

TEFL Destinations

It wouldn't be feasible to cover all the TEFL destinations open to you as a soon-to-be TEFL certified teacher. Instead, we've put together a summary in dropdown form of a number of important details and will focus on five in more detail here. We're going to start with South Korea and China because they represent the largest job markets for EFL teachers, despite some Chinese TEFL jobs being in jeopardy from recent government educational reforms, specifically banning the online instruction of English (updated in September 2021). This may change in the future but, regardless, the job market is vast in this incredible, yet somewhat feared, country. With South Korea, we give a much more detailed account of the common teaching job types available. These are fairly common in China (include Hong Kong and Taiwan in this bracket) also. Hopefully, this more in-depth look will provide you with a little more insight into this sometimes complicated field.

South Korea

South Korea offers some of the best opportunities and benefits to teachers from countries such as the UK or the USA. However, you don't necessarily need to be a qualified teacher or have any previous experience in the field.

Teaching in Korea affords most people the opportunity to save around \$1000 each month while living well and experiencing a new and interesting culture. Despite its northern sibling's situation, Korea is safe, friendly, and full of new adventures. To teach in Korea on an E-2 teaching visa (ESL) you need a Bachelor's degree, no criminal

record, and to be from either Canada, the USA, Ireland, UK, South Africa, Australia, or New Zealand.

There are three main types of ESL teaching jobs in Korea: private academies, public schools, and universities. To work in most universities you require a master's degree in any field (though TESOL and English-based master's degrees are given higher consideration) and at least two years of adult teaching experience. Universities are usually reluctant to hire teachers in their twenties and require face-to-face interviews. These jobs give the best conditions, such as bonuses for journal submissions and extensive holiday periods, and frequently offer well-paid extra classes. University professors are commonly required to teach a basic schedule of 12 hours each week, with some office hours to be available for student meetings. Different universities have different housing policies, but it is common for an allowance to be issued, or university accommodation offered on campus instead. While airfare is rarely offered, the university pension scheme is superior to that of regular ESL teaching jobs.

The number of public school positions experienced a huge increase under the previous government, but funding has been cut back recently, meaning fewer positions are now tendered. With the increased competition for these teaching jobs, the requirements have been raised so that public school candidates must have a 100 hour TEFL (or teaching English as a second language TESOL) certification, in addition to the standard Bachelor's degree required for foreigners to gain the E-2 teaching visa. Public schools are popular among those staying in Korea for a second year, but the downside is that a salary cap system is in place, so highly qualified teachers do not always receive benefits reflecting their experience levels. For inexperienced teachers, this is a non-issue, but the lack of

other foreign teachers at individual public schools may not appeal to those who want an instant support network upon arriving in Korea. With that said, the majority of schools pride themselves on their friendly and inviting attitude towards foreign teachers and co-teachers are usually excellent at helping new teachers meet local foreigners, as well as obviously befriending them themselves. Additionally, public school programs are government-organized, meaning they hold annual or bi-annual orientations and workshops, which are multi-day events that are perfect for meeting other like-minded teachers, local and far. The advantages of public school teaching in Korea are numerous, such as being fully immersed in Korean working culture, short teaching hours, a co-teacher to assist with behavior and general classroom management, four weeks of paid vacation on top of the ten or so paid national holidays each year, return airfare, and a relocation bonus. The school also provides an apartment close to the school, or less commonly, a housing allowance. The majority of public school jobs on offer now are for elementary schools, but there are occasional middle and high school jobs on the market. The hours are always from around 8.30am until 4.30pm, but actual teaching hours are a maximum of twenty-two, 40-minute teaching blocks each week. Most of the time, you need only plan four classes each week, since each lesson is repeated to each class in each grade level.

