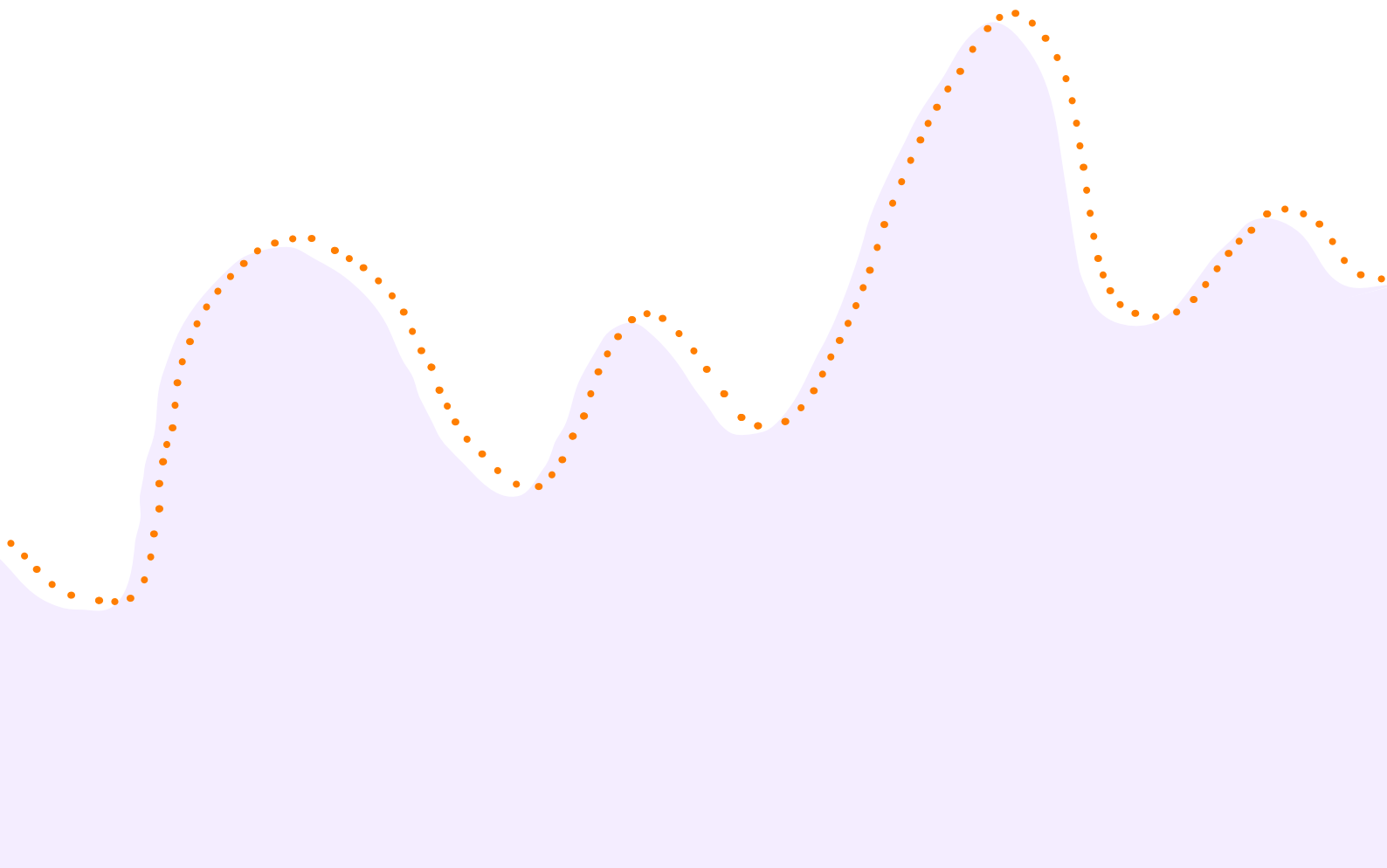


*i-to-i*

ANALYSIS OF THE  
**TEFL JOBS' MARKET**

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*i-to-i (April 2020)*





» The outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) has had a direct impact on the TEFL industry.

