Choosing your electives

What to consider when choosing electives

1. Consider your background and education
   It is common in this industry to teach different age groups (often in the same day!) and students who are learning English for different reasons. Therefore, if you already have a background in a particular area, it might be a good idea to gain knowledge in a different area, one in which you have no experience.
   For example: if you have a lot of experience in business, instead of taking the Teaching Business elective, try something different, something that will take you out of your comfort zone, say, English for Elementary. This would be beneficial because your knowledge base will be broader, and you will make yourself more marketable. Our courses give you an advantage over other TESOL courses as we offer the chance of gaining knowledge and qualifications over a much broader area. So consider choosing electives that can show your diversity and knowledge.

2. Consider your interests
   Of course this is really important! We emphasise the importance, in this industry, to be open-minded, adaptable and flexible. However, if there is a particular age group or type of English you definitely DON’T want to teach, then you should stick to what interests you, in terms of choosing your electives.

3. Consider your destination
   The industry is huge and in every country there will be people of all ages learning English, so it is difficult to say “in such and such country, the demand is for teaching children”. Children, adults and business lessons are widespread across the world.
   However, for more specific areas, there are places with more demand than others; e.g. the IELTS test is quite popular in Asia (500,000 took the test in 2005 – almost 30% of those were from China!), since many students will come to Australia and New Zealand to study.
   If you are going to a developed country, CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) might be a great choice (e.g. in South Korea, one the most technologically advanced countries in the world) where computer labs and access to the Internet is widespread, whereas if you are going to Central America, this may not be the case. (And CALL would be a great one to do if you want to teach teenagers in a developed country as using computers in the classroom is a great motivator for that age group).

4. Talk to your trainer!
   If the above advice didn’t help, remember that you can talk to your trainers at the in-class course!
   There is time set aside (before class or during breaks) to talk one-on-one to your trainer for great advice regarding your choice.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. **Just because you don’t choose a particular elective**, e.g. Teaching Children, it doesn't mean you are restricted from teaching children! It just means you won't have that specialised knowledge, so may find it just a bit more challenging if you find yourself in that teaching scenario. If you decide later that you would like to do an extra elective, you have the option to purchase one for $595 upgrade to a higher program where you get to do more electives.

2. **The kind of school you are planning to teach at may help you decide as well.** If you are planning to work in a chain school, then you will likely encounter all the different teaching scenarios, so keeping your electives diverse would be beneficial; but, if you know you will be teaching children in a government school, for example, then sticking to the Teaching Children elective is probably the best option in terms of the opportunities you will encounter in that type of school.