

Via Lingua

Welcome to Via Lingua International TEFL

"I never ever could have taught a single day without having what I learned at Via Lingua. In the long run, almost everything I learned has remained a part of both my teaching and my daily experiences here in Italy."

Via Lingua is one of the world's largest TEFL certification providers, and our TEFL course, continuously developed by our Academic Board, is one of the most thorough and up-to-date in the world today. Including 120 hours of expert tuition and 10 hours of teaching practice, the TEFL course exceeds international standards for TEFL certification. To guarantee the highest academic standards, the course is externally moderated by Hunter college department of EFL at City University of New York.

Through our Job Guidance and Placement Program we aim to place all of our graduates in full-time EFL employment on successful completion of the course. Through our offices and contacts worldwide, Via Lingua is uniquely placed to give you the best professional help and advice, wherever you wish to start your TEFL career. We extend the same help and advice to all of our graduates in all countries, irrespective of where and when you took your original course with us.

Once you are a Via Lingua graduate you are always a Via Lingua graduate. We like to keep in contact with our 5000+ graduates all around the world and develop our network of contacts. Wherever you want to go tomorrow, we believe that we can help to take you there.

The Via Lingua Group is committed to providing a service to its trainees which is of the highest possible quality. Therefore, the CTEFL courses conducted by Via Lingua are validated by the ELT Institute at Hunter College, City University of New York. NOVA Southeastern University has reviewed the Via Lingua course and awards graduate credits to all graduate trainees which qualify for credits towards a Masters Degree in TEFL-TESOL. In addition, the Via Lingua CTEFL course is accredited by the United Kingdom's College of Teachers and Via Lingua training centers are accredited by the same organization.

Our aim is to prepare well-trained teachers who will be equipped with the necessary skills, confidence and recognized qualification to take up EFL teaching positions anywhere in the world. We hope and believe that our graduates can help to raise the international standards of English language teaching and to increase international understanding through education.



Via Lingua International Recognition, Accreditation & Validation

"Honestly, the Via Lingua course was one of the most challenging experiences I've had and yet I realize that it must be so to truly prepare trainees for the real world. You get what you pay for, and at Via Lingua I got more."

The TEFL job market is undoubtedly becoming increasingly competitive. Not too long ago, any native English speaker looking for a life of travel could pursue a successful career as an "English Teacher" without experience or qualifications. However, these days all reputable language schools and employers throughout the world require teachers with a professionally recognized initial TEFL qualification.

A wide range of TEFL courses have been developed to provide this initial teacher training in many countries of the world which makes it very difficult for aspiring teachers to decide which course to choose. The prerequisite for this decision making should be the certainty that the course chosen is of a standard recognized by those bodies within the industry which designate what constitutes professional status.

The Via Lingua TEFL course significantly exceeds international standards for similar four-week TEFL certification programs. In order to gain a Via Lingua Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, for example, students need to complete a minimum of 120 hours of tuition, including an average of ten hours teaching practice. Nova Southeastern University (NSU) has reviewed the Via Lingua course and awards graduate credits to all Via Lingua trainees who successfully complete the course. NSU provides all graduates with a certificate stating that they have earned credits towards a Master's Degree in TEFL, which may be completed online.

The College of Teachers recognizes the Via Lingua CTEFL program as meeting the standards associated with an advanced certificate. The College of Teachers is an accredited qualifications awarding body and awards professional qualifications within the United Kingdom, linked to the National Qualifications Framework of England and Wales. Via Lingua graduates are entitled to apply for the qualification "Associateship of the College of Teachers TESOL (ACOT TESOL with Teaching Practice)".



[Via Lingua TEFL Course Program Overview](#)

"The grammar classes have proved to be invaluable."

"The wonderful experience I had at Via Lingua confirmed my decisions and abilities. I also found both that I enjoy teaching and have ability at it, which, as I am working towards phasing out my current profession into something different, gives me direction and confidence."

The Via Lingua Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages is designed for those with little or no experience of teaching English. It equips you with the basic skills and knowledge needed to take up a first post as ESL teachers and gives you a firm foundation for self-evaluation and further professional development. This is achieved through attending lectures and workshops that cover language awareness, teaching methodology, learner profiling and production of classroom materials. Group work, teaching practice and observations are also included.