## INTRODUCTION

i-to-i is one of the world's leading TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course providers, with over 15,000 graduates per year.

The outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) has had a direct impact on the TEFL industry. State schools and private language centres across the world have closed their doors and travel is severely restricted, affecting employment opportunities for TEFL teachers.

To gain a clearer picture of the current state of the TEFL jobs market and explore how it has been affected by the pandemic, i-to-i analysed details of the teaching positions advertised on the specialist TEFL jobs board, LoveTEFL, between 1 February 2020 and 30 March 2020. Specifically, the purpose of this research was to identify:

- » The extent to which TEFL employers are continuing to recruit for classroom-based posts during the pandemic
- » Whether there has been an increase in demand for online English teachers, given physical classrooms are currently closed
- » Comparative wages, contract lengths and job requirements for online English teaching positions compared to classroom-based TEFL posts.

The key findings of our analysis are set out in this report.



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## OVERVIEW OF JOBS ADVERTISED

We analysed 7,005 positions advertised to get a comprehensive overview of the online TEFL jobs market.

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## LOCATION OF TEFL JOBS

Reviewing these jobs, we identified how many were online vs. classroom-based - and where the demand for both job types was coming from.

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## JOB REQUIREMENTS

Looking at eligibility, we focussed on: TEFL certificates, bachelor's degrees, specific passports and previous teaching experience.

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## CONTRACT LENGTH

Comparing online with classroom-based TEFL positions across multiple locations, we determined the average contract lengths of both job types.



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## TEFL SALARIES

Relative to classroom-based positions, we found that online teaching jobs appear to offer very similar salaries.

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## CONCLUSION

All of this research has led us to the conclusion that online teaching jobs have vastly increased in demand and popularity.

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## APPENDIX 1: PERCENTAGE OF JOBS ADVERTISED BY COUNTRY

Through February / March 2020, this table compares the percentage of jobs advertised in each country and online.

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## APPENDIX 2: BREAKDOWN OF ADVERTISED JOBS

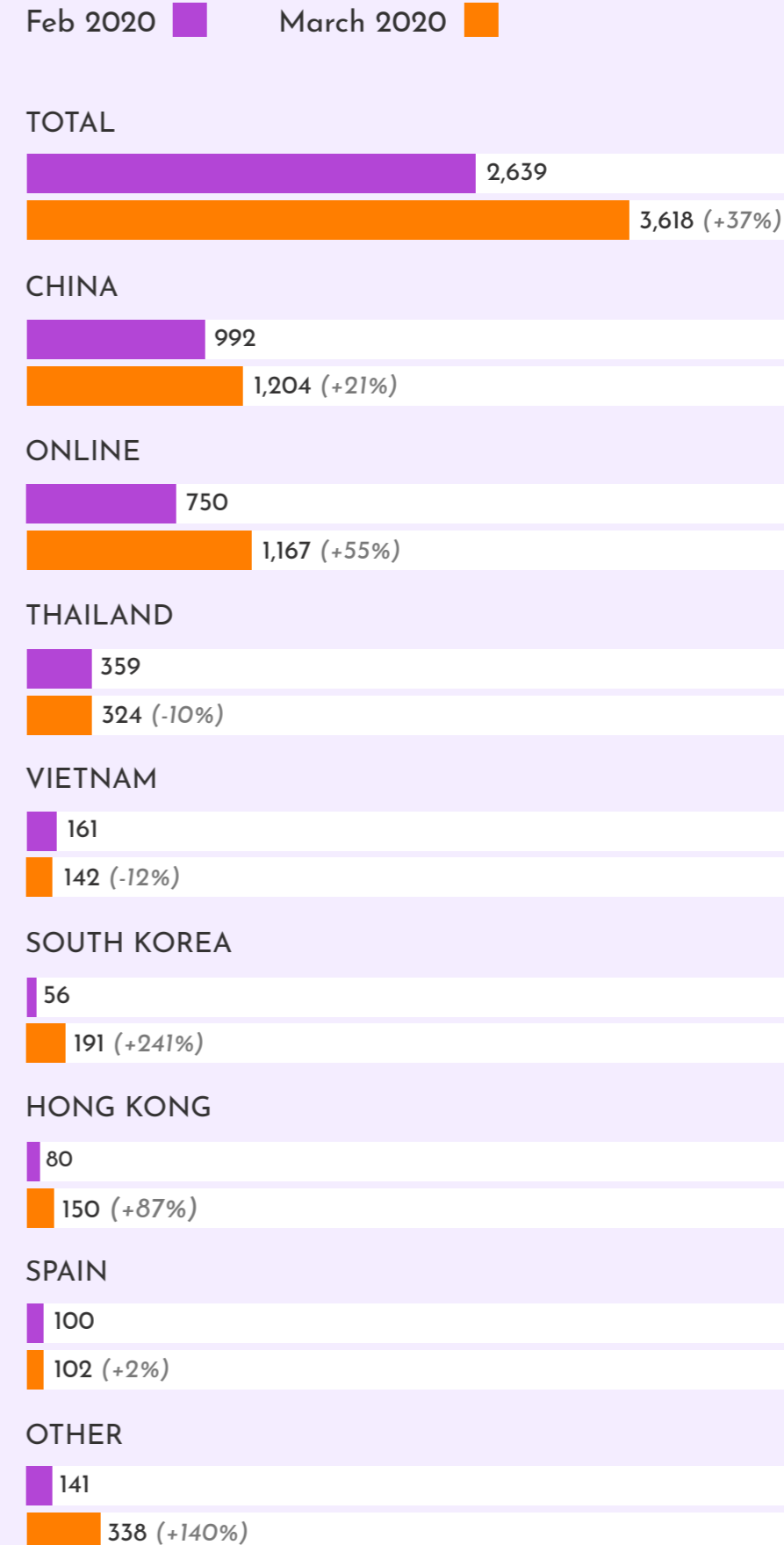
This table reflects the requirements and contract lengths of jobs advertised during the same time period.

