TEACHING ROUTES AND TYPICAL PAY, 2027

Where can South Africans **teach English**?

Three routes, depending on your qualification. Each one starts with an accredited TEFL certificate of 120 hours or more.

ROUTE 1

Abroad, with a degree

A bachelor's degree in any subject is needed for the work visa. A diploma alone is usually not enough.

COUNTRY	PER MONTH, US$	APPROX. IN RAND
United Arab Emirates Often needs a teaching degree	$3,500–$5,500	**R60,000–R93,000**
Saudi Arabia Often needs a teaching degree	$3,000–$4,500	**R51,000–R76,000**
China Housing often included	$1,800–$3,500	**R31,000–R60,000**
Japan The JET programme is one route	$2,000–$3,000	**R34,000–R51,000**
Taiwan A smaller, steady market	$2,000–$3,000	**R34,000–R51,000**
South Korea Free flat and flights on EPIK	$1,700–$2,650	**R29,000–R45,000**
Vietnam Low living costs	$1,200–$2,100	**R20,000–R36,000**
Thailand Lower pay, low living costs	$1,000–$1,500	**R17,000–R26,000**

ROUTE 2

Abroad, without a degree

Open to diploma holders and school leavers. Your TEFL certificate is the main qualification employers look at.

COUNTRY	PER MONTH
Cambodia Best pay against living costs	€900–€1,400 **R18,000–R27,000**
Mexico Job offer needed before the visa	€700–€1,200 **R14,000–R23,000**

Also open without a degree

Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil and Georgia. Pay is modest and usually covers local living costs.

EVERY ROUTE NEEDS

- An accredited TEFL certificate, 120 hours or more
- A police clearance certificate
- A passport valid for at least 18 months

ROUTE 3

Online, from South Africa

No degree on most platforms. No visa and no flights, and pay arrives in dollars or euros.

PLATFORM	PER HOUR
Cambly Conversation practice, flexible hours	$10.20 **about R175**
Preply Set your own rate, less commission	$15–$25 **R255–R425**
italki Set your own rate	$13–$20 **R220–R340**
Lingoda Needs TEFL and two years' experience	$8–$13 **R135–R220**
Private students Experienced tutors: IELTS, business English	**R600–R1,000**

The quickest start: **earn from home** first, then go abroad with experience.

Typical pay ranges, not guarantees. Rand figures are approximate, converted at R17 to US$1 and R19.50 to €1, and rounded. Visa rules change, so confirm with the embassy before applying. Source: The TEFL Institute destination and online teaching guides, 2026.