

Engage Education

Engage Guide to Relocation



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Click on these pictures for useful blogs:



[Life in the UK as an international teacher](#)



[Teaching abroad: Our 3-month relocation guide](#)



[How to relocate and teach in the UK?](#)



[A guide to teaching in the UK](#)

Engage Statistics



- Over the past two years, Engage has supported teachers from more than 30 countries relocate to the United Kingdom.
- Since our establishment in 2008, Engage has successfully placed over 3,000 international candidates into permanent and contract teaching roles through both iday events and direct recruitment. From visa applications and accommodation to pet relocation and settling-in support, we've helped make every move a smooth one.
- With the trust of over 4,000 schools nationwide, we continue to provide a wide range of teaching opportunities to support your professional journey in the UK.



How we help



At Engage, we go beyond simply securing you a teaching position. Our mission is to provide end-to-end guidance throughout your journey to the UK.

From matching you with roles that align with your skills and career goals, to offering step-by-step assistance with the visa process, our team is here to ensure you have a smooth transition to your new teaching role.

We also provide ongoing relocation advice and professional support, so you can feel confident and well-prepared as you begin your teaching career in the UK.

Relocation Support

Our dedicated team is committed to making your move as seamless as possible. We provide:

- Tailored location advice: helping you identify regions of the UK that best suit your lifestyle and ambitions
- Interview preparation: expert coaching to help you feel confident and perform at your best
- School introductions: connecting you with a trusted network of schools that match your experience and career goals
- Visa and relocation assistance: step-by-step guidance with applications and essential arrangements



From your first enquiry to settling into your new role, Engage is with you every step of the way.

A step-by-step guide to applying for your visa

The UK's world-renowned education system offers exciting opportunities for those seeking to build a rewarding teaching career.

This guide breaks down the process, providing insights to successfully secure the necessary sponsorship you may need.



[Your Guide](#)

Step 1 - Explore your visa options

If you are a non-UK citizen wanting to teach in England, you will need a valid visa or immigration status that allows you to work in the UK. For most people, the main and the most common route will be the [Skilled Worker visa](#).

Who it's for:

- Qualified teachers with a confirmed job offer from a UK school that holds a Home Office sponsor license.

Key requirements:

- A job offer from an approved sponsor.
- Sufficient English language proficiency.
- The job meets the required salary threshold for skilled workers.

For a list of all visas and any requirements you may need, [click here](#).



Step 2 - Check Eligibility Requirements

- You must have a confirmed job offer from a licensed UK sponsor (this will usually be your school or local authority).
- Your salary must meet the pay scale requirements for teachers in England.
- You may also need to demonstrate your English language ability and provide proof of qualifications.



Step 3 - Receive your Certificate of Sponsorship

Once you secure a teaching position, your employer will issue a Certificate of Sponsorship.

This certificate contains a reference number you will need for your visa application.



Step 4 - Submitting your visa Application

Using the details from your Certificate of Sponsorship, [submit your application via the official UK government website.](#)

Prepare the necessary documents, which may include:

- A valid passport
- Tuberculosis (TB) test results (if applicable based on your country)
- Proof of English language skills (if required)
- Evidence of funds (if relevant to your visa category)



Step 5 - Obtaining your visa

Once your visa is granted, you can begin making arrangements for your move to the UK.

Be sure to travel with all important documents, including:

- Your visa decision letter
- Your Certificate of Sponsorship
- Proof of employment or job offer
- Any additional paperwork requested during your application



Our onboarding service

Our onboarding is designed to get you working quickly. As soon as you've uploaded all your documents, your consultant will begin looking for roles. While they prepare an Engage-branded CV and profile to share with local schools, we suggest you to download the EngageNow app. From here, you can easily set your preferences, explore roles available and stay updated throughout your journey.

Once onboarding is complete, you'll be ready to start work with us! Whether you're looking to relocate, or you're already in the UK - our UK team will be on hand every step of the way!



