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## **TESOL Certificate Course PLELAUFF, FRANCE**

### **Course Information:**

#### **How much does the program cost?**

**\$500 USD (Deposit) + 940 EUR** – includes basic course materials and certification



#### **Where will I be living?**

You and your classmates will be staying in the onsite housing at the Camina Centre in Plelauff, Cotes D'Armor, just seconds from the classroom. Shared and private rooms that are simply and comfortably furnished are available. All rooms include a wardrobe for storing your clothes and a writing table for after-class schoolwork or corresponding with family at home. The cost of a private room is about **300 Euro** (10 Euros per night), and a shared room is about **250 Euro** (8 Euros per night/person). Accommodation fees are due upon arrival and are payable to the Camina Centre by cash or cheque; credit cards are not accepted. Blankets and sheets are provided, but please pack bath towels. Pleasant bathroom facilities are shared among the trainees residing here and there is a kitchen within the building which can be used for meal preparation at a small cost. Meals may also be provided upon request. There is also a lounge/TV room where trainees may congregate in their downtime, though TV may be the last thing on your agenda with the welcome distraction of France's beauty and charm just outside the window. The grounds play host to an equestrian centre as well, so taking in the beauty of the resident horses may be a more worthy use of time and attention.

The school center is about 800 metres outside of the village of Plelauff; just a short walk through open land and fields. The surrounding area is 100% agricultural, so there is no end to the wonderful views and scenery to enlighten you along your walk. Also a short walk away is the Nantes-Brest Canal path where you can walk, run or cycle virtually any time of year. This is thought to be the brainchild of Napoleon Bonaparte, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Our accommodation is usually available from the **Friday** night before the first day of the course to the **Saturday**, after the last day of the course.

If you choose to arrive on a weekday other than Friday, you may book in a local Chambre d'Hote which is like a Guest House/B & B. There is a scattering of B & B's in the area and we will be more than happy to provide guidance in your search once you've enrolled.

Some other expenses you may want to plan for when staying in the provided accommodations are:

2 Euros per day for use of self-catering kitchen facilities (optional)

3 Euros per breakfast

7 Euros per meal other than breakfast (ie. Lunch or dinner)

Meals are not mandatory.

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

The first class will be **Monday morning at 9:00am**, at which time we will provide a complete course schedule. Classes generally run 9:00am – 4:45pm with appropriate breaks as well as a lunch break. Teaching Practice is often in the evenings.

## **How many students are in the program each month?**

On average we have about fourteen students enrolled in the program each month, most of whom are American or British. They are typically between 22 and 50 years old but we often have students who are in their 60's or even mid-70's.

## **Who are my students during teaching practice sessions?**

Our practice students are local French adults and children. They usually stay on from course to course and form good relationships with TEFL trainees and staff.

## **Is there a dress code?**

There are no specific dress requirements for the input and tutorial sessions at the training location, yet we ask that you be mindful of your peers and respectful of the fact that you are a visitor in another country.

All trainees are expected to dress according to the following guidelines during Teaching Practice:

### **Women:**

Shoulders should be covered -- in other words, blouses with sleeves. No low-cut necklines or very short skirts. Bare midriffs must not be visible, even when lifting arms up. Open-toed shoes are acceptable, but no hiking boots, sneakers or flip-flop sandals.

### **Men:**

Long pants, NOT jeans. Short or long-sleeved shirts with a collar (a tie is not required). Loafers or dress shoes are acceptable (no sandals, boots or sneakers). Long hair should be tied back.

## **What should I bring with me for class?**

Please bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes during class. All relevant course books and materials will be provided, and the school has a resource library for reference.

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.

You may want to bring a tape player which records for creating listening lessons.

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

Yes, you may bring your laptop if you like, as there is unlimited Wi-Fi internet access available at the Camina Centre in the all-hours classroom. There are no phone lines in the accommodation for dial up access and you may not be able to receive a wireless signal from your room to access the internet from your laptop. For access outside of the Camina Centre's classroom, there is an internet café in Rostrenen, a 10-minute drive away; there is not an internet cafe at this time in Plelauff.

## **What's the climate like?**

Summers are usually very hot and dry. Winters can be cold and damp. If you are coming in the winter months (November - March) bring plenty of sweaters, pants/trousers, warm pajamas, a winter coat, gloves, scarves, etc. Don't forget your umbrella!