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## 1. Overview of jobs advertised

- » In total, 7,005 English teaching jobs were advertised on the LoveTEFL jobs board between 1 February to 30 March 2020. Of these, just under a third (31%) were for online teaching posts.
- » There was a noticeable surge in the number of online teaching positions advertised across the period, with 55% more online TEFL positions advertised in March 2020 compared to the previous month.
- » Despite the global outbreak of Covid-19, TEFL employers are continuing to advertise for classroom-based teachers. In fact, the number of classroom-based positions advertised on LoveTEFL's jobs board increased overall by 34% in March compared to February.
- » At an individual country level, there were six countries where more than 100 jobs were advertised across the period analysed. Of these, for three (China, South Korea and Hong Kong), there were more positions advertised in March compared to February, for one (Spain) the figure was flat and for the remaining two (Thailand and Vietnam) the number of advertised posts was lower in March compared to February.

## Number of jobs advertised



## 2. Location of TEFL jobs

- » Online teaching posts accounted for 31% of the total TEFL jobs advertised across the period, with the remaining 69% of positions advertised as classroom-based.
- » Over a third of the classroom-based positions advertised were in China (35% of total jobs). This was followed by positions across the rest of Asia (27%) including Thailand (11%), Vietnam (5%), South Korea (4%) and Hong Kong (4%).
- » Comparatively fewer positions were advertised in countries outside of Asia, with only 5% of the total based in Europe, 2% in the Gulf States and 1% in Central or South America.

### % of total number of jobs

<b>35%</b>	CHINA	<b>5%</b>	EUROPE
<b>31%</b>	ONLINE	<b>2%</b>	GULF STATES
<b>27%</b>	OTHER ASIA	<b>1%</b>	CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA



### 3. Job requirements

- » The professionalisation of the TEFL sector was evident in the stipulated criteria in the job adverts: 97% of the advertised positions stated that candidates should have a degree, while more than two thirds were looking for TEFL certification.
- » There was an even stronger emphasis on qualifications in the online teaching positions advertised, compared to the classroom-based posts. In fact, every advertised online teaching position stipulated that a degree was required and 96% also expected TEFL certification.
- » Over two thirds (67%) of all advertised positions stipulated native English as a requirement (i.e. teachers whose first language is English and who are citizens of the UK, Ireland, US, Canada, South Africa, Australia or New Zealand). This figure was lower for online positions, where only 51% stated that it was required.
- » Previous teaching experience was only essential for 15% of advertised positions. This figure was even lower for online teaching positions, where only 7% of advertisements specified that candidates must have prior teaching experience.

