

TEACHING ABROAD DECISION WORKBOOK



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TEACHING ABROAD DECISION WORKBOOK

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

I am so happy that you have found this free workbook and for the opportunity to help you get one step closer to teaching abroad!

My name is Michelle and I am an ex-pat myself, who at the time of writing this is living and teaching in South Korea.

There is a wide-range of programs out there and I remember when I first started searching I had hundreds of tabs open and bookmarks saved searching for the right place and program to apply for. It can become overwhelming, especially if you can't figure out what aspects of each program you should be looking at.

This is why I created this workbook. Here you will be able to narrow down your country, city/town, and program/job options into organized pages based on your own preferences, and important factors to consider when choosing a new home abroad.

This workbook comes with instructions and guides to help you fill in each page. Feel free to print out more copies of the fill-in pages (4-7) if you want to explore more options. At the end of this workbook there is a section to take notes on specific information you may find in your search.

Also, please visit my website (chellesworldtravels.com) and sign up for my mailing list to read articles about my adventures and tips abroad, as well as, to be first to learn of new freebies!

Now it's time to print out all of your pages, pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea, open up a new tab on your browser, and get to planning!

*Safe Travels,
Chelle*

TEACHING ABROAD DECISION WORKBOOK

INSTRUCTIONS

- Step 1: Choose Your Favorite Countries (page 4)
- ◆ Make a list of six countries you would like to teach in
 - ◆ Choose your top three choices (you can always print out another page to revisit the other choices)
 - ◆ Next we are going to assign a **1, 2, or 3** for each category listed.
 - **1 is poor**
 - **2 is average**
 - **3 is great**
 - ◆ Each category will be scored based on your own preferences and research on each country (i.e. If an area has poor treatment of the LGBTQ+ community and you identify as such you would score it a 1)
 - Please reference **page 7** for details on researching each category
 - ◆ Choose the best option (out of 21 points); or the option that scored highest in qualities that matter most to you
- Step 2: Choose Your Favorite Locations (Page 5)
- ◆ Make a list of six cities/towns in the country you would like to teach in
 - ◆ Choose your top three choices (you can always print out another page to revisit the other choices)
 - ◆ Next we are going to assign a **1, 2, or 3** for each category listed.
 - **1 is poor**
 - **2 is average**
 - **3 is great**
 - ◆ Each category will be scored based on your own preferences and research on each city/town (i.e. If an area is rural and you would prefer a city then you would rate it a 1)
 - Please reference **page 8** for details on researching each category
 - ◆ Choose the best option (out of 24 points); or the option that scored highest in qualities that matter most to you
- Step 3: Qualified Programs (page 6)
- ◆ Now that we have chosen a location, let's look at some programs that are available there
 - ◆ This can be done using a google search for government sponsored programs or looking at private institutions/ job postings
 - There are websites such as [TeachAway.com](https://www.teachaway.com), [CIEE.org](https://www.ciee.org), [GoOverseas.com](https://www.gooverseas.com), [ESL Cafe.com](https://www.eslcafe.com) to find programs or use as a starting point.
 - You can also Google "Teaching jobs in (Your Selected Country/City/Town)" which is my preferred method.
 - You can do this for as many cities/towns that you want, but look at one at a time
 - ◆ Make a list of six programs that you qualify for.
 - ◆ Choose your top three choices (you can always print out another page to revisit the other choices)
 - ◆ Next we are going to assign a **1, 2, or 3** for each category listed.
 - **1 is poor**
 - **2 is average**
 - **3 is great**
 - ◆ Each category will be scored based on your own preferences and research on each program (i.e. If a program has you working late hours and you prefer mornings then you rate it a 1)
 - Please reference **page 9** for details on researching each category
 - ◆ Choose the best option (out of 27 points); or the option that scored highest in qualities that matter most to you
- *Please Use the Last Page (Page 10) to Take Notes*

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IF YOU HAVE ALREADY NARROWED DOWN YOUR DECISION TO YOUR COUNTRY OF CHOICE YOU CAN SKIP THIS PAGE. IT DOESN'T HURT TO RE-LOOK THROUGH ALL YOUR OPTIONS!



COUNTRY OPTIONS

◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____

TOP 3 CHOICES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

◆ Language	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Minority Treatment	_____
◆ Earning Potential	_____
Total Points	_____/21

◆ Language	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Minority Treatment	_____
◆ Earning Potential	_____
Total Points	_____/21

◆ Language	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Minority Treatment	_____
◆ Earning Potential	_____
Total Points	_____/21

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SOME COUNTRIES HAVE PROGRAMS WHERE YOU DO NOT GET TO CHOOSE THE SPECIFIC CITY/TOWN. YOU CAN SKIP THIS STEP IF LOCATION IS NOT A CONCERN TO YOU.