Each course runs for a minimum of 130 programmed hours. Every trainee has to attend a full course and complete all assignments, including teaching practice, to the required standard in order to qualify for the award. To find out about course dates and fees please go to [course dates & fees](#).

We believe in learning through involvement, and students are expected to participate in many different ways during the sessions. Where necessary information will be supplied, but more commonly you will experience a workshop approach, where your tutor acts as a "facilitator/animater" rather than as a lecturer. The course will include the following components to be formally and individually assessed. Please click on each unit for further information.

- Pedagogy Theory
- Language Awareness
- Teaching Skills
- Cultural Awareness
- Life Skills

Within this course framework, you will be engaged in the following activities:

- Participation in workshops
- Engaging in micro-teaching activities with peers
- Studying an unknown language
- Taking part in a group project linked to the Cultural Awareness component
- Teaching groups of authentic learners of English as a Foreign Language
- Completing a teaching project with an individual student of English
- Maintaining a professional portfolio
- Completing study assignments
- Taking part in assessment activities

Please bear in mind that this is an intensive program. The day normally runs from 8:30am until 4:30/5:00pm. In addition to the training and teaching you should expect to spend additional hours over the duration of the course on self-study, background reading and the completion of four assessed written assignments set by your trainers throughout the course.



Via Lingua Assessment, Certification and Moderation

The Via Lingua CTEFL course was an investment which showed its rewards from day one. I was extremely impressed with the level of professionalism, enthusiasm and organization of the trainers and all the staff involved. Via Lingua instilled me with a solid grounding, enthusiasm and above all, the confidence for teaching English as a foreign language. I started the course with an eagerness to learn, and during the course absorbed more than I could have imagined in such a short period of time! This was the result of the material being presented in a way which facilitated the best possible learning – ‘practice makes perfect’. The course practiced what it preached. It was a true testimony of its effectiveness. The trainers were highly qualified and sensitive to all our needs, making the learning process enjoyable and relevant.

Trainees are given clear guidance at the start of every course as to how their written and practical work is being assessed. All validated courses are coordinated throughout by the local Head Trainer. Trainers sample all written work submitted by trainees. Work is assessed for quality of content and relevance, and also for spelling, punctuation and grammatical expression.

There are six formal summative assessment activities, in addition to a variety of informal formative self assessment activities:

- Observed and assessed teaching practice with groups of authentic EFL students (36 % weighting)
- The Individual Student Teaching Project (24% weighting)
- The final written test (24% weighting)
- The personal and professional portfolio (8%)
- The group project (4%)
- Attendance (4%)

Via Lingua International awards its certificate to all trainees who are able to demonstrate that they have met the minimum standards associated with each of the five course components. . Every effort is made to ensure that each trainee achieves to their full potential and additional support is provided to any trainee who is in danger of not meeting these standards.

All Via Lingua courses are moderated by the prestigious ELT Institute, Hunter College, City University of New York. Hunter College, located in the heart of Manhattan, is the largest college in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. Founded in 1870, Hunter is also one of the oldest public colleges in the country. Currently, 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students attend the College, pursuing degrees in more than 170 different programs of study.

The English Language Teachers Institute is designed for teachers from around the world who want to refresh and improve their English language proficiency level while learning new teaching techniques and interacting with IELI teachers and New York City residents. Professional development seminars are held each summer on their New York City campus.

The International English Language Institute (IELI), founded in 1977, serves over 900 students from around the world each semester. All IELI teachers hold Master's degrees - most in Teaching English as a Second Language. It offers a complete range of full-time and part-time ESL classes in our Academic Skills, English for Success, and Professional English programs. It is a member of AAIEP and UCIEP.

The Via Lingua Moderation Program covers both the quality of the course content and structure, as well as the local delivery of the course. The arrangements for external moderation are supported by regular internal reviews of our products and services.

Via Lingua Job Guidance and Placement = Employment

I have had so many work offers but I haven't been able to accept all of them. In fact I am working with different levels such as business English, general English and as a 'lettrice' in two state high Schools.

Through our international network of schools and contacts, we can help you find a job anywhere in the world. 85% of the people who take the course with us have already found a job in their chosen location before the end of the course.

Week 1

- Trainees participate in a group session on how to modify their resume' for EFL teaching.
- Trainees are advised about job opportunities in the local area and lists of current vacancies, jobs sites and schools are provided.