Most foreign teachers are employed by the thousands of private academies or 'hagwons'. Kindergartens often hire English teachers to teach phonics pronunciation and get the kids used to see and interact with foreigners. There are some private elementary schools with English curriculums, but most elementary school students learn English in after-school academies. This is also the case with middle and high-schoolers, who often have very unpleasant, hectic

after-school schedules. For this reason, many hagwons stay open until after 9pm. These teaching positions usually provide a salary of around \$2000 for around 30 actual teaching hours each week. They offer a free, modern, and furnished apartment close to the academy, paid return flights, and often extra remuneration for summer and winter intensive classes taught. Hagwons that stay open late do not start until the afternoon, affording teachers a late rise in the morning. The biggest downside to academy teaching is the lower holiday periods as compared to public school and university positions. However, with a week in summer and a week in winter, as well as many public holidays, it really isn't too bad. Korea is well connected to all nearby countries with direct flights, so a week on a beach in Thailand for winter break is easily obtainable. A less common, but still valid issue with some hagwons is that they may not always follow the contract correctly, or may not pay on time. These problems were more common in the past before the government became more effective at protecting the rights of foreign teachers. A quick internet search makes it possible to check if others have had issues with particular companies or specific branches.

By law, employers must pay half of a teacher's pension and health insurance contributions (you pay 4.5% of your salary for each of these, totaling 9%), and income tax is generally paid at the extremely low rate of 3.3% for ESL teachers on an E-2 visa. Considering almost all contracts offer free housing on top of the more than reasonable salary, and since the cost of living is relatively inexpensive, it is common for teachers to save in excess of \$1000 each month, not including the additional one month bonus awarded upon completion of a one year contract. Add to this the priceless life experience you gain, and the easy access to nearby travel gems



such as Japan, China, and the Philippines, and you have a whole list of reasons to start searching for jobs in Korea. You should read this article for some great information about applications and what documents are required for an E-2 visa once you find a job in South Korea.

Most teachers live in Seoul (and the surrounding province, Gyeonggi) or Busan, but because of the English fever that has remained in Korea, jobs abound all over the country for those willing to sacrifice the 24-hour lifestyle that these larger cities offer their inhabitants. Seoul and Busan have 24-hour convenience stores dotted all over the place, delivery drivers buzzing around all night, and arguably the best nightlife and amenities, as is expected in megacities.

Koreans know how to have fun. On any given day, it's possible to order a McDelivery breakfast, shop yourself into submission, slurp down a bowl of silkworm larvae soup, get drunk at the top of a mountain, sober up at the bottom in a naked sauna, sing yourself silly at a karaoke room, get yourself involved in a K-pop dance-off in a club, order a kebab, and finish off with a beer from a 24-hour convenience store. It's not called 'Land of the Morning Calm' for nothing: Koreans enjoy drinking, and with soju bottles priced at just over \$1, it doesn't break anyone's bank.

Although fairly unknown as a tourist destination, Korea offers visitors many things to do and see and can be a boast-worthy and rewarding side-trip when visiting Japan or China. However, don't expect to be blown away by Korea's stunning landscapes or its ancient architecture, and remove any unrealistic thoughts from your mind about finding yourself alone at the top of one of its many mountain peaks in autumn, surrounded by a rainbow of fall foliage.

Of course, Korea does have beautiful landscapes and ancient sites, but its real charms lie in its Confucian culture and the friendly optimism of its people. Korea has a large population for its land size, which unfortunately means that you usually have to share its touristic treasures with the masses.

Most of Korea's traditional palaces and sites were wiped out during the Korean war (1950-1953), but they've done a grand job of rebuilding them anyway (though the very shiny, vibrant paint could do with a few years of acid rain to bring back at least a sense of authenticity). Most sites are either free or very reasonably priced to enter. Bonus!

Some of the things that may attract you to Korea are its numerous mountains, hot springs, delicious and cheap cuisine, great nightlife, friendly culture, and affordable clothes shopping. If you like shopping then even a visit to a nearby subway station could be rewarding for you. Underground shopping centers can be found all over the larger cities, and offer all kinds of cheap clothing, which can all be haggled over with a smile.

The chances are that you'll arrive in Korea at Incheon airport, which is super-clean and modern. It is well-connected to Gimpo airport, Seoul's secondary international airport. From either airport, it's easy to reach Seoul and its surrounding regions for under \$10. A massive subway system connects the airports, Seoul for a few dollars. Once on the regular subway lines (the network is vast!), a ride around Seoul, Daegu, or Busan, and their distant satellite cities, costs less than \$2. This is unbelievable value when you consider how modern, safe, and punctual the trains are. The transit cards also allow you to travel onwards by local bus for free, within a limited time.