The documents we will need from you:

Upload professional headshot



Upload professional CV



Upload proof of UK address



Upload your Right to Work



Proof of ID



Upload your DBS



Overseas Police Check (if applicable)



[Our onboarding guide](#)



DBS Checks

DBS stands for Disclosure and Barring Service, a government organisation that carries out criminal record checks. A DBS is a background check required for anyone wanting to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

There are 3 main levels of DBS checks;

- Basic
- Standard
- Enhanced



To work in majority of schools you will need an enhanced DBS check. This type of DBS check not only check your criminal record but also confirms whether you are barred from working with children or vulnerable adults.

The DBS update service is an online subscription that keeps your DBS certificate up to date. This service benefits you so you don't need to pay for a DBS each time you find a new job, speeding up the on-boarding process and further enhancing safeguarding.

For a complete guide to DBS checks, click here:



Relocation Tips

Make your move smoother with the right digital tools from someone who has travelled internationally to teach!

Having the right apps will make everything from transport to money management much easier.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to discover our selection of must-have apps for teachers relocating to the UK:

Bonus Tip 🎯

Download your apps while still in your home country, this ensures you don't run into app store region issues once you arrive.



Practical Tips before you move:

- Documents - Keep both printed and digital copies of your visa, qualifications, and ID
- Banking - Set up a UK account or digital bank (e.g. Monzo, Revolut) before your first payday
- Transport - Learn about local passes (like the Oyster card in London) to save money on travel
- Phone - Get a UK SIM on arrival to stay connected easily

Can you bring your pet to the UK?

Yes, you can bring your cat or dog with you to the UK following the UK government pet import rules.

[Click here](#) or click your pet for a complete guide on how to bring your pet to the UK!



Finding where to live



Relocating to a new country can feel overwhelming, especially when you are unfamiliar with different areas. Here at Engage, we want to make this process as straightforward as possible by helping you understand your options for finding the right place to call home.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to explore neighbourhood guides and the UK regions where we support schools and teachers:



If you already have a job offer:

If you've secured a teaching role, the next step is to find accommodation nearby. Property search platforms such as [Rightmove](#), [Zoopla](#), and other letting apps can help you explore both short-term and long-term rentals in your chosen area. These platforms allow you to filter by budget, location, and property type, making it easier to settle quickly into your home.



If you're still exploring options:

If you haven't yet finalised a role, try compare different UK neighbourhoods with an app called '[Find a Hood](#)'. Before you move, we recommend you:

- Check safety, transport, lifestyle, and amenities of neighbourhoods
- Narrow down where there is work opportunities
- Scanning the QR code above

When you arrive

Types of Schools in the UK:

State Funded Schools



These schools are the most common, free to attend and are funded by the UK government. Most job opportunities will be within this sector.

Local Authority Schools



These are run by the local authority (council), which employs staff and manages admissions. You'll follow the National Curriculum and work in a structured setting. These schools make up over 50% of all schools in the UK.

Academies



Academies are publicly funded but independently run, often by academy trusts. They have more freedom in curriculum design, budgets and school hours.

Faith Schools



These can be state-funded (voluntary-aided or controlled) or independent. They follow the National Curriculum but have additional flexibility in the teaching of subjects such as Religious Studies.

Grammar Schools



Grammar schools are selective state schools that admit pupils based on their academic ability, usually assessed at age 11. They have a strong academic focus and are often compared to high-performing schools in other countries. There are currently 163 grammar schools in the UK.

Special Schools



These schools serve pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These can be state-funded or independent. Teachers here often require or receive specialist training, but demand for qualified staff is high.

The Education System in England:

Schools in the UK are structured differently from many other countries. The English education system is divided into key stages based on age and year group.

The chart below shows how these stages align, helping you understand where students typically fit by age.

For a further understanding of the school types and year groups, [click here](#).

Educational Stage	Age Range
Early Learning	3-5
Primary Education	5-11
Secondary Education	11-16
Sixth Form / College	16-18+
Higher Education	18+
Special Education Needs	Varies (0-25)

Ready to make the move?

Join thousands of teachers who've made the move with Engage, start your relocation by signing up today, and let us help you every step of the way.

[Register today](#)