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**13 REASONS**  
TO THINK TWICE BEFORE  
ACCEPTING AN  
**INTERNATIONAL  
TEACHING JOB**

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# YOU'RE OFFERED A JOB WITHOUT AN INTERVIEW

No matter how impressive your qualifications, no legitimate school or recruiting agency would offer you a position without an interview. Any school that would do this is not some place you want to work.



# THE INTERVIEWER DOESN'T ASK RELEVANT QUESTIONS

During the interview, you should expect to discuss your pedagogical style, educational strategies, and the curriculum with which you have experience. If you're not asked about your work with students, your inner warning system should be on high alert.



# THE SCHOOL WILL NOT CONNECT YOU WITH A CURRENT TEACHER

The best way to learn about an organization is to talk to its members. A quality school should be happy to provide you with the contact information of a current member of the teaching staff. If they can't, it's not a good sign.



# YOU'RE ASKED TO SEND MONEY

You should never have to pay a school to hire you. It is possible that you may be expected to pay for travel or visa fees. If this is the case, pay for these things directly.

**DO NOT SEND MONEY TO THE SCHOOL.**

Be sure to ask about the reimbursement policy for such fees.



# THE SCHOOL LACKS ACCREDITATION

Quality international schools are usually accredited by a non-governmental entity that ensures schools meet established quality standards. Being designated an IB World School or offering College Board/Advanced Placement® curriculum is NOT the same thing as possessing accreditation.



# THE TURNOVER RATE IS HIGH

Keep in mind that the typical contract is 2 years. Often, staying in a country for longer has negative tax implications. So it isn't unusual for teachers to leave a school after 2 or 3 years. Any school that replaces most of its staff each year doesn't sound like a good place to work. Really scrutinize schools with turnover rates higher than 25%.



# THE SCHOOL DOESN'T APPLY FOR A WORK VISA

Every country requires foreigners working within its borders to have a proper visa. A school that tells you otherwise is not to be trusted. Very few countries allow those who plan to work to enter on a tourist visa and convert it to a work/residency visa. Working on an improper visa can result in jail time and/or deportation.



# YOU CAN'T GET A COPY OF THE CONTRACT

At many schools accepting a job offer and signing a contract are two different events. Before relocating and starting to work, you should have a copy of the signed contract. Proceeding without one is risky.



# YOU'RE ASKED TO TEACH OUTSIDE OF YOUR CERTIFICATION AREA

If you are asked to teach a content area or grade level for which you are not qualified, make sure that you are comfortable with the school's reason for doing so. Some countries have strict rules about teacher qualifications. Don't do something that will invalidate your visa.



# THERE ARE A LOT OF UNFILLED POSITIONS

Hiring season typically runs October to February for northern hemisphere schools. If the school has more than a couple of open positions after March, it may have serious morale and retention issues.



# COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL IS POOR

Failing to follow up, using poor spelling/grammar or responding in an unprofessional manner might be indicative of larger issues. Proceed with caution.



# YOU HAVE NO DETAILS ABOUT THE POSITION OR SCHOOL'S LOCATION

Even if you use a recruiter, this information should be readily available before the interview. Be skeptical of any offer of employment that does not include this information.



# YOUR GUT TELLS YOU SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT

Do not ignore your intuition. If something feels off about any part of the process, continue to ask questions until you get satisfactory responses. It's okay to walk away from a situation that seems off.



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with your international  
teaching job search?

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