



TEACH ABROAD

FILM FESTIVAL

THE DIGITAL EVENT



WELCOME

Welcome to our second ever International TEFL Academy Teach Abroad Film Festival! Originally scheduled to be held at the Davis Theatre on April 2, we hoped to have rescheduled this event for a later date in 2020, but with COVID-19 still in the picture, we're taking this virtual!

We invite you to experience living and teaching English abroad through the eyes of our creative, passionate, and globetrotting alumni. Each one has a unique story to tell, and we're thrilled to showcase our six finalists to you as they share their overseas adventures.



Our students come to us with a 'crazy dream' of traveling the world and living abroad. Some are experienced travelers, but for others, teaching English represents their first journey overseas. It takes an unbelievable amount of courage to take the plunge and make this adventure a reality. It also takes tremendous bravery and initiative to tell your story through film.

So, we celebrate our bold alumni who chased their dreams to places like Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam. We enthusiastically applaud all of our alumni who committed their time and energy to share their stories and submit a film.

Now, get ready to be moved and inspired by these creative talents as they showcase their experiences and bring to life the theme of Teach, Travel, and Explore!

We want to give a big thanks to our sponsors, judges, and the Film Festival team at ITA who not only helped create this event, but heled move it from its original in-person format, to this virtual format for all to enjoy.

Better late than never!

Bruce Jones
President and Co-Founder
International TEFL Academy

ABOUT

In its second year, the International TEFL Academy Teach Abroad Film Festival represents the first event of its kind, focusing exclusively on English teachers overseas. This truly unique festival celebrates the creativity and courage of our graduates who are teaching and traveling in all corners of the globe. Today, you'll see our six alumni finalist films that were selected by a panel of ITA team members. We invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy this firsthand glimpse into the grand adventure of teaching English abroad.

An esteemed jury comprised of professionals from the travel, education, teach abroad, and film industries have reviewed and scored our finalist films to determine our Grand Prize Winners. Our first place winner will receive \$2,000; our second, \$1,000; and our third, \$500. But that's not all - our friends over at Go Overseas will also be awarding a \$200 prize for their favorite film!

The Jury is responsible for choosing the three overall winners based on the following criteria: Storytelling (30%), Creativity & Originality (25%), Cinematography (20%), Production (15%), and Online Voting (10%). The online voting component provides our finalists, their friends and family, and all ITA alumni around the world the opportunity to vote for their favorite film. Online voting is opened for a 48-hour period from October 5-6, 2020.

International TEFL Academy is a worldwide leader in TEFL certification for teaching English abroad. We certify 6,000 people per year to teach English overseas and our 30,000 graduates teach professionally in 80 countries worldwide.

Learn more at www.ita.fyi/FilmFestival.



ITA Alumnus Christian Lopez



ITA Alumna Anne Cheatham

FINALISTS



MAKE GREAT MEMORIES | Benoit Potvin
Gatineau, Quebec, Canada | Teaches English in China

Benoit's story started in 2015 when he taught English voluntarily in Peru. He found himself living with 20 other people from all around the world. That experience opened his eyes to what is possible and he then vowed that one day he would be an ESL teacher. Back to reality, he soon forgot about his ambitions as the daily grind took hold of him. In 2018, he found old journals where he wrote his life goal: Teach ESL Abroad with a link to the International TEFL Academy website. He decided to save up for his TEFL course by spending a summer treeplanting in Northern British-Columbia before heading east to Jiaxing, China in order to teach English, a job he found through Career China. Since then, he's started a side-hustle in video content marketing for local businesses. Now with his ESL experience and registered business under his belt, he's patiently planning his next move.



TRAVELING SOLO INTERNATIONALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME | Jonas Hudnall
Nashville, Tennessee | Teaches English Online from the USA

Jonas moved to Corvallis, OR from his hometown of Nashville, TN soon after he graduated from Mississippi State University in May of 2017. He graduated with a degree in Wildlife Biology and never thought he would be teaching English to people from all over the world. This new move opened his eyes to the abundant possibilities this world has to offer and so he decided to get TEFL certified through International TEFL Academy in Thailand. This experience really changed him and has inspired him to see more of the world and bring others along with him. He's currently teaching English online via two different companies with hopes that this will springboard him into his new life as a world traveler and educator.



