Some Things To Consider When Choosing
A Place To Work

What kinds of things should you consider when choosing where you want to work?

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION
• Are you interested in the culture of the country?
• Are you interested in other aspects of the country besides the culture?
• How do you like the climate of the country?
• What is the current/recent political climate in the country?
• What sociopolitical issues are prevalent in the country? (e.g., gender, race issues)
• Within the country, where do you want to live? (in the city? which city? in the countryside?)
• How near do you want to be to Culture and entertainment
• How long do you think you want to live there?
• Cost of living
• Transportation (including access to an airport)
• How long do you honestly plan to stay in this place (i.e., if you really are only going to stay a year and they are asking for a 3-year commitment, maybe it's not a good place to apply)
• Family considerations
• Is it possible to get dependent (or other) visas for members of your family that you want to have live with you?
• Will the school/organization help your spouse/partner find work?
• What kinds of schools are available for your children (do you want your children to study in the host language or in your native language?)
• How excited is your family about moving to this other country?

THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT SPECIFIC JOBS
• Number of teachers (foreign and native) employed in the school
• Private vs. shared office space
• Length of contract -- renewable or non-renewable, tenured or non-tenured?
• Possibilities for advancement
• Time off (both vacation time and time when you have no vacation but aren’t teaching)
• Size of the organization
• Benefits
• Salary
• Vacation/sick leave
• Transportation allowance  
• Research allowance  
• Book & publications allowance  
• Health insurance  
• Pension  
• Housing  
• Airfare (how often?)  
• Do they provide computer, internet, email, and other technological support  
• Is there a union? Is membership mandatory or optional?  
• Dress code  
• How useful is this position for building your CV (if you're not planning on a long-term stay)?  
• What are the opportunities for professional development?  
• How professional is the atmosphere there?  
• Contract requirements  
• What kinds of extracurricular duties will you have?  
• Office hours  
• Contact hours  
• Committee hours  
• Length of contract  
• Portrait of students  
• Job security  
• Administrative support  
• Teacher-student ratio (overall, and broken down by skill area or other type of class)  
• Availability of materials/resources  
• Technical support (e.g., free photocopying, etc.?)  
• Budgetary constraints  
• What is the school's teaching philosophy, and how do they implement that philosophy (i.e., do they say they believe in "communicative language learning" yet have materials and classes that seem to make that seem a facade?  
• What kind of library (English) do they have? What kind of budget is there for purchases for the library (e.g., journals in your field)  
• How long has the institution/program been in existence?  
• What is the reputation of the institution in the community? In the language professional community?  

PRIORITIZING AND COMING TO TERMS WITH WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU WHEN MAKING DECISIONS

Once you've gone over and thought through these things, you may want to prioritize them (and this can be quite informally). If the most important thing for you is to live in a certain place, then that automatically limits your choices in other areas, such as the types of jobs you may be qualified for. Likewise, if the type of job is your most important consideration, that could limit locations where you are able to look for work.