### Job criteria stipulated

All jobs ■ Online teaching jobs ■

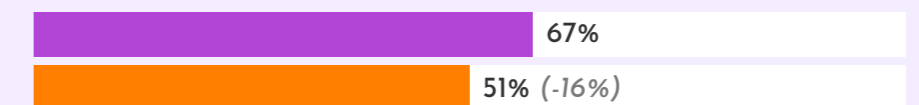
#### DEGREE



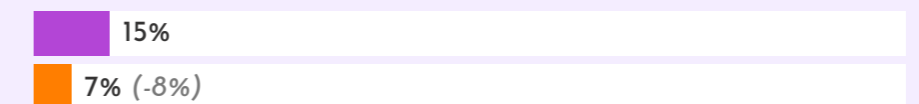
#### TEFL CERTIFICATION



#### NATIVE ENGLISH



#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE



## 4. Contract length

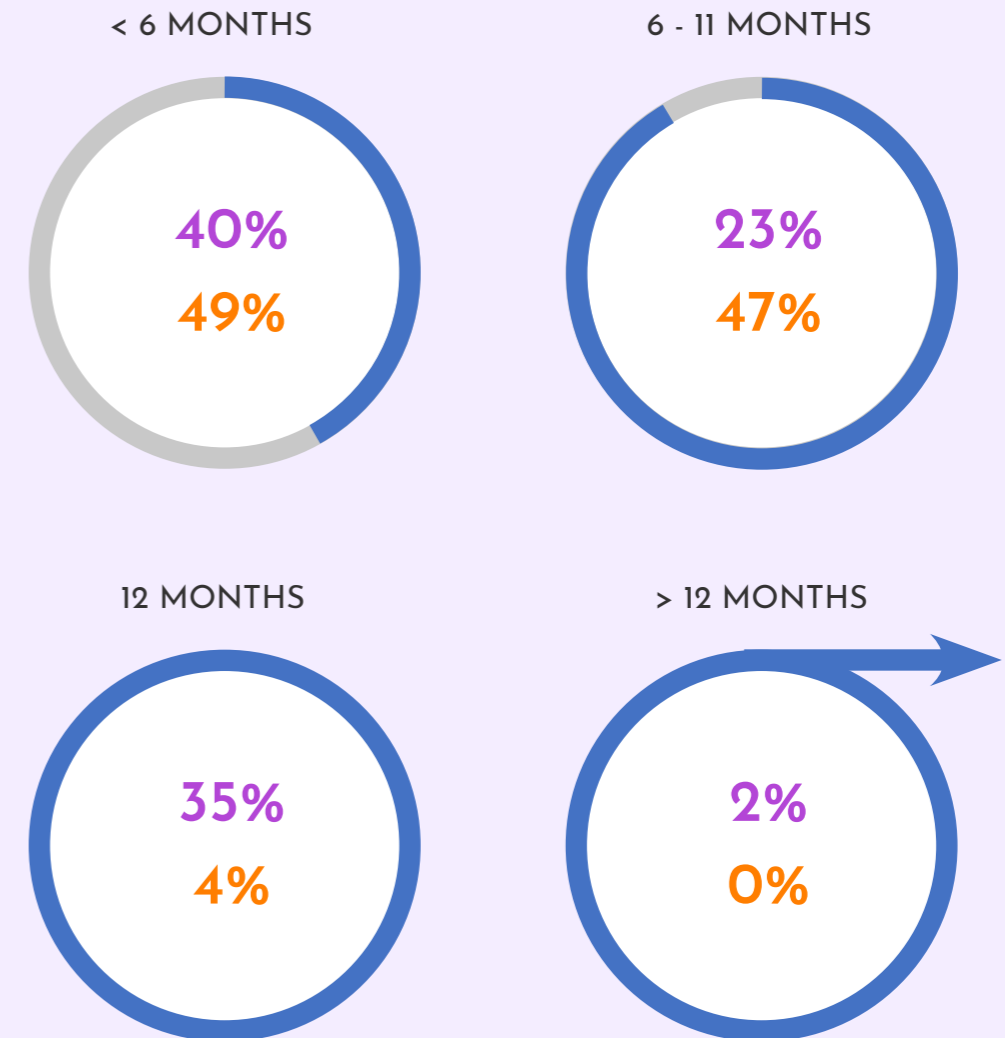
» Just over a third (35%) of the overall positions advertised were for initial contracts lasting 12 months. Of the remainder, the vast majority (63%) were for contracts lasting between one to 11 months, with only a small fraction (2%) offering contracts of over a year.

