



# Teach in Beijing

Ian Seaborne currently enjoying his placement in China



If you are looking forward to the 2008 Olympics then why not think about taking a paid gap year in Beijing?

**CHINA is a fast changing country where English language learning is increasingly important, and Teach English In China (TEIC) is a brand programme offering a fascinating, exciting and very different post-university gap year. The only requirement is that you are a graduate and a native English speaker.**

Perhaps you're a new or recent graduate unsure of where to go next, or thinking about starting a career in teaching and looking for the perfect way to combine paid work experience with exciting travel. Or you may be in a 'career rut' and looking for a fresh challenge. TEIC could be the exciting opportunity you've been waiting for – and you may even be in China in time to experience the Beijing Olympics!

TEIC is a small, UK-based non-commercial programme, offering a personal travel experience. As a Teaching Assistant your role will be to provide English language conversational classes and correct students' written work. The positions are in high quality, vetted state schools, colleges or universities, in major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Anshan, Urumqi, and Shijiazhuang. All institutions recruit at least two English language teachers per year from the programme.

### **The TEIC programme**

The programme runs from September to June. The autumn semester runs until early January with a mid semester break but no Christmas break. There is a four to five week holiday for

the Chinese New Year, in January/February. This means plenty of opportunity to travel within China or further afield. The spring semester, with a mid-semester break of a week, finishes at the end of June.

There are a number of public state holidays in addition to the longer breaks. Many teachers stay on for a while after the end of their placement to enjoy some self-funded travel around China and Asia.

*“TEIC has been one of the most challenging but at the same time most fulfilling things I have ever done. My advice to anyone considering it would be to come and experience it for themselves; they will not regret it.”*

*Kiran Gopal*

TEIC is run in conjunction with The China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) in Beijing. The work of CEAIE involves numerous cooperation programmes with educational and research institutions, academic bodies, exchange organisations, schools, enterprises, and individuals in other countries who are enthusiastic for supporting educational development on the basis of principles of equality and friendship. Affiliated to the Ministry of Education of China, it is a nationwide, not-for-profit organisation founded in 1981.

### The financial aspects

In exchange for the £150 administration fee, and the cost of a work visa, you will get a return air fare from London to Beijing, including transfers, and a campus flat - either all yours or shared. All accommodation is secure and furnished, with modern amenities including television, internet, shower and washing machine. Participants pay for the airfare initially, but it is refunded during the teaching post in two instalments.

Programme teachers are paid £75 per week, tax free (which is the equivalent of about £300 in China) for 18 hours of teaching. Partners and families may be able to live with you, although they will need to pay for their own airfares. Teachers are also assigned to an English speaking ‘buddy’ and have full local

support from a dedicated staff member at the China Education Association for International Exchange.

### Silver gappers as well

With a growing number of professionals retiring early to enjoy some well-deserved personal freedom, travelling abroad to teach is no longer an option restricted to young graduates. TEIC offers a different programme for those over 50 who would welcome the opportunity to do the programme over one semester; between September and January, or February and June. The only requirement for not completing a full year’s teaching, is that you pay half of your flights, either to or from China.

In fact, given China’s attitude towards the older generation, the more respected you’ll be as a teacher. Teaching in China will give you the chance to develop new skills, face new challenges and make new friends. What’s more, you can also bring your partner with you if you wish. They will need to pay for their own flights but once here in China you will be accommodated together in secure, furnished flat close to the institution in which you are teaching.

### The perfect CV

TEIC provides a great opportunity to travel and make a difference, and with more competition for graduate jobs than ever, it’s one of the best ways to develop new transferable skills and give your CV that edge. If you choose to learn Chinese, this will also look great on your CV.

### Further information

- Professor Phil Thomas from Cardiff University is the UK organiser for TEIC. Contact Professor Thomas on +44 (0)29 208 74368 or email [ThomasPA@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ThomasPA@cardiff.ac.uk)
- Teach English In China [www.teic.co.uk](http://www.teic.co.uk)
- The China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) [www.ceaie.edu.cn](http://www.ceaie.edu.cn)

## Glimpses of China, by Ian Seaborne

Ian joined the TEIC Programme recently. As a passionate photographer, he will be bringing an extensive collection of images home with him later this year. Here is just a small fragment from his album.

View Glimpses of China Quicktime movie