The country has developed a thriving economy, but the cost of living is very affordable. Tourist site entry fees and local transport are not the only cheap gifts that Korea offers guests. Korean cuisine remains relatively un-tasted in the wider world, but that only makes it more pleasant to the taste buds of unknowing. Korean mealtime generally involves dishes with spicy red pepper. However, not all Korean food is spicy. With most meals, you will be presented with at least a couple of vegetable side dishes and a broth. Marinated meats that you barbecue at your table (galbi), tuna sushi (chamchi), chicken soup (samgaetang), noodles (ramien), vegetable and rice hotpot (dolsot bibimbap), and pork cutlet (dongkass) are just some of the delicious options available to you, but of course there are many more, including more western-style pizzas, pasta, hamburgers and sandwiches. You can always upset your animal-loving friends back home and try dog-soup (Boshingtang), but these restaurants are quickly becoming obsolete. Shops with dogs in the window are dog-grooming stores, which are very common in modern-day Korea.

The Korean language (Hangeul) uses a unique alphabet, but fortunately, English is spoken by many, and signs usually have English translations. Billions of dollars are spent on English education, which starts in pre-school for many students, but it is interesting to see that despite the efforts, the quality of spoken English is sometimes sub-par compared to that produced in south-east Asian countries. Be prepared to see children and middle-aged mothers alike proudly sporting T-shirts with English writing containing Yoda-esque grammar, swear words, or more commonly: the apparent drunken ramblings of an absolute lunatic.

Spring (mid-March to end-May) is a great time to visit. Cherry blossoms can be seen all over Korea. Blossoms start earlier in the south due to its slightly milder winter temperatures. You can expect

to see the pink and white color shows from the end of March through to mid-April. Yellow dust from China sometimes brings days of haze and poor air quality, but the amazing floral displays more than makeup for this phenomenon.

Hot and humid conditions, with occasional monsoon rains, can make summer (June to mid-September) unpleasant. However, despite some chance of heavy rain from typhoons, the vibrant foliage, and warmer ocean water make this a rewarding time to visit.

Fall (mid-September to mid-November) is when Korea looks its absolute best. This is the busiest hiking season for a reason. When the leaves change color, Korea's many mountains lure you into them. The leaves complement the colorful palaces and temples, and the air hovers at a pleasantly warm temperature.

Long and cold, but often with clear, blue skies, winter (mid-November to mid-March) can drag on in Korea. Occasional snowfall briefly brings winter beauty back to the country, but this is the least rewarding season to visit. China's weather varies much more than Korea's because of its immense size. However, Beijing's climate mimics Seoul and Busan's extraordinarily well.

China

Most teachers find jobs in Beijing, Shanghai, Ningbo, Chengdu, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Dalian, Yangzhou, or Nanjing. The average salary for EFL teachers per month (for full-time positions) is likely to be around 9,000 to 18,000 RMB (up to \$3000), but this is all experience-dependent. In international schools, teachers sometimes earn in excess of 30,000 RMB (\$5,000) per

month. Many schools offer flight reimbursement, performance bonuses, free accommodation or a stipend, and other expenses like taxis and winter heating. If you're looking for a high wage compared to the cost of living and don't feel comfortable with the strict social laws present in much of the Middle East (the other region of high salaries for teachers) then this could be the right destination for you.

However, be aware of certain political and social rules in place as well as prerequisites for obtaining a teaching (Z) visa:

- A 120-hour TEFL qualification is a minimum requirement (though any teaching license counts).
- University degree: You must have a BA degree (in any discipline) to get your Foreign Expert Certificate for your Z visa
- Have a valid passport
- Have a clean criminal records check
- Submit apostilled copies of the multiple documents named above
- Provide a medical check
- Be under 55 years of age (usually only for TEFL)

There are so many varied positions available for TEFL teachers in China (from kindergartens to universities, and business language academies to active summer camps) that it would be nearly impossible to sum up what the experience is like in general. Most teachers in China work for private language schools where they predominantly teach children and sometimes have teen or adult classes, too (in the late afternoon or evening). Most of these schools operate as extra-curricular clubs where wealthy parents send their children to get ahead. The job might be geared more towards fun



and games, with plenty of singing, dancing, and craft, or you might be somewhere that provides professional lesson plans and materials and has structured goals for students. Terms for public schools are set from September to July, but it's possible to find jobs year-round.