» Longer contracts were limited to a small number of countries. In the period we analysed, the only countries where positions were advertised with contracts of longer than 12 months were Saudi Arabia, Singapore, China and Brunei (one position only).

» Online teaching contracts tended to be for shorter periods than classroom-based positions, with 49% of those advertised offering contracts for less than six months and a further 47% with contracts for between six and 11 months. No online contracts advertised during the period we analysed stated that they were for longer than a year.

## % of contract lengths

All positions ■ Online teaching positions ■



## 5. TEFL salaries

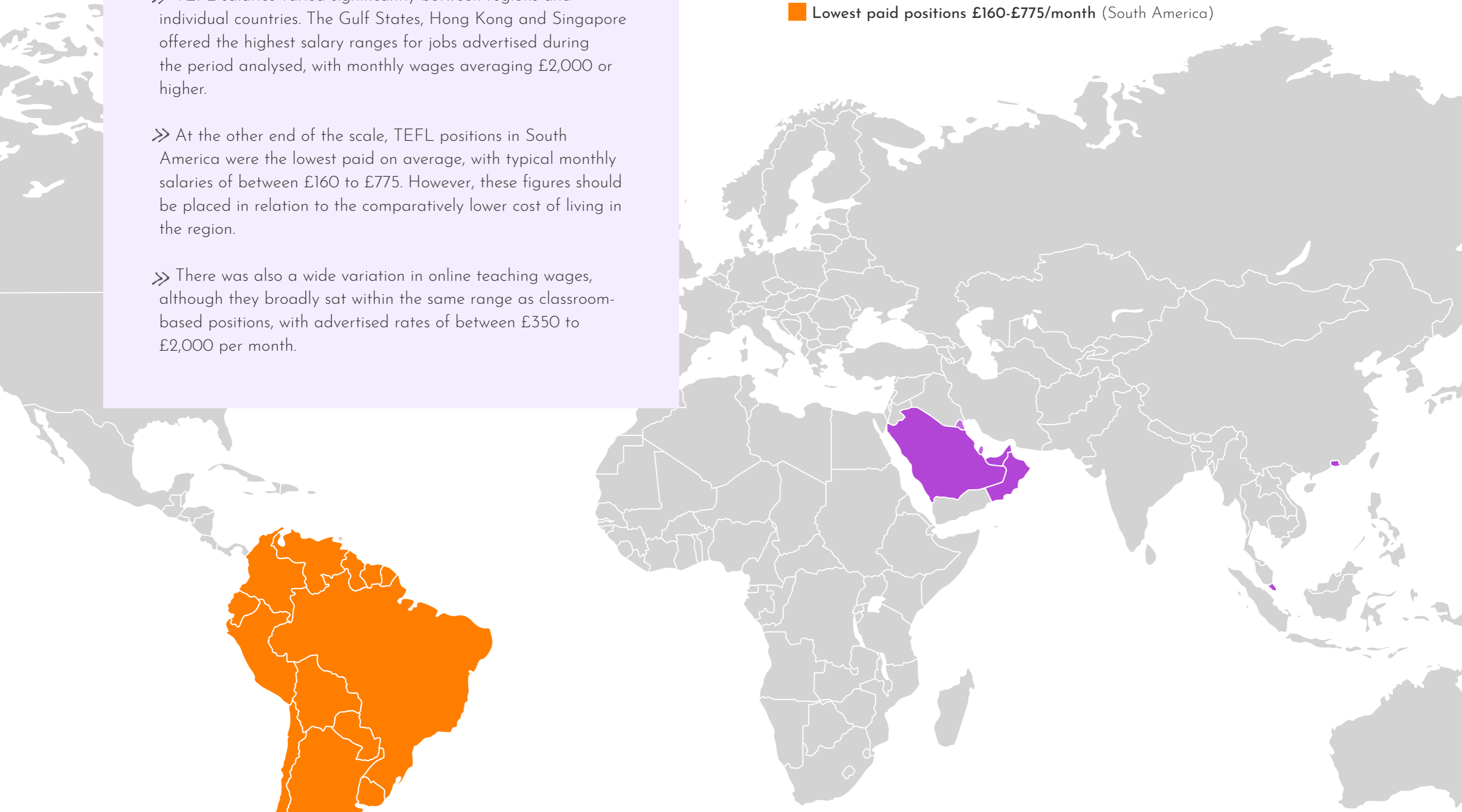
» TEFL salaries varied significantly between regions and individual countries. The Gulf States, Hong Kong and Singapore offered the highest salary ranges for jobs advertised during the period analysed, with monthly wages averaging £2,000 or higher.

