

Guide to Teaching in the Middle East

Tap into our years of experience teaching in the Middle East with Sistersteachingabroad. We're here to empower you with practical advice and insider tips to make your teaching journey in this vibrant part of the world truly unforgettable.

This guide includes valuable information and self-reflection questions to help you prepare for a teaching job in the Middle East. For even more valuable information, follow our Instagram page @sistersteachingabroad where we share additional details!

Reasons for Teaching in the Middle East and Self-Evaluation

1 Broaden your horizons

The Middle East is a culturally rich and diverse region that offers a unique opportunity to experience a new lifestyle, customs, and traditions. Teaching in the Middle East will broaden your horizons and help you gain a deeper understanding of the world.

2 Career development

Teaching in the Middle East can be a great opportunity to develop your career. You will have the chance to work with talented and motivated students, gain experience in a new school system, and work with colleagues from around the world.

3 Potential for a high salary

Teaching in the Middle East can be financially rewarding. Salaries in the region are often higher than in other parts of the world, and many schools offer additional benefits such as free housing, health insurance, and flights home.

Self-Reflection Questions

1 Why do I want to teach in the Middle East?

Think about your reasons for wanting to teach in the Middle East. What are your personal and professional goals? How will this experience help you achieve them?

2 What skills and qualifications do I have?

Reflect on your skills and qualifications as a teacher. What unique qualities do you bring to the table? What areas do you need to improve on?

3 How can I prepare for teaching in the Middle East?

Think about what you can do to prepare for your teaching journey in the Middle East. What research should you do? What cultural norms and traditions should you be aware of? What resources and support do you need?

Teaching in the Middle East can be a life-changing experience, so take the time to reflect on your motivations and goals before embarking on this journey.

Your Goals for Teaching in the Middle East

Career advancement

If your goal is career advancement, you are on the right track. Teaching in the Middle East can give you the competitive edge you need to move up the career ladder. You will have the chance to expand your skills, knowledge, and network beyond your current location.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

What specific career goals do you hope to achieve by teaching in the Middle East? How will this experience enhance your professional development?

Cultural exploration

If you are seeking to learn about other cultures and broaden your worldview, teaching in the Middle East can provide you with a unique opportunity. You will have the chance to immerse yourself in a rich and diverse cultural environment and learn from your students and colleagues.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

What aspects of Middle Eastern culture are you most interested in exploring? How do you plan to engage with the local community and learn from your students?

Personal enrichment

If your goal is personal enrichment, look no further. Teaching in the Middle East can be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. You will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of young people, gain a deeper understanding of the world, and develop friendships and connections that will last a lifetime.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

How do you envision this teaching experience enriching your personal life? What personal goals or values align with this opportunity?

Having clear goals and objectives for your teaching experience in the Middle East will help you stay focused, motivated, and energized.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Teaching in the Middle East

Teaching in the Middle East has both advantages and disadvantages, and it is important to carefully weigh these factors before making the decision to apply for a teaching position.

Advantages

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1 High salary and benefits</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What financial goals do you hope to achieve by teaching in the Middle East? How will you manage your finances while living abroad?</p> | <p>2 Cultural enrichment</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What specific cultural experiences do you hope to have while teaching in the Middle East? How will you prepare to adapt to a new cultural environment?</p> | <p>3 Career development</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What specific career goals do you hope to achieve by teaching in the Middle East? How will this experience enhance your professional development?</p> |
| <p>4 Safe and stable environment</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What safety concerns do you have about living and working in the Middle East? How will you manage these concerns?</p> | <p>5 New and exciting lifestyle</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What lifestyle changes are you looking forward to by teaching in the Middle East? How will you adapt to a new way of life?</p> | |

Disadvantages

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Challenging teaching environment</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What teaching challenges do you anticipate in the Middle East? How will you prepare to overcome these challenges?</p> | <p>2 Cultural differences</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What cultural differences do you anticipate in the Middle East? How will you adapt to a new cultural environment?</p> | <p>3 Language barriers</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What language barriers do you anticipate in the Middle East? How will you overcome these barriers?</p> |
| <p>4 Restricted freedoms</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What freedoms do you anticipate being restricted in the Middle East? How will you adapt to these restrictions?</p> | <p>5 Climate and weather</p> <p>▼ Self-Reflection Question</p> <p>What climate and weather challenges do you anticipate in the Middle East? How will you prepare for these challenges?</p> | |

Researching for the Best School for You

Researching for the best school for you is crucial for a successful teaching experience. You should consider factors such as location, culture, curriculum, student population, and school reputation. Do your research, ask for recommendations from colleagues, and read reviews online. The more information you have, the better you can make an informed decision.

Types of Schools in the Middle East

1 International Schools

These schools follow an international curriculum and cater to students from various nationalities. They often offer a multicultural environment and provide opportunities for teachers to gain international teaching experience.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

What are the advantages and challenges of teaching in an international school? How do your skills and experiences align with the requirements of an international school?

2 Local Schools

These schools follow the national curriculum of the host country. They provide an opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and education system. Teaching in a local school can offer a unique experience and help you develop a deeper understanding of the local context.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

What are your motivations for teaching in a local school? How do you plan to bridge cultural differences and adapt to the local education system?

