

# your questions answered.

## Frequently asked questions.

### What does the UK school year look like?

In the UK, each term is 12 weeks long and is broken into two 6-week chunks; this means that you will have at least one week off every 6 weeks!

Term 1: First half (Sept – Oct)

Term 1: Second half (Nov- Dec)

Term 2: First half (Jan- Feb)

Term 2: Second half (Feb – March)

Term 3: First half (April – June)

Term 3: Second half (June- July)

### Breakdown of the school day

Primary – The day starts with taking the register (attendance) and then 3 out of 5 days of the week you will have an assembly to take your students to. Following that, literacy and numeracy are always taught in the morning with a break between the two. Primary students are also provided with a fruit break from the government in the morning, so make sure you allow 5-10 minutes before or after recess for the students to eat their fruit. Lunch can be brought from home or students can get a hot lunch at the school. In the afternoon you will cover the rest of the subjects (rotating which subject depending on the day of the week).

An example of a possible class breakdown is:

09.00am Registration

09.10am School Assembly

09.30am Literacy Hour

10.30am Break-time

10.45am Numeracy Hour

11.45am Subject class

12.15pm Lunch

13.30pm Afternoon Registration

13.35pm Classes

14.45pm Break-time

15.00pm Classes

15.30pm End of school day

## Secondary

Many secondary schools run on a two week schedule (below is an example of one day although every day in the two weeks may be different!) Your schedule may look more like your schedule did in University with different classes each day of the week. For example on Monday you may teach period 1, 2, 4, & 7 and the rest may be prep periods and the following day you could be teaching all periods.

8:45 – 8:55 AM Registration  
8:55 – 9:45 Lesson 1  
9:45 – 10:35 Lesson 2  
10:35 – 10:50 Lesson 3  
11:40 – 12:30 Lesson 4

12:30 – 1:15 Lunch  
1:15 – 1:20 PM Registration  
1:20 – 2:10 Lesson 5  
2:10 – 3:00 Lesson 6

How old are students in each grade?

Curriculum Stage / School Type	Age	Year	Key Stage
Pre-school	3-5	Play groups	Early Years Foundation Stage
Infant School	4-5 5-6 6-7	Reception Year 1 Year 2	1
Junior School	7-8 8-9 9-10 10-11	Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	2
Secondary School	11-12 12-13 13-14	Year 7 Year 8 Year 9	3
Secondary School	14 -15 15-16	Year 10 Year 11	4
A Levels	16+	A Levels	5 (Post 16)
Further Education	16-18 +	FE Colleges	6 (Post 16)
High Education	18+	Colleges of HE and Universities	6

What different types of schools exist in the UK?

There are a number of different kinds of schools in the UK. State schools are funded by the government and follow the UK Curriculum. In Secondary schools you have Grammar schools and Technology schools. In order to get into a Grammar school, students have to have scored well on their SATS exams in Year 6. Schools can also be affiliated with a religion, similar to the Catholic Schools in Canada. In the UK, you will often see Catholic schools and Church of England schools. Private schools and independent schools are also available across the UK, generally parents would need to pay to have their students attend a private school just like in Canada, Australia and New Zealand and these schools are not required to follow the UK curriculum.

## What do I need to do to be qualified in the UK?

If you qualified in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or the USA, you will be considered an Overseas Trained Teacher. You will have four years from the first day you teach in the UK to achieve your QTS (Qualified Teachers Status). Many schools will want you to obtain QTS prior to being hired into a full time position so we do suggest starting this process as early as possible. In order to find out more about QTS please contact the Teaching Agency. More information on how to apply for your QTS can be obtained at your local office or [online here](#).

## What does a recruitment agency do and what is different about dealing with a recruitment agency compared with a school board?

In the UK, every school does its own staffing; there are no school boards to complete the leg work for them. For over 20 years Randstad Education has been providing Supply, Long Term, and Permanent teachers to schools to assist them in the hiring process and the daily running of their school.

Agencies are different to a school board though! Working for an agency allows you to really be clear about what your dream job is and can go looking for it! Like a school board though we do complete all the compliance documents needed in order to work in a school in the UK, and make sure that the relevant documents are provided to schools prior to your start.

## What expenses will I have?

Your flight will be your largest expense and one that you want to budget for. Other than that you will need to make sure that you have enough to cover your visa and pay for first and last month's rent when you arrive if needed. We suggest having around \$3000 in your savings to help you cover any start-up costs in the first month.

## How much should I expect to spend each month?

Item	Cost
Rent	Between £85 - £130 a week
Food	Between £50 - £80 a week (it really depends on your own personal eating habits)
Transport	If you are living in London we suggest you get an Oyster card, a single journey costs £2 - £4 depending on if you are taking a train or bus, you can get weekly or monthly passes as well. We suggest budgeting for £30 a week.
Social	There are lots of activities that are free in the UK, such as Museums, but there are also lots of lovely restaurants. This number will vary greatly depending on your own personal habits.
Utilities	Water, electricity and gas generally cost around £10 a week
Telephone	Phones are much cheaper in the UK, you can get a monthly contract for as cheap as £15 and then they go up from there depending on how many minutes you are looking for. In the UK you should only be charged for outgoing minutes and not incoming minutes.
Council Tax	Many rental properties include council tax but make sure to ask prior to signing a lease
Television	In the UK, the government provides channels and you are required to pay a TV tax if you have a TV in your home. TV tax costs £140 a year.

## How do I open a bank account?

We will provide you with a letter to take into a bank in the UK to set up a bank account, we recommend Barclays and have an agreement with them that will allow you to get the ball rolling on this as soon as you land! You will also need to provide proof of your right to work (visa, EU passport, UK passport) in order to set up an account.

It is worth checking with your current bank to see if they have an affiliate in the UK, for example some banks have partnerships that would mean you do not need to pay cash withdrawal fees. It could also make sending money back home easier although generally this should not cost you more than £10.

## How do I get an NI (National Insurance) number?

When you arrive in the UK we will assist you with getting in touch with the correct governing body to secure a national insurance number. NI Numbers are just like your National Employment number in your home country (for example a SIN number in Canada) and will be used to keep track of your earnings/taxes.

## How do taxes work?

Taxes are not submitted once a year in the UK, but are submitted throughout the year with each pay and/or when you have them. Can send a letter through to the government at the end of the tax year to see if they owe you money back. Please see below for handy links.

[For more information on UK taxes](#)

[For more information on the Canadian/UK tax treaty](#)

[For more information on the Australian/UK tax treaty](#)

[For more information on the New Zealand/UK tax treaty](#)

## How does medical insurance work?

If you are paying tax in the UK you will be covered under the NHS (National Health Services) for more information on the NHS please [click here](#). The NHS provides emergency services and basic health and dental. If you would like more information please feel free to call your local area office.

## I'm coming alone, is it easy to make friends?

As a Randstad Teacher you will be invited to social events as well as continued professional development events. We will ensure that you have lots of opportunities to meet other teachers from the UK and around the world! There are many different clubs and groups you can join as well (for example: ultimate Frisbee, football, dance classes, etc).