» At the other end of the scale, TEFL positions in South America were the lowest paid on average, with typical monthly salaries of between £160 to £775. However, these figures should be placed in relation to the comparatively lower cost of living in the region.

» There was also a wide variation in online teaching wages, although they broadly sat within the same range as classroom-based positions, with advertised rates of between £350 to £2,000 per month.

## Highest vs. lowest salaries

- Highest paid positions £2,000+/month (Gulf States/ Hong Kong/ Singapore)
- Lowest paid positions £160-£775/month (South America)





» Covid-19 has severely restricted classroom-based teaching



## CONCLUSION

The findings of our snapshot research reveal that online TEFL teaching is increasing rapidly at a time when Covid-19 has severely restricted classroom-based teaching - although, interestingly, employers are also continuing to recruit for classroom-based positions, particularly for teaching posts in Asia (possibly in an effort to ensure they have suitable teachers in place once countries re-open following the pandemic).

The majority of advertised online teaching posts are for relatively short periods, with almost half of the posts advertised offering contracts of between one and five months. Online teaching posts are broadly comparable to classroom-based TEFL posts, in that they are:

- » Open to both new and experienced TEFL teachers
- » Require a degree and TEFL certification
- » Offer salaries broadly in line with classroom-based positions.

This means that online TEFL teaching is a viable option for teachers seeking a temporary way to teach and earn during the Covid-19 outbreak, particularly as they are unlikely to be tied to a lengthy contract.

### Further information

We will continue to monitor the TEFL jobs market and may periodically publish further analysis. For further information about i-to-i or this report, please visit [www.i-to-i.com](http://www.i-to-i.com) or contact Jackie Lewis, Marketing Director at [Jackie.lewis@i-to-i.com](mailto:Jackie.lewis@i-to-i.com)

# APPENDIX 1

## Percentage of jobs advertised by country

This appendix sets out the percentage of advertised jobs that were based in each country / online compared to the total number advertised in February and March 2020.

It also highlights whether the actual number of positions advertised increased (flagged as a green box) or decreased (red box) in March compared to February.

## % of TEFL jobs by country

COUNTRY	% FOR PERIOD	% FEBRUARY	% MARCH
China	35%	38%	33%
Online	31%	28%	32%
Thailand	11%	14%	9%
Vietnam	5%	6%	4%
South Korea	4%	2%	5%
Hong Kong	4%	3%	4%
Spain	3%	4%	3%
Taiwan	1%	2%	1%
Saudi Arabia	1%	<1%	1%
Poland	1%	0%	1%
Brunei	1%	0%	1%
Indonesia	1%	1%	1%
Oman	1%	0%	1%
Argentina	<1%	0%	1%
Italy	<1%	<1%	1%
Cambodia	<1%	1%	0%
Russia	<1%	<1%	<1%
UAE	<1%	<1%	0%
Mexico	<1%	0%	<1%
France	<1%	<1%	<1%
Singapore	<1%	<1%	0%
Myanmar	<1%	<1%	<1%
Czech Republic	<1%	0%	<1%
Greece	<1%	0%	<1%
Chile	<1%	<1%	0%
Hungary	<1%	0%	<1%
United Kingdom	<1%	0%	<1%

# APPENDIX 2

## Breakdown of advertised Jobs

This appendix provides a summary of the typical jobs, salary ranges, contract lengths and requirements for paid teaching positions advertised on the LoveTEFL jobs board (<https://lovetefljobs.com/>) between 1 February 2020 and 30 March 2020, broken down by country.