COUNTRY

LOCATION OPTIONS

◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____

TOP 3 CHOICES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

◆ City/Rural	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Nearest Embassy	_____
◆ Climate	_____
◆ Entertainment	_____
Total Points	_____/24

◆ City/Rural	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Nearest Embassy	_____
◆ Climate	_____
◆ Entertainment	_____
Total Points	_____/24

◆ City/Rural	_____
◆ Accessibility	_____
◆ Quality of Life	_____
◆ Cost of Living	_____
◆ Crime Rate	_____
◆ Nearest Embassy	_____
◆ Climate	_____
◆ Entertainment	_____
Total Points	_____/24

TEACHING ABROAD DECISION WORKBOOK

LOCATION

PROGRAM OPTIONS

◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____
◆ _____	◆ _____

TOP 3 CHOICES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

◆ Location	_____
◆ Airfare	_____
◆ Housing	_____
◆ Salary	_____
_____	_____
◆ Healthcare	_____
◆ Benefits	_____
◆ Work Schedule	_____
◆ Upfront Costs	_____
◆ Contract Length	_____

◆ Location	_____
◆ Airfare	_____
◆ Housing	_____
◆ Salary	_____
_____	_____
◆ Healthcare	_____
◆ Benefits	_____
◆ Work Schedule	_____
◆ Upfront Costs	_____
◆ Contract Length	_____

◆ Location	_____
◆ Airfare	_____
◆ Housing	_____
◆ Salary	_____
_____	_____
◆ Healthcare	_____
◆ Benefits	_____
◆ Work Schedule	_____
◆ Upfront Costs	_____
◆ Contract Length	_____

Total Points _____/27

Total Points _____/27

Total Points _____/27

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COUNTRY CATEGORIES

- Language
 - ◆ Are you able to speak the local language? Beginner? Intermediate? Advanced?
 - ◆ Are language classes provided, or easily available?
- Accessibility
 - ◆ Does the country have a good inter-city transportation system?
 - ◆ Can you easily travel to other countries you wish to visit?
 - Look up multi-entry and single-entry visas for your country
- Quality of Life
 - ◆ Quality of life for various aspects of a country or specific location can be found through a google search or using numbeo.com
 - You may also want to look at individual stories and blogs for a better sense of life as an expat/foreigner
- Cost of Living
 - ◆ Cost of living for various aspects of a country or specific location can be found through a google search or using numbeo.com
- Crime Rate
 - ◆ Look up various crime statistics:
 - Robbery
 - Gang
 - Sexual Assault
 - Hate Crimes
 - Murder
- Minority Treatment
 - ◆ If you are part of a minority group please check for safety in whatever country you plan to move to
 - ◆ Visiting and living in a country with little or no protection can be dangerous and/or detrimental to your mental health
- Earning Potential
 - ◆ How easily can you save money?
 - Will you be living paycheck to paycheck?
 - Will you need a second job to supplement your income?

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LOCATION CATEGORIES

- City/Rural
 - ◆ Mark based on your preference
- Accessibility
 - ◆ How is public transportation? Is it affordable? Widely available?
 - ◆ Would you need a car? A bike?
 - ◆ How accessible are grocery stores, shopping centers, banks, post office, hospitals, etc.?
- Quality of Life
 - ◆ Quality of life for various aspects of a country or specific location can be found through a google search or using numbeo.com
 - You may also want to look at individual stories and blogs for a better sense of life as an expat/foreigner
- Cost of Living
 - ◆ Cost of living for various aspects of a country or specific location can be found through a google search or using numbeo.com
- Crime Rate
 - ◆ Look up various crime statistics:
 - Robbery
 - Gang
 - Sexual Assault
 - Hate Crimes
 - Murder
- Nearest Embassy
 - ◆ Where is the nearest embassy or consulate?
 - ◆ How accessible are they in the event of an emergency?
- Climate
 - ◆ What is each season like there?
 - ◆ How is the humidity?
 - ◆ Are natural disasters frequent or are concern? Hurricane/Typhoon season? Flooding?
- Entertainment
 - ◆ Are there movie theaters, bowling alleys, skating rinks, etc.?
 - ◆ Are there bars, clubs, concert venues?
 - ◆ Are there amusement parks?
 - ◆ Are there festivals?
 - ◆ Are there hiking trails? Scenic views? Beaches? Etc.

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PROGRAM CATEGORIES

- Location
 - ◆ Is the school in a good location?
 - ◆ Is the school accessible by public transportation? Car? Walking?
- Airfare
 - ◆ Who pays for your plane ticket there? Leaving the country?
- Housing
 - ◆ Does the school pay for your housing?
 - If so:
 - Is there a stipend, or does the school directly pay?
 - If housing is provided, is it near the school?
 - Is there an option to choose your own housing?
 - If not:
 - What is the average cost or rent in the area?
 - How can you secure housing before or after arriving?
 - How long are leases?
 - How much are security deposits?
 - Will you live alone or with others? Do you need family housing?
- Salary
 - ◆ Look at average pay for that job in that area and compare it to the school you're looking at
 - ◆ Is there negotiation room? Increases for experience/education?
 - ◆ Is there overtime pay?
- Healthcare
 - ◆ Are you automatically enrolled into a healthcare plan?
 - ◆ How much does it cost?
 - ◆ Is it automatically taken from your salary?
 - ◆ Look up standards for healthcare in the country if you are unsure
- Benefits
 - ◆ Vacation Days
 - ◆ Sick Days
 - ◆ Personal Days
 - ◆ Holidays
- Work Schedule
 - ◆ Do you work 40 hours a week? Less? More?
 - ◆ What days of the week do you work?
- Upfront Costs
 - ◆ Do you need to pay for:
 - Airfare?
 - Visa or ID?
 - TEFL?
 - Housing Deposit?
- Contract Length
 - ◆ Is it shorter than a year? Longer than a year?

