



Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in Asia Certificate at KSU

By Asian Studies Program

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences

at Kennesaw State University

Open to all KSU students of any major, KSU Alumni,
or community members

CONTEXT:

- The Asian Studies Program, housed in the Department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC), in the Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences (RCHSS) has received approval from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to offer the standalone “TEFL in Asia” certificate, effective fall 2024. This 12-credit certificate is open to all KSU students and members in the community. The 12-credit includes four courses: ASIA1102 (required), ASIA4001 (required), LING (Linguistics), WLED (World Language Education).

- **Why TEFL in Asia Certificate at KSU?** In order to secure full time jobs and legal working status as TEFL teachers at K-12 and other levels in China, Japan, Korea, a qualified applicant needs to be a native English speaker, with a relevant 4-year undergraduate degree, and a TEFL certificate. TEFL certificate is preferred by the employers in Asia, and the governments of China, Japan, Korea require TEFL certificates to issue working visas to qualified TEFL job recipients. There is not a “central agency” to issue TEFL certificates. KSU is proud to issue this impactful 12-credit “TEFL in Asia” certificate, starting fall 2024.
- There is a huge TEFL job market in East Asia, which opens up thousands of jobs for KSU graduates of all majors, especially those with knowledge on Asian languages and cultures. With more KSU students gaining the TEFL in Asia certificate, more students have interest in searching for and securing TEFL jobs in Asia. It is anticipated that many KSU students of all majors aspire to teach English in Asia after they graduate, including Japan, Korea and China.

“TEFL in Asia” Certificate
Kennesaw State University

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in Asia
Standalone Certificate

(12-credit, four courses)
Stand-alone certificate
Open to all majors @KSU

Hosted by KSU Asian Studies Program, WLC, RCHSS
Effective Fall 2024

Excellent qualification for good paying TEFL jobs in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao

ASIA1102	• Introduction to Asian Cultures (required)
ASIA4001	• Teaching English in Asia (required)
LING Choose one	•LING 3025: Linguistics for Education •LING 3030: Studies in Grammar and Linguistics •LING 3035: Introduction to Language and Linguistics •LING 3045: Grammar of Contemporary American English
WLED Choose one	•WLED 4408: Second Language Acquisition •WLED 4410: Methods, Materials, and Curriculum of Foreign Language Education, P-8 •WLED 4412: Methods, Materials, and Curriculum of Foreign Language Education, 9-12 •WLED 4414: Technology for Foreign Language Teaching

You can declare TEFL in Asia certificate at Owl Express:

How to declare? Starting this Fall 2024 semester, you can declare the 12-credit (four courses) "Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in Asia" Certificate. You can count these four courses twice, once for your Asian Studies Major, once for the TEFL in Asia stand-alone certificate. For an undergraduate student to declare or change your major, minor, stand-alone certificate or concentration, please submit your request through **Owl Express** using the “Declare or Change Major/Minor/Certificate” link under the Student Records tab. Please go to the “secondary program” and click the “add” button.

<https://www.kennesaw.edu/registrar/student-resources/major-minor-cert/index.php>

Why is the TEFL in Asia Certificate valuable?

This certificate is worth around \$800 to \$3,000 dollars of tuition if you try to obtain it separately from an institution in the USA.

Why is the TEFL in Asia Certificate important?

You will most likely need this certificate to apply for full time TEFL jobs in Asia and obtain a Work Visa to work in Asia legally. Here are some specific answers from experts in the field.

From Mr. Yoshi Domoto, Executive Director, The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG), which houses Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) operations in Atlanta.

Answer: While a TEFL certificate is not required in the application process, candidates for the JET program with TEFL certification are viewed favorably. Being certified will help them in Japan during the JET program and will help open up more opportunities as well. You can find more details about the JET Program and the eligibility criteria:

<http://jetprogramme.org/en/eligibility/>

From Mr. Frank Su, President and Co-Founder, Kids'R'Kids China

Kids'R'Kids China wants to hire 30-50 Asian Studies Majors or Minors every year to teach English in China. They have good paying TEFL jobs. See attached.