### Online TEFL jobs

TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• Adult/children</li> <li>• Conversational/specialist classes</li> </ul>	£350- £2,000	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>desirable</i>)</li> <li>• 1+ years' experience (<i>desirable</i>)</li> </ul>

This breakdown covers paid positions only. Voluntary positions and unpaid internships are not included.

\*Per month

## Asia TEFL jobs

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Brunei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Primary</li> </ul>	£2,125- £2,400	24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• 3+ year's experience (<i>preferred</i>)</li> <li>• Native English</li> </ul>
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Kindergarten</li> </ul>	£1,200- £1,500	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> </ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full &amp; part time</li> <li>• Kindergarten, school age, adults</li> </ul>	£1,000- £3,750	1-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (<i>most posts</i>)</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>most posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English (<i>most posts</i>)</li> </ul>
Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Kindergarten/school age</li> </ul>	£2,200- £2,500	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• Native English (<i>desirable</i>)</li> </ul>
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£535- £885	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>some posts</i>)</li> </ul>
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Kindergarten/school age</li> </ul>	£1,100- £1,600	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (<i>most posts</i>)</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>most posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English (<i>most posts</i>)</li> </ul>

## Asia TEFL jobs continued...

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£2,600- £2,700	24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>desirable</i>)</li> <li>• Native English</li> </ul>
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Kindergarten/ adults</li> <li>• Language/ public schools</li> </ul>	£1,350- £1,950	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English</li> </ul>
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Business English, General EFL</li> </ul>	£850- £1,950	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• Teaching experience (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English</li> </ul>
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Adults/ Kindergarten</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£750- £1,450	4-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English</li> </ul>
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• Primary/ secondary/ adults</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£750- £1,800	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• Native English (<i>most posts</i>)</li> </ul>

## Europe TEFL jobs

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• Kindergarten/ adults</li> </ul>	£775- £1,300	10-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>desirable</i>)</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience (<i>desirable</i>)</li> </ul>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£200- £1,000	1-8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>desirable</i>)</li> <li>• EU citizen</li> </ul>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• Summer camps</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£300- £1,100	1-8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience (<i>some posts</i>)</li> <li>• Native English (<i>desirable</i>)</li> <li>• EU citizen</li> </ul>
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• State schools</li> </ul>	£500- £950	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience</li> <li>• EU national</li> </ul>

## Europe TEFL jobs continued...

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£580- £1,200	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (some posts)</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (some posts)</li> <li>• 1+ year's teaching experience (some posts)</li> </ul>
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• Summer camps</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£300- £1,000	1-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (some posts)</li> <li>• TEFL certification</li> <li>• 1+ certificate experience (some posts)</li> <li>• Native English (some posts)</li> <li>• EU national</li> </ul>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£750- £1,150	3-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience (some posts)</li> <li>• EU citizen (some posts)</li> </ul>
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host teacher</li> </ul>	£400- £450	1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience</li> </ul>

## The Gulf states TEFL jobs

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£1,900- £2,900	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• 1-3 years' experience</li> </ul>
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• Universities</li> </ul>	£2,300- £2,900	12-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience</li> <li>• Native English (some posts)</li> </ul>
UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£1,500- £2,000	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (desirable)</li> </ul>

## South America TEFL jobs

COUNTRY	TYPICAL JOBS	SALARY*	CONTRACT	REQUIREMENTS
Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£160- £400	4-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree (desirable)</li> <li>• TEFL certificate (desirable)</li> <li>• 1+ year's experience (desirable)</li> </ul>
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full/part time</li> <li>• General EFL</li> </ul>	£375- £775	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree</li> <li>• TEFL certificate</li> </ul>