Week 2

- Individual progress sessions offer trainees personalized, up-to-date guidance on professional "packaging" of their skill sets, strengths, experience.
- Trainees participate in a group session that covers the following:
 - choosing where and when to work
 - conditions in various countries and cultures
 - what to look for in a language school and teaching program
 - preparation of correspondence, cover letters, documentation
 - interview techniques and mock interview sessions

Week 3

- Individual progress sessions where each trainee is invited to discuss the progress of the job search, and is given further individual assistance as required to finalize all issues.

Ongoing

- Via Lingua contacts schools with vacancies and continues to help you to research vacancies in your chosen location(s)
- The Via Lingua network will continue to offer support and guidance throughout your career.



Getting a job...Where can you teach?

I began working in Milan immediately after finishing the Via Lingua CTEFL course. Milan offers a huge pool of teaching opportunities as well as being ideally located for wonderful weekend trips to the awe-inspiring Alps, tranquil lakes or spectacular sea of the Italian Riviera. It's definitely the place to kick start a rewarding and enjoyable career in teaching English as a foreign language.

After successfully passing the Via Lingua TEFL course you will be certified to teach English as a foreign language anywhere in the world. Exciting teaching positions can easily be found throughout Central and Eastern Europe, Central and South America and the Far East in particular. Demand for English language teaching remains high in Western Europe, though the job market may be competitive; Eastern Europe also has numerous opportunities for employment. Via Lingua International is well-placed to help you deal with this and provides a highly professional foundation wherever you hope to start.

The current job market in much of Asia is similar to Central and Eastern Europe with a very high demand for TEFL Certified English teachers. The salaries in Japan are much higher than the average, though so is the cost of living. It is another highly competitive market so that quality TEFL training and certification are essential if you want to break into it. Working in Korea or Taiwan might allow you to save more money. A number of teachers have worked in these countries in order to pay off credit cards and student loans. China currently provides the most opportunities for TEFL teaching anywhere in the world and Vietnam is a fast-developing location. The pay will allow you to live a comfortable local lifestyle. The same can be said for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia which have traditionally held an exotic (if not always financial) appeal for many EFL teachers.

The Middle East still offers quite a few opportunities for TEFL- trained teachers. There may be some restrictions as to lifestyle and politics, but as in Korea and Taiwan a teacher can save a significant amount of money here. Usually the requirements are a university degree and a recognized TEFL Certificate.

At Via Lingua we are ready to provide you with honest and informed advice, contacts and information necessary to find a suitable teaching position.

The process of finding work begins with your acceptance into the Via Lingua TEFL program course. We know that you may not be completely sure about where you would like to teach at this stage, but if you tell us where you are interested in teaching, we can collect current information for you. We want to help you to explore all options and choose the right destination.

During the course we will keep you aware of current job openings and language school contacts from all over the world. We can also provide information about specific countries including average salaries and working requirements. You will also have access to listings of teaching positions and locations through EFL publications and the Internet.

We will assist you with preparing cover letters, an appropriate resume for TEFL purposes and interviews. Upon successful completion of the course you will be provided with a formal letter of reference in addition to your certificate.

Even after you graduate from Via Lingua we are committed to your continuing professional development and will happily provide support and advice throughout your TEFL career.

Frequently Asked Questions

TESOL? TEFL? TESL? What do they all mean?

Basically they all mean the same. They are terms used to describe the teaching of the English Language to students who are not native speakers of English. The main difference is the country where the teaching takes place. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Second or Other Languages) and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) are standard terms for English language teaching in non-English speaking countries.

With so many English teacher training courses advertised how do I know which to apply for?

The explosive growth in English language teaching has led to a corresponding increase in training courses offered. Not all courses are of the same quality or usefulness. While many are professionally managed and have good course content, some are sub-standard. Correspondence courses, for example, with no method of observed teaching practice, are incomplete. Also, there are programs offering one or two week introductory courses. Some of these may be very good at introducing you to teaching, but they cannot offer you as much as an intensive month-long course, and will not result in a recognized certificate which employers expect.

What qualifications do I need to do the course?

You should have completed at least some study at a higher education level in order to cope with the academic side of the course.

