

FET, ELTA, TFETP

Orientation

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Outline of today's meeting

1. Your integration
2. Your School
3. Your Co-workers
4. Your expectations
5. Your contributions
6. Incoming and Outgoing Survey
7. Questions/Suggestions

Moving to Taiwan to teach English!!!

Factors that may affect your stay may include:

Language

Foods

Social Groups

Homesick

Job Satisfaction

Culture

Language

Moving to Taiwan will be much easier if you have a grasp of Mandarin or Taiwanese. It is not necessary, but having just a little understanding of the languages will open many more opportunities for you during your stay in Taiwan. Living in the larger cities it will be easy to find ex-pat groups to learn the ins and outs of your locale. If you live in a rural area there will surely be a couple people that will be able to speak some English, but it will not be as common as the cities.

Language Exchange

This is very simple as you are a commodity here in Taiwan. Your English is in demand, and the supply of English is not really abundant. Therefore, finding someone that wants to trade English/Chinese classes is usually quite simple. You will meet many people that will keep it more informal as a friendship. They will want to get to know you and teach you about their culture while learning some English from you. You will often be pleasantly surprised by the random person that speaks English amazingly well. Anywhere from your taxi driver to students sitting next to you on the train.

Language Cont'd

Putting in some solid study during your downtime hours at school can have you passing an intermediate level examination in Mandarin before the first year is complete. Passing this exam opens doors to many employment opportunities. Taiwan "guan xi" is very important. Making friends and connections will afford you opportunities that you would just not be privy to if you don't speak the language. I highly recommend getting to low level intermediate Mandarin if you have the time and you have any desire to lengthen your time spent working in Taiwan.

School

The school you teach at is where you will spend 33% of your week. Take stock in your surroundings. What do you like about your school? Is there anything you don't like about your school?

Personally, I loved my previous position at Ji'An elementary school. It is small, quaint, and right beneath the mountains. The classes were 23-25 students and they were all well mannered. The staff was delightful and outgoing. I loved this position so much more than the city schools that I would take a pay cut to teach there.

School

This year of teaching at your school should be a benefit to both the students you are teaching and yourself as well. Take the time to see what you like about your school. Evaluate what you can suggest or do to make your time there more eventful and productive. This is a great experience for you going forward. You have the opportunity to watch and gain from other teachers abilities or strategies. If you feel so inclined, you can most likely get more involved in planning and implementing of teaching philosophies, curriculum planning, outcome based goals, and evaluations in your classes.

Co-Workers

You will find that Taiwanese people are generally very, very cordial and helpful. They tend to go the extra step to make you feel welcome and comfortable. The more you interact and reciprocate, like anything in life, the more you will become part of the team and have a feeling of inclusion.

Co-workers

On the off chance that you are working in a situation where you are finding it difficult to communicate with anyone at your school in terms of language or just the atmosphere of your workplace, please reach out to me and let me know how I can help you.

My main role in your future for you time here in Taiwan

My main task as far as the MOE is concerned is to monitor your classes at least once a semester and give any instruction as to what is, or may not be working so well in the classroom. Suggest strategies or teaching styles that may benefit you while teaching here in Taiwan.

My task as far as I am concerned is that of a Human Resource Manager. I want you to be content and successful while you are in Taiwan. Socially and when you are at work. Happy teachers are what I strive for.

Your expectations

I don't really want to say too much in this section...I would like to open the floor up to you and hear some of your expectations of your tenure here in Taiwan.

Social

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Workplace

Language

Concerns

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Living Arrangements

Foods

Your contributions to your workplace

For many of you, this is your first year in Taiwan. This may also be your first year of teaching. If not, great...you can be a resource for some of our other newer teachers. The ELTA program teachers will always have a Taiwanese English teacher in the classroom to assist with the lessons. The FET and TFETP teachers may very well be teaching on their own. If you find yourself with a Taiwanese English teacher, use this time to see what styles they use in the classroom. Quietly, (in your head, or in your computer later) critique the class and see what you would change or what great ideas you discover.

Your Contributions

There will be a little bit of a feeling out stage for every single teacher or assistant when you start at your new school. Your involvement in the class will largely depend on your own initiative.

Example, My time at Ji'An Elementary school

You will need to decide if you want to be a passive participant in the school year or take the bull by the horns and be more of an active member of your English teacher team.

Incoming and Follow up surveys

PWU - Philippine Women's University

Master's Program - Early Childhood Education

Thesis Paper - Adaptation and Job Satisfaction affecting
Foreign teacher's length of Tenure in Taiwan.

I would appreciate anyone who would participate in my surveys in order to discover what factors may lengthen tenure for foreign teachers, here in Taiwan. Longer tenure means less training, more familiarity with teachers for students, and happier, more productive teachers.

Questions and Suggestions

Where can I get a yoga mat?

How do I find language exchange?

Help me out with my driver license.

Where can I get some food from my homeland?

Official Office Hours

If you need to contact me with any concerns, I will be available for direct contact on Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-5pm. You can contact me through my line account.



LINE ID - chrishualien

You can contact me day or night. I will get back to you as soon as I see your concern.

End of year output project

Diary? Curriculum plan?

Rubric that you developed?

How the program has benefited you?

Slideshow of your year at the school?

Analysis of your teaching style or what you have learned from other teachers.

Semester Get Together

Each semester I offer to treat you all to a get together. We can either have a big BBQ at my home or I can take you all out for a dinner at a restaurant. I will leave that up to you to decide. I would suggest we have this dinner more towards the beginning of each semester so teachers will have a chance to mingle amongst one another and discuss anything about their placement. I think Friday nights are probably a good night.....