



Case Study

Kate's Top Tips

A really good hostel to stay at is 'Hillspring Lodge', which is cheap, clean, has a tube and bus line directly into the city (10mins away) and lets you stay as long as you want (most hostels have limits on long term stay).

It is a good idea to stay at a hostel when you first come and then look for accommodation when you arrive in London - you will have a better idea of the proximity to work and which areas are nice to live in.

I personally prefer the south of London .

There are heaps and heaps of Australians living in London and you definitely will not feel homesick !

Kate Llewellyn: University of Queensland 2009

I'm working at two really lovely schools near the centre of London teaching music full time and having a really great time. You need to be patient when waiting for jobs to come up. Some schools can be quite disorganised when it comes to staffing for the next term and you may not get a job until a month before you leave Australia. Also, be prepared to make a really good first impression upon meeting the schools - it makes life much easier.

Make sure you organise CRBs and Australian police checks early so that you have the documents in your hand before leaving Australia. Also the visa application for a UK working visa can be done online and is really simple. Be prepared to have finger prints taken at the British High Commission in your capital city

A lot of the bigger recruitment agencies may promise casual work when you arrive in London - DO NOT BUY INTO THIS. I have known so many people who have had the misfortune of teaching in some truly horrible schools and only getting a little bit of work a week. These companies may tell you other wise but do not believe them.

Education Group will help set up bank accounts, remuneration statements and everything else you may need.



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Andy's Top Tips

*Have confidence in yourself
You're probably the best music
teacher they've ever seen.*

*Have your visa ready well in
advance .*

*Learn some acronyms. The
English education system is full of
them,*

*Be prepared to compromise but
don't settle for something you
won't enjoy.*

*Avoid signing up immediately for
long term rent*

*Find something outside of work to
keep life interesting and to
provide a social
network*

Andrew Guy: Sydney Conservatorium 2009

I finished my BMus (MusEd) at Sydney Conservatorium last year ready to see some more of the world but with no money to do it. Putting a hard-earned degree into practice, gaining international experience and having great holidays to travel across Europe on pounds seemed a decent option! Being rather idealistic, I hung out for the best offer but arrived at Heathrow on New Years Eve with no job, no home and no money. Within a week I had all three! London!

Education Group were brilliant at providing advice and support. Several options with other companies fell through before I arrived, but once I was able to turn up to Education Group interviews everything rolled along quickly.

Landing a good school, I felt a little out of my depth but soon realised that we are trained much better than many English trained teachers! So have faith! First year out and I am now signed for another academic year with my school as Music Co-ordinator. It was, however, a difficult adjustment starting in January, a full term in to the academic year.

Teaching in London is a great experience, and if you can handle it here, you can handle it anywhere (as I keep hearing!) An easy (English-speaking) introduction to European life and culture, one becomes more rounded both as an Educator and a person. And there is just so much MUSIC!



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Jeff's Top Tips

Sponsorship is possible after the expiry of your original visa but you need to be aware that as a teacher, you do not have to return to Australia to get your work permit and leave to remain like many other occupations.

Teachers are on the occupational shortage list and sponsorship costs around the £550 mark and you can sometimes (depending on your head teacher) get the school to pay for you

Grocery Shopping - there are really good deals in Sainsbury's but awesome quality (but a lot more expensive) food in Waitrose!

Jeff Chung: Sydney Conservatorium 2008

Set up a bank account before travelling to the UK as it takes a lot more paperwork setting it up over there. In regards to employment, if you want to teach general classroom, which many don't, then apply to as many agencies as possible, but in my experience Education Group has done an awesome job finding me a job as a music specialist. Not many people realise that you can actually set up a National Insurance interview from Australia before leaving.

If you're looking to move in with other Australians then I suggest the Putney/Hammersmith/Shepherds Bush areas of London. You know that most Australians will be there to travel - so instantly you have a travel buddy. If you want to go down the route that I chose which is working and living with British people, then there are advantages to that as well, as they know where to go and have already a friendship group set, so mingling and making friends becomes much easier.

Things I would have done differently? I'd have saved up more money before travelling to the UK as money goes really fast in London.....but thinking about it again it's going quite fast in Sydney as well these days!

Have fun - go travelling around the EU. Don't be scared to experience new things and make the most of it whilst you are there!!



Case Study

Karen's Top Tips

Before arriving in the UK, it is really important to get all of the Australian paperwork in order because it can be extremely difficult getting things like police checks once you have relocated.

The chances of getting supply days through other teaching agencies in secondary music are few and far between.

Teaching music in primary schools is a great way to have some permanent days and still get to teach in your subject area.

Karen Taylor UNSW 2004

I was interested in teaching music in the UK and didn't quite know where to start. Education Group got back to my enquiry quickly and organised a face-to-face interview in Bathurst NSW (not far from where I was working at the time). There seemed to be a lot of recruitment fairs in the capital cities but not many companies ventured away from the coast.

My interview involved a friendly, comfortable chat. I was asked a lot of music curriculum questions and answered my MANY questions about the UK Curriculum, living in London, health cover and the types of schools I would be working in. This made everything seem a great deal easier and it was very comforting knowing what schools I would be working at before relocating to the UK.

I was informed that Education Group assists you in opening a bank account, getting a CRB check and applying for a National Insurance number.

On arriving in the UK, I had a meeting in London with Martin (the schools coordinator) and my teaching days were confirmed. I found that every primary school I arrived at, knew who I was and had a set programme.

I was also offered maternity blocks, one off cover days and permanent days. It makes it an interesting and enjoyable week when you go to three different schools and actually get to teach in your subject area without having to battle with secondary supply days teaching science or another subject not in your field of expertise.