Do I need to have taught before in order to do the course?

No. The TESOL course is designed as a pre-service course for people with no previous teaching experience.

Do I need to be a native speaker of English?

No, but you do need to be able to demonstrate a very good command of the English language and have an internationally recognized qualification such as TOEFL or Cambridge Proficiency. If English is not your first language, you will be required to complete a written task and a telephone interview. The great majority of our trainees are from the USA, the UK, Ireland, Canada or Australia, but people whose first language is not English have succeeded in the course, including people from Italy, the Netherlands and Peru.

Do I need to speak British English or North American English?

Via Lingua regards English as a global language and therefore welcomes applicants from all native speakers (as well as non-native speakers with a proficient level of English).

Do I need knowledge of other languages?

Via Lingua uses the universally accepted communicative approach to teaching, where English is the only language used in the classroom.

Is there an age limit?

You must be at least 18 years of age for your application to be considered. There is no upper age limit. The majority of our trainees are in their 20's, 30's and 40's, but we have successfully trained and found employment for graduates in their 50's and 60's. Our youngest trainee so far in Florence was 17, and our oldest was 75.

What kind of people take the course?

Although most course participants are native speakers of English there are sometimes non-native speakers who are fluent in English. A typical course will have several people in their early twenties, some who are recent graduates and want to travel overseas in order to get work experience. Other older trainees may want a career change or be approaching, at, or past retirement age and may want to start another career or earn money while they travel the world. Most trainees have come especially to do the course in their chosen location, while a few are already based there.

How long/intensive are the courses?

The TEFL course is a 4-week, 120-hour course and is very intensive (from 8.30 am to 6.00 pm every day). We have tried to arrange the course so that you will have the weekends free to relax and explore. This does, however, mean that the days are longer and more intensive.

Will I be a competent teacher by the end of the course?

Due to the highly practical content of the CTEFL course, all graduates should have the necessary skills, confidence and ability to embark on their teaching careers and work in a professional manner anywhere in the world.

All certificate courses, however, serve as initial teacher training and those interested in pursuing teaching as a career often go on to take a diploma or MA after 2 years of teaching experience (please refer to our agreement with NOVA Southwestern University).

Is there a correspondence/on-line option?

No. The practical teaching experience you acquire on the course teaching non-English speaking students is generally accepted as the most important element of a TEFL course and is what future employers will be looking for. However, in the near future it is likely that Via Lingua International will offer an on-line preliminary certificate in TEFL. This award would not be sufficient to gain a teaching post because it will not include a teaching practice component. Trainees who achieve this certificate would be able to complete an additional 60 hour on-site program, which would lead to a full CTEFL (with teaching practice)

Does the course meet international guidelines?

Yes. Whilst there is no true international body for TEFL courses, internationally accepted guidelines state that the course must have 100 hours of input with 6 hours of teaching practice and be externally monitored. The CTEFL course has, in fact, 120 hours of input and a minimum

of 10 hours teaching practice as well as being externally moderated. The Via Lingua CTEFL program is fully accredited and recognized as meeting international standards.

When is the best time to do a course?

There really is no best or worst time. Countries in different hemispheres have different academic years and tend to hire year round anyway, on an as needed basis.

What are the chances of finding a job after completing the course?

Excellent. Upon successful completion of the course, teachers will find that there are many jobs to be had worldwide.

Is job placement assistance included?

Yes. All graduates receive individual counseling and assistance with finding a teaching job. As Via Lingua is an international organization, it has contacts with many schools worldwide. Via Lingua will help with all aspects of job seeking from CV/resume construction and interview techniques.

What standard of accommodation can I expect?

Accommodation consists of either a single or double room in a shared house or apartment. Accommodation preferences can be stated on the application form.

Will you help in adapting to the new environment?

Yes. On the first day of the course we hold an orientation session. Social events take place throughout the course.

What about visas / insurance?

Via Lingua will assist you with all visa questions regarding studying and working in our different international locations.

We recommend that you arrange your own health and travel insurance. We will be glad to assist you with recommended insurance providers for students and travelers—all at special rates.

Via Lingua Testimonials

I learnt to plan for my lessons and I even use the lesson plan sheets we were given at Via Lingua! I think the main thing I learnt was to relate lessons to useful everyday life, and to tailor them to meet each student's individual interests so I am always keeping an eye open for inspiration for lessons.