Keep in mind that private language schools are ultimately run as businesses rather than educational facilities. Class prices are high and only wealthy families can send their kids there. As such, they expect results, something you'll discover if you try and give a student a negative grade or comment on their report – parents don't pay thousands of RMB (the Chinese currency: Renminbi) for this kind of service. If you're dedicated to academic excellence, you'll find plenty of challenges working in China, from fake grades to keep parents happy to squeezing extra kids into overcapacity classes to make sure friends can sit together. It can be very hard to turn a blind eye to this sort of thing, but if you accept the experience for what it is, private teaching roles can be fulfilling, fun, and provide you with a firm grounding in your TEFL career.

Chinese students are usually great fun to teach. Young learners can have a cheeky side, but they're chatty, enthusiastic, hardworking, and competitive. Teens can be quiet and reserved, and, in general, you'll find that older students are less opinionated, preferring activities where there are right and wrong answers. Most full-time positions are for 18 to 30 teaching hours a week. The job is what you put into it. You can work hard, develop as a teacher, and make some great connections. There are also plenty of 'gap year' teachers who just do the minimum and enjoy their time off.

How much it costs you to live in China depends very much on where you're based, and also the lifestyle you choose. For example, an

expat who dines out in foreign restaurants and visits Starbucks on the weekend before having a night out in Chaoyang district bars and clubs will very quickly burn through their wages. On the other hand, a teacher on the lower end of the salary scale can live like a king and put money in the bank if they avoid imported products, eat like a local, and avoid several costly nights out. Cities like Shanghai and Beijing are notoriously more expensive to live in, but that's also because they have more things to spend your money on! However, if you live in a moderately sized city like Hangzhou (population of 10 million), embrace the local lifestyle, and share a flat with another teacher, you can expect to be saving a few thousand RMB of your pay packet every month. Don't write off smaller locations, either – plenty of teachers have found a lot of appeal in small towns and far-flung places over the cosmopolitan metropolis of Shanghai. Wherever you're drawn to, do your research and try to speak to other expats who live in that area. If you want a place with the potential to meet thousands of other expats then Beijing and Shanghai are likely on your radar already anyway.

China is a traveler's wonderland. Cheap travel in-country, from express train lines to domestic flights, make it easy to see the country during your holidays. Be warned that crowds can be a huge issue during public holidays, and many people choose to take a foreign holiday during those crazy seasons, such as Spring Festival, rather than face the largest (though it may have some competition from India) human migration in the world. Even in your locality on a modest budget, you can still afford to indulge in entertainment every weekend – scenic parks and gardens, traditional old towns to visit, sprawling museums, quirky hutong backstreets, modern art and theatre, and mountains to climb; the opportunities are endless. One important consideration about how you spend your time in

China will come down to where you are and what the weather's like! China is vast, with freezing winters in some places and tropical weather in others. Be sure to do your research.

If you're looking for information about living expenses then it's best to head over to www.expakistan.com or www.traveltables.com, but understand that it is possible to save well in China while not watching your wallet (in both senses!). Utilities are cheap, accommodation is often included in your contract, doctor visits are usually under \$50, and you can eat out for around \$13 a person. If your school provides lunches, you can save even more. Avoiding anything foreign is the easiest way to save well.

Brazil

The largest country in South America understandably has numerous TEFL jobs. However, jobs are often poorly paid and work visas are notoriously difficult to obtain. While many employers happily hire EFL instructors (illegally) on a tourist visa, it can be risky for you. The reasons you may wish to take such risks and poor salary are numerous: the fun and friendly nature of the local people, the party atmosphere that comes with living in any garrulous culture, and the incredible weather, which is tropical across most of the country. Younger expats, in particular, love the Brazilian lifestyle and are happy to take on work despite the often less-than-desirable visa situation. Brazil is certainly an adventure destination, and not usually somewhere that's favored by experienced, well-qualified TEFL teachers looking for a long-term career move. With 6 month contracts (to fit in with the tourist visa length) Brazil is a great

destination if you don't have a whole year to commit to a TEFL job and are looking for more of a gap year experience.

