
Frequently Asked Questions

Getting to Egypt

When do I have to be in Egypt?

We usually fly everyone out around August 20th. This gives you a few days settling-in and an induction week pre-opening. School usually starts around the beginning of September.

The school usually uses BA with flights from Heathrow to Cairo.

How do I get my ticket?

School will sort your ticket out and email it to you.

Why don't we fly to Alexandria?

Flights from Europe arrive in Alexandria in the early hours of the morning and all involve a connecting flight. We feel that the more convenient flight times of BA, and the fact that it is a direct flight, makes it the better option. The return flight dates are also easier to change with BA.

Do I need a visa?

Yes, but it will all be sorted out by the company that does our 'meet and greet' at the airport.

Will someone meet me at the airport?

Yes. We try to bring out all new staff together and the Head Teacher will meet you.

Where will I stay on the first night?

At a hotel near the airport.

Who pays for the hotel?

We do. Bar bills and phone calls are at your expense and must be paid when checking out.

How long does it take to get to Alex?

About 4 hours.

Accommodation

How do I find an apartment?

We find one for you.

Do I have to share?

No.

Are the apartments equipped?

Yes, they are. They are all fully furnished including kitchenware and bedding. Apartments will have phone, TV, washing machine and air-conditioning. A list of the things that school provides will be emailed to all new staff.

Where are the apartments?

They are all within walking distance of the school.

How much will I pay?

Nothing – if at a later date you wish to move to a more upmarket apartment then you can add to the School's housing allowance.

Finance**When will I know salary details and contract?**

You will receive a salary estimate and copy of contract if you are offered an interview.

Do I get a settling-in allowance?

No but School buys the essential for when you move in and they will be in your apartment when you arrive.

How do I receive my salary?

The salary is in two parts - local currency and sterling. The Egyptian Pounds are paid into your Egyptian bank account and we can pay the sterling into a UK bank account, an Egyptian sterling account or a combination of both.

Do I pay for 'shipping'?

Yes but this is refunded on arrival. We will recommend a company and school will pay up to £500 – please remember that there will be some local cost when the shipment arrives.

How much money do I need to bring with me?

We pay your first salary on the last Tuesday in August so you don't have to wait until the end of September to be paid. Whilst the apartments are equipped they will only feel like home once you have personalised them. The start up cost for internet etc. will depend on personal taste but we would recommend £500 either in cash or available via ATM. There is no need to get Egyptian pounds before arriving.

Will the school help me with a loan?

No – the school does not offer any of its staff loans

Induction**What will happen in the first 2 weeks?**

The first few days are to help you settle into your apartment. You will be taken shopping and shown around the local area.

There will be:

- Sessions to acquaint new staff with the school and how it runs.
- A tour of the school.
- Meetings as a whole School, Primary and secondary and in Key Stages.
- CPD.
- Time to prepare your classroom.

- Social events so that you can meet your colleagues.
- Tours of Alexandria.

The induction period is not just limited to the start of term and will continue, at a reduced level, for most of the first term.

School

How many periods per week will I teach?

The timetable varies depending on the part of the school but we try to give staff no more than an 80% teaching load.

How many children in a class?

The maximum normally 20 but might at times be 1 or 2 more.

When will I receive information about the curriculum?

Every new member of staff has a school curriculum contact who will help you prepare.

Do I have to bring my own books and materials?

No, you don't, but obviously bring your favourites.

Do I have to teach a second subject in the Secondary school?

As we are a small school we sometimes have to have staff teach a small amount of a second subject – you will have been informed about any requirements at interview

Do I have duties and cover?

Yes, we all do

Egypt

Is it safe?

Yes – Egypt is safer than many large UK cities.

Is it dry?

No, good local beers, drinkable local wines and awful local spirits are available. Imported wines and spirits are available at a price.

What can I wear?

Egypt is conservative so dress sensibly and modestly. Don't be afraid to ask other staff – the expatriate staff handbook will advise you.