Answer: The Chinese government requires any native English speaker wishing to teach K-12 students in China with the following qualifications:

- 1). Completed BA or BS degree from a credible university
- 2). Two or more years of teaching experience; or TEFL certificate; or Teacher Certification

This TEFL in Asia Certificate issued by Kennesaw State University is considered credible and valuable to apply for education jobs in China.

Kids'R'Kids China website:

<https://www.kidsrkidschina.com/#/>

<https://kidsrkids.com/the-kids-r-kids-story/>

Overview on TEFL jobs in Japan and China

Below data was collected and compiled by KSU Asian Studies students AJ Anderson and Anna Nicholson in summer 2024, under the guidance of Dr. May Gao.

Through our research, we find that there are various opportunities for recent college graduates to come to Asia to teach. In Japan, there are numerous private companies that are looking to hire some native English speakers as teachers. There are also programs that are funded through the government. In China, there is a large demand for native English teachers through private companies and public schools.

Each private company is different, and their requirements for hiring teachers are different as well. This has its pros and cons, for things such as salary, treatment, schedule, location, etc. On the other hand, government based programs such as the JET Program are all forward with what was listed above. It also has a wide network of previous JETs in order to offer support for anyone who may be struggling to adapt to their situation.

Applicants from the United States are highly desired as they can provide relevant cultural experiences in the classroom, which serve as a constant motivator for students outside of grades/school. Chinese and Japanese employers are interested in hiring university graduates from the United States because they can provide cultural lessons and teach phrases that are not found in textbooks, as well as help with pronunciation. If students have an internally motivating reason to learn English, it will encourage them to learn for years to come. *You* are their reason to learn!

Specific Employers for TEFL Jobs

Through our research, we interviewed a few employers and discovered their interests in hiring university graduates from the USA. We found that there were many companies interested in hiring university graduates with TEFL certificates. We were able to interview a few JET/TEFL teachers (Saya, Alex, Carlo, Chunna, and David), Ms. Cork who has had extensive experience working with JET and is on the board of interviewers for new applicants, as well as Mr. Frank Su who is the president of Kids 'R' Kids China.

Private companies for people looking to teach English in Japan and China:

- Aeon
 - 50 years of history
 - Caters to both children and adults
 - Competitive salary for position of 275,000 yen
 - Helps you get an apartment and provides a flight allowance

- Health insurance, paid vacations, training, and other things are all provided by Aeon
- ECC
 - More than 180 schools throughout the country
 - ¥270,000/month (\$1750)
 - 35 hour work week with guaranteed 2 days off a week
 - Annual stipends based on performance
 - Paid training
 - Holidays, travel reimbursement, Japanese social, health and pension benefits
- Interac
 - Has schools all across the country
 - ¥2.4 ~ ¥3.0 million per year (\$15,600 ~ \$19,000)
 - Year-long contracts
 - Work weekdays usually with three to five 45-minute classes per day
 - Holidays and paid leave
 - Career navigation programs
- Westgate
 - University and grade school program
 - ¥260,000 ~ ¥290,000/month (\$1700 ~ \$1900) (Hourly)
 - Flight Reimbursement
 - Help in acquiring housing
 - Medical, Employment, and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Kids 'R' Kids China
 - Teaches children ages 1-6
 - \$2,500-\$3,500 monthly salary
 - Housing allowance based in placement city
 - Round trip flight tickets from China to US once a year
 - 100% health insurance coverage
 - Free Chinese language courses
- Berlitz
 - Teaches children as well as adults
 - 140 year history
 - Salary packages of 18,000-25,000 RMB monthly with extra earning potential
 - Health insurance coverage, paid holidays, Chinese language courses
- Beijing foreign Studies University
 - Teach English to Chinese university students
 - Competitive salary
 - Airfare allowance, health insurance, paid annual leave, accommodation assistance, free Mandarin courses
 - 10,000 RMB salary advance
- Gold Star TEFL Recruitment

- Recruits TEFL applicants to teach primary school through high school
- Schools provide set curriculum
- 25-45 students per class
- Local teaching assistants are provided

Qualifications Preferred by TEFL Employers

While doing research, we had the opportunity to interview a few JETS either currently working in Japan or have in the past, as well as TEFL employees in China. They provided great insight into what qualifications are needed in order to be successful in TEFL.