## **Working in France:**

### **How will TEFL International assist in my job search?**

The trainers at your chosen course center will guide you in your job search in the following ways:

- Contact information and details of regional schools of your choice
- Contact information and details of selected schools worldwide
- Details of selected vacancies available worldwide
- Details of the most popular web sites of TEFL vacancies
- Internet access for job searches and on-line applications
- Sessions covering CV preparation, advice about applications and interviews and all available information about teaching conditions in the trainees preferred destinations

### **How is the job market in France?**

The job market in France is growing at the moment, but still quite competitive. While there are positions available in most major cities in France, the vast majority of employment is found in Paris. Along with schools teaching the youth of France many language schools cater to the business community. If you are diligent and open to a variety of locations your job search will be more fruitful.

### **When do I need to start looking for work in France? Where do I start?**

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second week of the program, and we can help you with this. There are many language schools in Paris, and many cities in France have a demand for English teachers.

### **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.

### **What is the average salary?**

The average salary in France is about 1200 Euros per month, though of course this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, whether you work full- or part-time.

### **Are most positions contracted? Is it important to have a contract?**

If you are a US citizen you will need to secure contracted employment in order to be eligible to apply for a proper work visa. You are not eligible to apply for a visa before leaving the States- you must have contracted employment first. It is difficult to get a legal work contract from a language school in France as schools who hire non-EU citizens will do so without going through the proper legal procedures. If you are a citizen of an EU country, you are permitted to work anywhere in the EU without additional paperwork.

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

Very few schools will help you secure a work permit, but some will. In order to be eligible for such a visa you must be contracted by your school, and if you are a US citizen you will have to return to the States to

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obtain the visa. You are not eligible to apply for this visa without already having a job in France to sponsor you, so it is fruitless to go to the Embassy at home before you leave to try to obtain one. (EU members need only their EU documentation to work legally in France or elsewhere in the EU).

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

No, not most, but there are some schools that do this. For example, they will provide a room for you, either shared or single, probably in an apartment with other teachers, and provide you with a monthly stipend.

### **How do I find housing subsequent to the program?**

There are a number of newspapers that are published weekly with apartments and rooms for rent. In addition, most towns have agents (agences immobiliers) who deal with rental property.

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

Yes, if you have contracted employment. If your employment is not contractual, your employer will not provide health insurance. However, some medical facilities in France may accept American insurance plans or you could set up a policy with one of the private French insurance companies. EU citizens need only furnish identification to be seen.

### **What documents do I need to bring? Do I need a visa?**

All visitors to France are required to carry a passport valid for at least six months after arrival date. Everyone entering France will receive a three-month visa.

**If you are an EU passport holder** you must register for a residence permit (carte de séjour de ressortissant de l'Union Européenne) from the Aliens Department of the police within 3 months or as soon as work is found.

If you are planning on seeking work following the course, it may be a good idea to bring copies of your educational diplomas and birth certificate, as these may be useful for work or residence visas.

## **Living in Plèlauff:**

### **What are the average living expenses in France?**

France is a little on the expensive side. If you do some research you should be able to find something to rent for about 500 euros or less. Obviously if you choose to live in a big city such as Paris, it will be much more expensive (about 700 euros).

### **What do I do if I get sick in France?**

If you find yourself requiring medical attention there are doctors, surgeons, pharmacies and dentists in all small towns, and hospitals and clinics in the larger towns and cities.

### **What's the public transportation system like in Plèlauff?**

There is no public transport system in Plèlauff. There is a taxi service in nearby Gouarec (a 5-minute drive). Students can easily book/share a cab to get them places. Fares are around 10 or 15 euros to get from Plèlauff to Rostrenen, the nearest big town.

## TESOL Course Arrival Info:

### Which airport should I fly into? How do I get to the school?

#### Roissy Charles De Gaulle airport

From Charles de Gaulle take the metro to Montparnasse train station in the south of Paris. Then take the TGV to Saint Briec. The trip will take about 3 hours depending on train connections. Take a Tibus bus in Saint Briec to Rostrenen (Line 5), a taxi, or a reserved minivan depending on the day and time of your arrival. There are 15 Tibus buses a day, which run from 7:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m..

Info on Line 5: [http://www.cg22.fr/fileadmin/redact\\_upload/transport/2007/hiver/ligne5.pdf](http://www.cg22.fr/fileadmin/redact_upload/transport/2007/hiver/ligne5.pdf)

Estimated Taxi fare: 70 Euros

Tibus buses: 5 Euros

**Note:** You MUST book at least 14 days in advance for the cheap flights. Flights outside the British school holiday periods are cheaper. Flights booked online are also cheaper.