3 Language Schools

These schools focus on teaching English as a second language. They often cater to adult learners or students preparing for international exams. Teaching in a language school can be rewarding as you help students improve their language skills and achieve their goals.

▼ Self-Reflection Question

What qualities and skills do you possess that make you a good fit for teaching in a language school? How do you plan to create a supportive and engaging learning environment for your students?

Job Application Process

Job Application Process

Applying for a teaching job in the Middle East can be a daunting task, but with the right preparation and research, you can make a successful application. Be sure to include a well-written cover letter, an updated resume, and relevant teaching certificates and transcripts.

Interview Preparation

Interview Preparation

Preparing for a job interview in the Middle East requires research and practice. Anticipate the questions you may be asked and prepare answers that highlight your strengths and experiences. Dress professionally, be punctual, and show your enthusiasm and passion for teaching.

▼ TIP: Using the STAR Method

The STAR method is a great technique for answering behavioral interview questions. STAR stands for Situation, Task, Action, and Result. Here's an example:

- **Situation:** During my previous teaching position, I had a student who was struggling with reading comprehension.
- **Task:** My task was to develop a targeted intervention plan to help the student improve.
- **Action:** I collaborated with the student's parents, conducted assessments, and implemented a personalized reading program.
- **Result:** As a result of our efforts, the student's reading comprehension improved significantly, and they gained confidence in their abilities.

Salary and Benefits

Salary and Benefits

Salaries and benefits vary depending on the location, school, and experience. It's important to research the average salaries for your position and experience level in the Middle East. Here's a breakdown of expected salaries and benefits:

Salary: The average salary for teaching positions in the Middle East ranges from £22,000 to £44,000 per year, depending on qualifications and experience.

Housing: Many schools provide free or subsidized housing as part of the employment package.

Health Insurance: Comprehensive health insurance coverage is often included.

Flight Allowance: Some schools offer an annual flight allowance to cover travel expenses to and from your home country.

Professional Development: Many schools provide opportunities for professional development and may cover the cost of workshops, conferences, or advanced degrees.

Paid Leave: Paid vacation time and holidays are typically included in the benefits package.

When negotiating your salary and benefits package, consider your qualifications, experience, and the cost of living in the specific location. Highlight your unique skills and negotiate for additional benefits or a higher salary that reflects your value as an educator.

▼ Self-Reflection Questions

- What are your salary expectations and how do they align with your financial goals?
- What benefits are important to you in a teaching position, and how do they contribute to your overall job satisfaction?
- How comfortable are you with negotiating your salary and benefits package, and what strategies will you use to advocate for yourself?

Documentation Process, Prep, and Planning for the Move



Documentation Process

Before leaving for the Middle East, you will need to prepare and obtain various documents such as visas, work permits, and medical certificates. Keep track of your documentation and make sure everything is up to date and valid.

▼ TIP: Cost of Documentation

Document processing fees can vary depending on the type of document and the country where it is processed. Plan ahead and budget for these costs, which can range from £50 to £500 or more per document.

- What documents do you currently have and what documents do you still need to obtain?
- What is the cost of obtaining these documents and how will you budget for these expenses?
- How will you keep track of your documents and ensure that everything is up to date and valid?

Preparation and Planning

Preparing for your move to the Middle East requires careful planning and organization. Pack your belongings carefully, research the climate and culture of your destination, and familiarize yourself with local laws and customs.

▼ TIP: Packing Tips

When packing for your move, consider the climate and culture of your destination. Pack lightweight, breathable clothing for hot weather, and consider bringing layers for cooler temperatures. Don't forget to pack any necessary medications or medical supplies, and leave space in your luggage for souvenirs and other purchases.

- What items are essential to pack for your move, and how will you ensure that you have everything you need?
- What do you know about the climate and culture of your destination, and how will you prepare for any differences?
- What local laws and customs do you need to be aware of, and how will you familiarize yourself with them?

Common Issues Faced by New Expat Teachers

- 1 Cultural differences in teaching methods
- 2 Language barriers
- 3 Adjusting to a new school environment
- 4 Dealing with homesickness
- 5 Building relationships with students and colleagues

10 Tips for Making New Friends and Building a Life Abroad

- 1 Join local social clubs or organizations
- 2 Take language or cultural classes
- 3 Attend community events and festivals
- 4 Volunteer in your new community
- 5 Explore local hobbies or sports activities
- 6 Connect with other expats or teachers
- 7 Use social media to find local groups or meetups
- 8 Be open-minded and approachable
- 9 Learn about local customs and traditions
- 10 Stay positive and embrace new experiences

Dealing with Homesickness

- 1 Stay connected with friends and family back home through video calls or messages
- 2 Create a routine and establish a sense of familiarity in your new environment
- 3 Explore your new surroundings and find activities that bring you joy
- 4 Join local support groups or expat communities
- 5 Practice self-care and engage in activities that help you relax and unwind

Self-Reflection Questions for New Expat Teachers

- 1 What challenges do you anticipate facing as a new expat teacher, and how do you plan to overcome them?
- 2 What steps have you taken or will you take to make new friends and build a life abroad?
- 3 How will you manage homesickness and maintain a positive mindset while abroad?
- 4 What aspects of the local culture are you most excited to learn about and incorporate into your daily life?
- 5 How do you hope your experience as an expat teacher will shape your personal and professional growth?