Lydia

I never ever could have taught a single day without having what I learned at Via Lingua. In the long run, almost everything I learned has remained a part of both my teaching and my daily experiences here in Italy.

Janssen

The trainer was open and brimming with enthusiasm. I recommend this experience to anyone interested in teaching English abroad, while tasting the job you also get a new qualification.

Joshua

The grammar classes have proved to be invaluable. The wonderful experience I had at Via Lingua confirmed my decisions and abilities. I also found both that I enjoy teaching and have ability at it, which, as I am working towards phasing out my current profession into something different, gives me direction and confidence.

Jackie

I really enjoyed the course tremendously. I knew it would be challenging because of the short time frame, but it was challenging in different ways than I expected. I feel that I learned a great deal and grew as both a teacher and a person through this experience.

Lisa

I found the CTEFL course to be challenging yet very rewarding. It was a little overwhelming at first because it is quite intense and they throw you into teaching right away on the third day - but I soon realized that I was learning so much from those first few days of practice teaching. The grammar review was well needed, and I felt like the course taught me the teaching skills that I continue to use and develop even now. Originally, I looked for work in a few cities in Italy, but was offered a job in Florence right away after my course. There were only about two weeks after my course ended before I started working.

Eryn

I grew immensely as a teacher and I know that the skills I've gained will be applicable to more than the classroom. The Teaching Practice was extremely useful, it is the best way to learn how to teach.

Evita

I was very impressed with all your teachers – not only with their knowledge and expertise but also with their commitment.

Francesco

Via Lingua Course Dates and Fees

Courses run regularly all through the year at many of our more popular locations in Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey. In other locations courses run 2-5 times per year, with particular emphasis on the busier summer months from June – September. Exact dates for each location are posted on the homepage for each centre on the www.vialingua.org website.

The cost of the course varies slightly between the differing locations but is normally between EUR 1200 – EUR 1500. This includes all course tuition, materials, course-books, airport pickups, moderation, and examination and certificate fees. This price does not include the cost of accommodation.

Occasionally, during the quieter season of the year (January – April) we may offer discounts for early bookings in certain centers, either on the accommodation or on the course fee. Special packages may also include deals on travel arrangements. Book together with a friend and you can both claim a discount on tuition.

There is a €275.00 non-refundable deposit due upon receipt of your application. The remainder of the fee must be received by wire transfer or bank draft at least three weeks before the start date of your chosen course.

Tuition fees may be paid by any one of the following methods:

1. Major credit cards
2. Bank transfer to our US or European banks
3. Personal check to our US or European offices



Via Lingua Application Procedures and Enrollment

At Via Lingua we have a policy of selective acceptance on to the CTEFL course. This is to ensure that we can be confident that our trainees are up to the academic and practical demands of an intensive four-week training period and that they are effective and accurate users of the English language. We believe that this helps to maintain our reputation and that of our graduates with the most respected EFL schools and organizations worldwide.

Via Lingua Accommodation Options

To make your stay easier, or to help with your transition to living abroad, we can offer you a choice of good quality accommodation in the location of your choice. We place a strong and consistent emphasis on selecting rooms and apartments carefully.

Most of our trainees are within walking distance of the schools. Students are responsible for their own transportation and can walk, rent a bike or use public transportation (which is reasonably priced).

Every effort is made to satisfy any special requests. Please indicate which of the options you would prefer along with any special requirements (For example, if you are allergic to pets or if you prefer smoking or non-smoking accommodation) on the application form. Since summer is our high season and homes are at a premium, early bookings are recommended. Payment is made in full in cash upon arrival.

Options include a private bedroom in an apartment, a fully furnished private apartment or a homestay with a local family, with or without meals.

Of course you can arrange your own housing as well. Feel free to contact us and we'll provide you with some links and information on how to find apartments, hotels, B & Bs..



How to contact Via Lingua International TEFL

Deciding to relocate, travel or make a career change is a big step for most people. At Via Lingua we are committed to making our contribution to the process as smooth as possible for you. For this reason we are happy to offer honest advice and to deal with any questions you may have about our course, working in TEFL and coming to Florence.

For further information, please contact info@vialingua.org.

Please call toll-free in the USA at (888) 835-6207

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