



Andrea needs to hire an English teacher for her company. She's the human resources manager and has several CVs on her desk but doesn't understand what the degrees mean. Is TESOL the same as TEFL? Is a CELTA better than a DELTA?

Understand Teacher Certificates

Most English teaching certificates have names such as TESOL, TESL, TEFL, CELTA or DELTA. What do they mean?

TESOL /TEFL/TESL accreditations can be obtained after studying between one month and one year, depending on the school. Both face-to-face and online schools offer these certificates. As there is no official body to regulate them, quality depends on the institution issuing them.

CELTA certificates are backed by the University of Cambridge and take about five weeks to complete full-time. DELTA diplomas are also certified by Cambridge and are taken by teachers who have at least two years' experience.

Andrew's advice? Hire a teacher with a certificate from a well-know institution.

Acronyms: TESOL & TESL: Teaching of English As a Second Language; TEFL: Teaching of English As a Foreign Language; CELTA: Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages; DELTA: Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.