- Saya (2 years with JET Program)
 - Bachelor's degree (required)
 - Adaptable to any situation
 - Open minded and interested in cultural exchange
 - While not required, basic language skills is recommended in order to facilitate better interaction
 - Cultural knowledge
- Alex (5 years with the JET Program)
 - Bachelor's: The more unique your degree is, the more likely companies will take notice because they want to see how your degree relates to teaching in Japan.
 - Someone who is wanting to learn about another language, work culture, and school life in Japan. (Willing to adapt)
 - Cultural competency and a reason for wanting to be in Japan (Anime is not a good reason)
 - Being able to work with all age groups because you do not always get to pick which one you work with.
- Carlo (Previously a JET for 2 years)
 - An interest in cultural exchange and maintaining a relationship with Japan once you finish your contract.
 - Ability to pick up on social cues that are important for cross-cultural communication.
 - Flexibility
 - Knowledge on Japanese work culture and small behavioral requirements
- Ms. Jessica Cork (Vice President of YKK Corporation of America, serves on board of interviewers for JET)
 - Someone who is able to use their skills inside the classroom.

- Being able to engage the class, have good interactions with them, and actually be able to teach them
- The ability to adapt to a rural environment as it is the most likely area you will be sent to.
- Live in an environment with little to no English speakers
- Cultural competency and a willingness to be a part of the community and to make an impact on people.
- David (TEFL teacher in Shanghai)
 - Employers look for people with strong language skills, patience, and strong organizational skills.
 - Must have a 120-hour TEFL certificate and a bachelor's degree
 - The job market is competitive, but there are still many positions available if you fit the requirements.
 - Must be willing to stay updated on new teaching strategies.
- Chunna (TEFL teacher in Shanghai with several years of experience)
 - A bachelor's degree in any field and TEFL certificate are required.
 - Someone who is willing to learn about different cultures, patient, and understanding.
 - K-12 international schools and international kindergartens need TEFL teachers the most.
 - TEFL teachers teach skills such as grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, and speaking.
 - Some of the best ways to apply for TEFL jobs in China are to search on dedicated job websites, contact education agencies, and to network in the field
 - In major cities like Beijing and Shanghai, the salary can range from ¥15,000 to ¥23,000 per month.
- Frank Su (President of Kids 'R' Kids China)
 - Someone with 2 or more years of teaching or internship experience
 - Speaking Mandarin or understanding Chinese culture can help you stand out in interviews.
 - American applicants are highly desired.
 - The job market is open and demanding for English teachers in China.
 - Must have a clear criminal record and bachelor's degree.

Websites & Contacts for TEFL jobs in Asia

If you are searching for TEFL jobs in Japan and China, here are some of the most effective and active websites and contacts.

- [JET Program](#)

- [Aeon](#)
- [ECC](#)
- [Interac](#)
- [Westgate](#)
- [ALTIA Central](#)
- [Kids 'R' Kids China](#) (Send applications to frank@kidsrkidschina.com)
- [Berlitz](#)
- [BFSU](#)
- [Teach English Global](#)
- [Gold Star TEFL Recruitment](#)
- International TEFL Academy: <https://www.internationalteflacademy.com/>

Conclusions

Securing a TEFL job in Asia is a great way to expand your cultural horizons as well as gain teaching experience. Many TEFL jobs in China and Japan provide housing/healthcare benefits, competitive salaries, and long-term contracts. The main takeaways from our research are that applicants should not only have a bachelor's degree and TEFL, but also have teaching experience, an outgoing personality, and the drive to teach others about the English language and culture. Having a degree that relates to teaching or English will make your application more competitive, as well as having a genuine interest in Japan or China. Do not hesitate to attend networking events related to TEFL or to reach out to potential employers for internships!

Relevant links:

[Current curriculum of BA in Asian Studies](#)

[Current curriculum of Asian Studies Minor](#)

Information on teaching English in China

Tefl.org