Popular destinations within Brazil for TEFL jobs tend to center around Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, but others spread farther afield to the capital, Brasília, and other coastal delights like Recife, for example. The average salary for EFL teachers is not pretty when compared to Asian and Middle Eastern offerings. A humble monthly salary for full-time positions is likely to be in the region of 3,000 to 5,000 BRL (Brazilian Real), which is around \$550 to \$1000 per month. Those with TEFL qualifications and a university degree are more likely to secure better jobs with the best conditions. Term times, because it's in the southern hemisphere, are February to December but peak hiring months are from March to August. If you're just going to pick up private lessons rather than seeking a contract, beware of tourist visa restrictions.

The peak times for hiring EFL teachers won't really affect you much, except that most people aren't too interested in learning during the 2 to 4-week long winter break in July. Many schools also use that as an opportunity for teachers to renew their tourist visas allowing teachers to work for another 6-month contract. A standard full-time contract involves teaching for 20 to 25 hours a week which, depending on your prep time, will leave you with enough free time to enjoy life in the country or to take on private students to subsidize your wage. Many jobs can be found for 20 hours a week or fewer, so if you're looking for a gap year or travel experience with very little to do on the work frontier, it's possible to find positions to suit as well as seeking out your own private students.

If you take on freelance students, be sure to make your position as stable as possible. Brazilian students are well-known for not turning up to lessons, so if you don't ask for payment in advance, you can find yourself out of pocket, and also try to arrange classes in a location that's convenient for you, so that you travel out of your way for nothing if a student doesn't show. Universities are a great place to advertise for private students, and freelance teaching can be far more lucrative than working for an institute.

As the 3rd cheapest country in Latin America, the cost of living in Brazil is cheaper than 85% of countries around the world. While statistics may indicate that the cost of living in Brazil is pretty low, many expats report that, compared to how much they earn, they actually find prices relatively high in Brazil. So, while you may earn enough to cover your essentials, you're unlikely to save unless you take on lucrative one-to-one lessons with private students in your free time. If you're happy to break even during your time in Brazil, you'll find that you don't need to work too hard to get by.

Few jobs provide accommodation, so one way to save money is to find someone to share with. Rent is often the biggest expenditure for expats, so make sure to shop around and find a good deal, and also consider living out of the big cities where rent is highest. With the latter, keep in mind that public transport can be frustrating, slow, and sometimes even dangerous. The cost of living also means that you won't be eating out all the time as you might if you take up a TEFL position in Thailand or Vietnam. Grocery shopping is much cheaper than eating out, especially if you stick to local goods and stay away from expensive imports.

You'll also need to consider things that aren't always included with contract teaching here, like medical insurance and pension.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE is a monarchy made up of a federation of seven emirates (or states). Each one has its own ruler, which is a hereditary position. Out of the seven emirates, you've probably only heard of Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), and Dubai, but Sharjah is also a location to consider if you want to teach English in the UAE. Arabic is the official language, but as the area was occupied by the British until 1971, English is widely used, especially among the business community, and is often a requirement for local jobs, making it a good prospect for TEFL teachers.

If you like cosmopolitan places, the UAE is a great location for you. With a mix of local ethnic groups as well as a growing expat population, you'll find a mix of faces both in your classroom and in your private life. The salary is high for EFL teachers in UAE (and other nearby countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar). The cost of living is high, but so is your pay packet, and with added bonuses such as free accommodation and return flights, it's easy to put away healthy savings while teaching in the UAE. Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah represent the most opportunities. Full-time average salaries for EFL teachers in the latter three emirates are usually in the region of 8,500 to 16,000 UAE dirhams (\$2,400 - \$4,000) per month. However, it's possible for experienced EFL teachers to take home much more.



Most employers require a 120-hour TEFL qualification, a degree (sometimes even a master's degree), and a working visa. The pay is higher here to reflect the cost of living but also because of the experience required. It's not uncommon for employers not to consider teachers with less than a few year's experience. Term times are September until July, avoiding the hottest time (summer). The weekend in most Middle Eastern countries is Friday and Saturday, but it doesn't really make much difference since it's still two consecutive days off a week.

