

A night-time photograph of the Dubai skyline, featuring the Burj Khalifa and the Burj Al Arab, with their lights reflecting on the water in the foreground.

Deciding which international jobs to apply for

Once you have completed the required documents for job applications and are ready to apply for jobs your consultant will send you job descriptions for the roles which are potentially suitable to get your approval to send applications on your behalf. At this point you'll be able to ask any questions you have and should make sure that you are happy with all the particulars mentioned in the job description.

You should weigh up all the factors we've outlined below and tell us which jobs you'd like to apply for and we'll do the rest on your behalf - it does make our job easier if you rank them in order of preference so that we can be tactical (although it's fairly common for your preferences to change later so don't feel like you are making a final decision yet).

It is really important, however, that you feel like you would accept the roles based on the information you have on them - if you interview with a school and then turn down a job offer for something that's been clear from this point (e.g. location) then you've been wasting their time and it's not fair on them or any other people they are interviewing. However, if you turn offers down because another school you prefer has also offered you a job or because of something that's come to light through the interview process that's completely fine.

For example, if you choose 5 jobs to apply to and rank them in order, you should feel like you will be happy accepting your number 5 choice if you don't get offered the others and all else is well - if you don't think that's the case then just choose 4!

The key thing though, is to ask questions where you aren't sure - if you want them to your consultant will talk you through the options on the phone.

All that said - what's included in the job descriptions?

Job role

The job description will start with a job title and usually have a little further information. These can be quite generalised - especially if a school has the option to move other teachers around. E.g. If a job says 'Science Teacher' you could have any specialism and if it says 'Primary Teacher' that shouldn't put you off if you are specific about which year groups you'll teach - just make sure we are aware if that's the case and we'll let the school know.

Another factor to this is if you are looking for a role with extra responsibility - quite often that's something that will be discussed at interview or after a job offer... for example a school may decide to hire all their staff for next year before deciding who will be a Head of Year.

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School description

Most of our agreements with schools state that we shouldn't reveal the name of the school unless they express an interest in you - this is because they use us to liaise with you to save themselves time and they don't want to be hassled by people they said no to - practically this shouldn't make a difference to which roles you want to apply to and if the school does want to interview you then we'll send you all the extra information to do your research on them before you have an interview.

We'll usually have a brief description of the school giving you some insight into the environment - remember an interview is a chance to find out more information, just check if you think it sounds like a school you would potentially like to work in. If you have any specific questions that aren't covered in the job description just ask your consultant!

Salaries (and cost of living)

If money is a motivating factor you don't need to be bashful about it, but it's highly recommended to start thinking about savings potential rather than salary... put it this way, would you rather earn £100k but spend it all on covering your costs or earn £20k and save £15k per year? It doesn't hurt at this point to get slightly ahead of yourself and look at our understanding international job offers page and if you are worried about money then remember cost of living will be a big factor.

Different schools will have different requirements for what we can reveal about salaries - some will allow us to say where they start (the lowest salary which you would only get if you don't have experience) or they may say the salary range. It's important not to overestimate where you will be on their scale as years of experience, qualifications and seniority of job role are all factors. To complicate things further many schools ask us not to reveal salary details in job descriptions and so some may say 'competitive salary' - including some of the highest paying schools.

Usually the best thing to do here is to set a savings goal of how much money you'd like to save each month and your consultant will be able to advise you which jobs that will be achievable in.

Location

If it's a location you've already decided you want to go to that's great and you can skip ahead to the next point, however you'll likely be looking at some jobs descriptions for locations you haven't considered or even ones you haven't heard of - don't panic! - to go a bit proverbial on this, often the best opportunities are on roads less travelled. Just keep open minded and do some research (and remember that not everywhere is for everyone - just because someone else didn't like somewhere doesn't mean you won't).

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The job description itself will usually have a brief description of the location which will give you a quick overview to start. If you aren't sure the next step should be to discuss with your consultant who may be able to share some information or resources for your research into the location and even the feedback we've received from other people who've been there. The Wikipedia page for the city is usually a great resource (and crucially an impartial one). Feel free to look at blogs, forums and reviews but remember to take them with a pinch of salt - not only is everyone's experience different but the people having a great time are likely not ranting about it online.

Again, there's no problem with having preferences or concerns at this stage, or choosing one job option over another later but if there's no way you'd accept a job in that location no matter what the school says then don't apply for it!

Curriculum

If you already teach the curriculum the school does or it's one you've been trying to get into treat this as another box that's been ticked, however if it's a curriculum you are unfamiliar with you should do some basic research to make sure you'd be happy with it... any uncertainties and have a quick chat with your consultant.

For moving between different national curriculums (UK/US/Australian etc.) if the school is willing to consider people without that curriculum experience you'll likely be fine if you are flexible and willing to learn something new. If the school teaches an enquiry-based curriculum (IB PYP/MYP/DP, IPC etc) you should make sure that fits your teaching style. Remember that for many people teaching across a variety of curriculums can broaden their experience and help them become a better teacher as well as give them more options later in their career.

Sponsorship

This one should only be a concern if you are not travelling alone. It will outline who they will sponsor in terms of dependants. Your consultant will try to send you roles that are suitable for your family situation but it's worth double checking this part of the job description if it applies to you - any questions? Just talk to your consultant!

Accommodation

There can be a few different options on this one... the 3 main categories for accommodation benefit (where provided) are single, shared and allowance. Schools may or may not allow you to choose between options on that or change later (eg. live in provided accommodation in your first year and get an allowance in your second).

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Single accommodation means you will get your own place all to yourself - the particulars of this vary from school to school but it's commonly going to be a 1-bedroom apartment which is already furnished with all the essentials (bed, cooker etc.) within a reasonable commuting distance of the school. You may be responsible for paying utility bills or they may be looked after as part of your benefits package.

Shared accommodation can vary - from sharing a 2-bedroom apartment with another teacher to sharing a house between 4 teachers - in most shared accommodation you'll have your own bathroom so will only be sharing the kitchen and common area. This will almost always come furnished and almost always include free utilities. Schools generally work to ensure teachers are happy in the accommodation so you'll likely be matched up with people who are a similar age and the same gender as you... you'll probably become best friends very quickly!

Accommodation allowances are usually set around the cost of a 1-bed apartment in the area, but give you the flexibility to either get somewhere cheaper to save money or spend a bit extra from your salary to get somewhere nicer in exchange for not . When schools give allowances they will often do a bit extra to help you with setting that up which can sometimes include putting you up in a hotel or temporary apartment upon arrival, setting up viewings and liaising with landlords on your behalf or assisting with getting all the furniture you need.

All have their own pros and cons - single offers both privacy and simplicity, shared is also simple and is one of the best ways to build a friendship group and allowances can add a bit of complication to your initial move but give you flexibility and choice.

Have you applied there before?

The final thing you should consider, if you aren't using Teachanywhere exclusively for your job search, is if you have applied to the school already. Sending multiple applications to the same school through different avenues is not a good thing - it both reduces your chances of success and complicates things for the school. If you applied and were told no this is still true as the school will just say that they have already rejected an application from you and won't consider the new application with all the extra detail we provide... the exception to this is if you applied in a previous job search a year or more ago and then we will be able to apply for you.

As we aren't allowed to reveal school names at this point you'll need to go from the information provided for this - the easiest thing to do is speak to your consultant and tell them where you've applied already and we won't send an application if it's the same school.



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And that's it - weigh up these factors, let your consultant know which jobs you'd like to apply for and we'll do the rest... just put your feet up and cross your fingers while you wait for the feedback and (hopefully) interviews!