

Online English teaching on the rise as classroom doors close

The number of advertised online TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) positions has surged over the past month, according to newly published research from TEFL experts, i-to-i.

In an effort to understand the immediate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the TEFL jobs market, i-to-i analysed all 7,005 TEFL positions advertised on specialist TEFL jobs' board, Love TEFL between 1 February and 30 March 2020.

This analysis revealed that the number of online teaching positions advertised soared by a whopping 54% between February and March 2020. In total, online TEFL positions made up nearly a third (31%) of all English teaching positions advertised across the period.

The research also revealed that online TEFL teachers are expected to have both a degree and TEFL certification from a recognised TEFL provider. However, previous teaching experience is not mandatory – opening up the potential of online TEFL work to those with strong English language skills seeking a new opportunity during the lock-down.

Gordon Mathie, Managing Director of i-to-i, had this to say, “These figures are clearly demonstrative of the seismic shift from classroom-based schooling to online teaching within the TEFL industry – fuelled largely due to the effects of the coronavirus outbreak. We’ll be watching these trends carefully and will report back on them in our next market analysis.”

Interestingly, the analysis also identified that TEFL employers in a number of Asian countries, including China and South Korea, are continuing to advertise for classroom-based positions, despite the pandemic – presumably in the expectation that the demand for face-to-face teachers will return once the outbreak is under control.

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Notes to Editors:

- i-to-i is a Leeds-based TEFL course provider, delivering online and classroom TEFL courses leading to Ofqual-regulated TEFL qualifications. The company was founded in 1994 and is recognised as one of the world-leading TEFL course providers with over 15,000 graduates a year.
- i-to-i's snapshot research reviewed all jobs advertised on i-to-i's sister company, Love TEFL, jobs board (<https://lovetefljobs.com/>) between 1 February and 30 March 2020. This was a total of 7005 positions.
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