In Vietnam, teachers are very respectable. You will need to have on hand some really smart clothing for the English classes.

Men: Button-down shirts, trousers, a tie, nice shoes that aren't trainers/sneakers... something you'd wear to a job interview.

Women: Shoulders should be covered; short-sleeved shirts are acceptable, but very thin straps or tank tops are not. No low-cut necklines or very short skirts. Bare midriffs are not acceptable, even when lifting arms up. Open-toed shoes are acceptable.

Good walking shoes and sandals that can be easily removed are recommended especially when entering temples and people's homes.

Do I need to bring anything for class?

Please bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes during class. All relevant forms and instructions will be provided, as well as notes from the input sessions. A photocopying machine is available for use by all trainees without charge.

You may want to bring a recording walkman to help prepare for listening lessons.

You will be required to prepare materials for your Teaching Practice. The school keeps an initial supply of basic tools necessary to make student materials. However, the trainees are responsible for providing additional poster board, markers, glue, pens, paper, etc., for creating teaching materials. These can be purchased at a local stationery store in Ho Chi Minh City.

Is there internet at the school? Should I bring my laptop?

We have computers with Internet access for lesson planning and other classwork free of charge for the trainees. You can bring a laptop computer if you like. The normal connection speed here is 52 kps, and you can dial from the hotel room.

What is the public transportation system like?

You can choose to go by taxi for around 6,000 dong (about \$0.40)/per kilometer or by “xe om” – motorbike taxi for about 10,000 dong. If you want to travel to tourist places or neighbouring provinces, it is a good choice to use the travel agency buses in the Pham Ngu Lao backpacker area. (Sinh Café Bus is the most popular). These prices vary from \$2 – 5.

Motorbike and bicycle rentals are readily available at many travel agencies and backpacker Cafes located along Pham Ngu Lao Street. Motorbike rentals usually are \$5-10 per day, and bicycle rentals are \$1 per day. In Vietnam, car rentals are accompanied with a driver and can be arranged by a local tour company. Prices will vary depending on the distance traveled.

What’s the climate like?

Ho Chi Minh City has a tropical climate. There are two main seasons: wet and dry. The wet season (summer) lasts from May to November (June to August are the wettest months). During this time, there are heavy but short-lived downpours almost daily, usually in the afternoon. The dry season (winter) runs from December to April. Late February through May are the hottest months, when it’s also very humid, but things cool down slightly when the summer rainy season begins.

What kind of money can I use when I’m in Vietnam?

The official currency of Vietnam is the Dong. The US dollar is widely accepted at major shops and restaurants. Travelers checks can be cashed at authorized foreign exchange outlets and banks, and require presentation of passport. There is normally a 2% - 5% transaction fee for cashing travelers checks. Credit cards including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted at most large hotels and restaurants.

What if I get sick in Vietnam? Are there decent medical facilities?

If you find yourself requiring medical attention, you can go to an international standard clinic which is 5-10 minutes ride from your accommodation. There are quite a few near the school. Pharmacies are located throughout the city.

General daily life info:

Laundry

It is rather cheap in Vietnam and generally available wherever you go. In Ho Chi Minh City, clothes are machine dried and can be done in a day.

Clothing

Light, comfortable, easy to launder clothing in natural fabrics such as cotton is most suitable in Vietnam. Good walking shoes and sandals that can be easily removed are recommended especially when entering temples and people's homes.

Food

One characteristic of Vietnamese food is that it is always fresh being bought the same morning straight from the market. Rice and noodle dishes are the staple of Vietnamese food. Fish, chicken, and/or pork dishes along with cooked vegetables and rice form a typical meal. The dishes are usually not spicy and are accompanied with a variety of condiments, including chili sauce, fish sauce or 'nuoc mam' (smells like anchovies), and soy sauce. It is advisable to have hot, well-cooked meals (including vegetables) until you think you get used to the Vietnamese foods, which always have lots of fresh vegetables. Typical Vietnamese dishes you can expect to try include "pho", a type of rice noodle soup eaten for breakfast, "cha gio" ("nem"), deep-fried spring rolls and "goi ngo sen", a delicious salad made with lotus stems, shrimps and peanuts. Sea products are also super: fresh fish, lobster, crabs, Cuttlefish. Eating utensils will mostly be chopsticks. Just request a fork (pronounced "nia") if you haven't mastered the chopsticks.

Bottled water and mineral water are obtainable at any shops in most cities but remember to check the seal for possible contamination. Ice cubes especially served on the roadside or small towns should be avoided. It is advisable to drink boiled water and not to drink ice and tap water. Just request for chilled drinks (pronounced "Op Lan"). The trend is starting to move towards chilling the drinks instead of putting ice in them.