Female teachers might be wary of applying to teach in the UAE because of the strict dress code and gender inequality in the Middle East, but many expats say that it's actually more liberal than you think. At Dubai's malls, (which are usually unnecessarily cold) women are encouraged to cover their shoulders and knees, and a similar dress code will likely be expected of you in the workplace, but this isn't any more conservative than would be expected of teachers anywhere else in the world. However, the conservative laws shouldn't be taken lightly. Kissing in public is illegal and can result in deportation, and there are similar rules relating to cursing: even on social media. Homosexuality is illegal and is a capital offense in the UAE, and blasphemy is also illegal. These are all important considerations when deciding if the UAE is somewhere you could live and work without feeling imprisoned by the strict laws. Out of the seven emirates, Dubai is probably the most liberal, but you're still likely to experience culture shock if you're coming from the west.

Students in the UAE are eager to learn English, but have quite a relaxed approach to their lessons, bordering on cheeky. Expect students to be late for class and reluctant to do their homework, or even not take part in classroom activities that don't take their fancy.

Adult learners are notorious for answering their mobile phones during class (business dominates) and not taking the lessons too seriously. While respecting professional boundaries in this strict culture, you'll also find your students friendly and approachable. Classrooms will often be filled with top-of-the-range equipment, and you'll have plenty of resources at your fingertips whether you're teaching children or adults.

Globally, the UAE only ranks as more expensive than two-thirds of other countries. This just goes to show that it doesn't always follow that places with super high wages will have an equally high cost of living, as is the case in the UAE. Aside from the high wages TEFL teachers receive in the UAE, the overall remuneration package may include free housing with access to amenities like a swimming pool, steam room, gym, and other sports facilities. Many positions boast other perks such as return flights, and the longer contracts at most schools mean you won't face costly relocations every few years. Keep in mind that every contract is different, so you must read the fine print to discover the perks of individual jobs.

Spain

There are several reasons why so many jet-off to teach English in Spain, and it's not just down to sunshine and sangria. It's often listed as the number one TEFL destination in Europe, and one of the world's top destinations for TEFL. In 2008, the country was hit by a financial crisis which has become known as the "Great Spanish Depression". Youth unemployment dropped to around 55%. While it's still tricky for locals under 25 to find work in Spain, the majority of young people say they'd be happy to move abroad to find work, and

as such, learning English has become increasingly popular. As a result, young people in Spain are now more highly educated than generations before them. To graduate from university, students must acquire a “First Certificate” in English, prompting them to seek out extracurricular English classes and courses to get ahead of others. Another reason is the abundance of British tourists who flock to Spain each year; knowing English is crucial to businesses, and therefore is a key skill for employees in tourism and beyond.

It's not just university students who are focused on learning English in Spain. From the first year of primary school, it's compulsory to learn English in all state schools. The prevalence of native classroom assistants has rocketed, creating rich opportunities for TEFL teachers in Spain. Some kindergartens and private schools teach English to children as young as three years old, so there's no shortage of opportunities if you like working with young learners. Something else that contributes to Spain's popularity as a TEFL destination is the fact that it's so easy to find work there. New teachers without experience will find themselves in demand even if they have no prior teaching experience. Naturally, the better qualified/experienced you are, the more likely you are to land the best job. With Spain being so popular, the market is saturated and high-paying jobs will have fierce competition. However, there is so much work available in Spain that even if you don't score one of these top positions, you can still earn enough to get by and enjoy the Spanish lifestyle.

There are many jobs in Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, and Seville as well as smaller places outside of these centers. In the same vein, there is also every kind of learner; from young learners and teens to adults and business professionals.

Hours can be quite spread out in order to meet the availability of business professionals, with most classes being taught in the afternoons and evenings Monday to Friday. Working hours in Spain can be quite late, with many academies staying open until 9pm Monday-Friday, however, most schools close for a 2-hour break in the middle of the day, allowing teachers time for lunch and a 'siesta.' Some teachers may also do some work on a freelance basis as a private tutor to make some extra money.

Jobs are often advertised on EFL forums but generally offer no benefits to teachers, such as reimbursed airfare, accommodation or salary bonuses. Therefore, some of the better jobs can be found directly in the country. Whichever option you choose, choosing a job online or looking in the country, you will need to have some savings to see you through the first 4-6 weeks. This will also include rent money. It is advised that teachers begin looking for opportunities in July and early August to secure a job for the start of the year in September. There are also summer camps for those who might like to see if Spain suits them. You need to begin applying in May for these. Employers in Spain also favor EU nationals, due to the strict immigration laws.