Central Saigon is the place to look for fine Vietnamese and Western food. The prices vary from US\$1-1.5 (Vietnamese office set lunch) to US\$3/dish (western food).

Working in Vietnam

If you are planning on seeking work in Vietnam, please bring along your original diploma and transcripts from College, Technical School or High School, as well as a copy of your birth certificate. Also, please bring a copy of your marriage license if you are married.

Job prospects throughout Vietnam and Asia are very good and easily available for citizens from all countries. Should you accept a work position in Vietnam you will need to get a work visa.

How is the TEFL job market in Vietnam?

The TEFL job market in Vietnam is excellent at the moment. With just a little patience, you will certainly locate work in no time, usually in the area of your choice. In the past few years TEFL International has had a very high success rate for helping students secure jobs locally. We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second week of the course.

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.

Do schools provide health insurance?

Generally, they do not. However, a long-term contract at a larger school will secure medical coverage at a local specified hospital.

Do schools provide work permits?

Most schools in Vietnam do not, but we can help you to get/extend your work visa.

What is the average teaching salary?

The average salary in Vietnam is about \$1000 - 1500 USD per month.

Do most schools provide accommodations for their teachers?

No, but we will help you to find good places to stay if you want.

What are the average housing and living expenses in Vietnam?

Most likely you will rent a room in an apartment or house with other teachers, and of course it depends on where you choose to live. A pleasant, small 2 to 3 bedroom house in HoChiMinh city is about \$400 to 700 USD per month. Apartments are available for more. TEFL teachers are very well-paid by local standards in Vietnam, which means they can afford a comfortable standard of living.

TESOL Course Arrival Info:

How do I get to Ho Chi Minh City?

Ho Chi Minh City is just a 20-minute taxi ride from **Tan Son Nhat Airport**. A metered taxi charges approximately \$5 from the airport to the city center where the guesthouse and the school are located.

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 college degrees and transcripts. You might also consider obtaining an international driving permit if driving in Vietnam should be necessary for you.

PLEASE BRING ALONG COPIES OF YOUR PASSPORT AND VISA ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE COURSE FOR REGISTRATION.

If you require a particular medication, take an adequate supply, as it may not be available locally. Take part of the packaging showing the generic name rather than the brand, which will make getting replacements easier. It's a good idea to have a legible prescription or letter from your doctor to show that you legally use the medication to avoid any problems.

Do I need a Visa?

Yes, all visitors to Vietnam are required to carry a passport valid for at least six months after arrival date. Only nationals of Thailand, The Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan can stay in Vietnam for a maximum of 30 days without a visa. Citizens from all other countries must obtain a valid visa upon arriving in Vietnam.

In most cases, getting your visa from a travel agent rather than directly through the Vietnamese embassy can save time and headaches. The travel agency doing your visa usually needs a photocopy of your passport and two or three photos. Please visit the Vietnam Embassy's website for the most accurate and up to date information regarding visas.

Tourist Visa

Tourist visas are valid only for a single 30-day stay. The visa specifies the exact date of arrival and departure, thus you must solidify your travel plans well in advance. You cannot arrive even one day earlier than your visa specifies. And if you change your plans and postpone your trip by two weeks, then you'll only have 16 days remaining on your visa instead of 30 days

Business Visa

There are several advantages in having a business visa: such visas are valid for six months, issued for multiple-entry journeys and will look more impressive when you have to deal with the authorities. Also, you are permitted to work if you have a business visa.

Business visas can be prearranged through a local sponsor in Vietnam. If approved, you must receive confirmation from the sponsor and then go to pick up the visa from a Vietnamese embassy abroad. It is also possible to arrive on a tourist visa and make arrangements locally for a business visa.

Visa Fee

You can refer to the price table for the service fee from some well known travel agencies by clicking the links below. Please notice that besides the service fee, you have to pay 25 USD (for a tourist visa) or 100 USD (for a business visa) as approval fee directly at Immigration Desk.

<http://www.asiatravel.com/vietnam/vnvisa.html>

<http://www.traveltovietnam.com/Guide/General/Prepare/visa.asp>

Customs

After picking up your luggage from the baggage claim area you will proceed to the Customs desk where you will be asked to present your passport and completed Entry/Exit Form (YELLOW FORM)

CAUTION: To avoid any hassles that may delay your departure make sure you DO NOT LOSE the yellow form which you are required to return to Customs when departing the country.

Transportation upon Arrival

Ho Chi Minh City is a 20-minute taxi ride from the airport. A metered taxi charges approximately US\$ 5 from Tan Son Nhat to the city center where our courses are located.

Should you have any problems with transportation going to the training center, please feel free to call us at telephone number +84 (08) 9101580 to 81 Ext. 24.