LIFE'S CROSS TRAINING | Ryan Thompson
Cranston, Rhode Island | Teaches English in South Korea

After earning his degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2013, Ryan took on a brief stint in corporate America before deciding to complete his TEFL certification through International TEFL Academy. In December 2015, Ryan flew off to South Korea and hasn't looked back since. You can find Ryan enjoying kimchi and seaweed with the locals or in the mountains training for his next ultra marathon. Ryan is unsure if he will be an expat for life or return home in 2021, but all he knows is he is exactly where he is supposed to be right now. His journey can all be traced back to a conversation with Jessie Smith, who at the time was Ryan's advisor at ITA. So much of what she said resonated with him that he just had to pursue teaching English abroad further.

FINALISTS

EMPTY SPACES | Steven Cruse **Troon, Scotland | Teaches English Online from all over Asia**

Steven grew up on the West Coast of Scotland before leaving for the University of Mount Olive, North Carolina to study English on a Men's Volleyball Scholarship. After graduating in 2014, he was offered a position at his alma mater dealing with international student recruitment. After spending almost five years working in an office, his will to live was rapidly deteriorating, prompting him, and his girlfriend Jessica to enroll in ITA's online TEFL program in 2018. One year later, they left the US, teaching English online, to travel the world. After six months on the road, they have spent time in China, Mongolia, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, and the Philippines. They currently have no set plans for their future travel but anticipate about 2-3 years of traveling. Their precise location as of this second is completely speculative.



PEACE, LOVE, INDONESIA | Courtney Dart **Alexander, New York | Teaches English in Indonesia**

While earning her Biological Anthropology degree, Courtney was bitten by the travel bug during a study abroad program to Israel in June 2015. After graduating from The College at Brockport in December 2015, she moved to NYC and worked in Student Affairs at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. She knew she wanted to travel more and also encourage others by leading the way. She completed her TEFL certification from International TEFL Academy in February 2017 and went on to teach English online and tutor in a summer program until June 2019, when she quit her jobs and moved back home to Western NY. In August 2019, she applied and was accepted to work at EF English First Indonesia where she currently lives and continues exploring Southeast Asia.



THE OTHER SIDE OF FEAR | Kenny Nguyen **Chicago, Illinois | Taught English in Japan and Vietnam**

Kenny Nguyen has been traveling since he was a little boy. His parents would frequently take him across the world during summer vacations. After graduating Columbia College Chicago in 2016, everyone expected him to join the corporate world, everyone except himself. In college, he made promises to himself that he would live in Asia for at least two years. This part of the world, specifically Vietnam, fascinated him. Kenny has many family members in Vietnam, some whom he had never met or didn't know well. Before entering into the corporate world, he knew he had to make up for lost time with his family so in 2017, Kenny got TEFL certified and went on to teach English in Japan and Vietnam, also known as "the motherland".



JURORS



Bruce Jones
President & Founder
International TEFL Academy



Ian Davis
Vice President & Co-Founder
International TEFL Academy



Betsy Divine
Director of Studies
International TEFL Academy



Allyson D'Amico
ITA Alum - Winner 2019
Teach Abroad Film Festival



Wenhwa Ts'ao
Professor - Cinema & Television Arts
Columbia College Chicago



Kayla Patterson
Chief Operating Officer
GoAbroad.com



Martha McGivern
Director - Study Abroad
DePaul University



Olivia Bertels
English & Social Studies Educator
Chicago Public Schools



Mitchel Meighen
Education Professional
Chicagoland



Laura Nalin
ITA Alum - Grad Student
Chicago School of Professional
Psychology



Jovanny Evans
Creative Producer
Univision Chicago



Whitney Bennett
Information Systems Analyst -
Global Learning Office
Northwestern University

SPONSORS



It has always been GoAbroad's mission to change lives through meaningful travel, one destination and one experience at a time. They believe that travel is the key to individuals attaining a broader perspective of the world, and that the world is a better place when people have a deeper understanding and greater empathy toward all individuals and cultures.

Launched and conceptualized in 1997, GoAbroad first set out to fill the information gap between students with a desire to travel abroad and companies offering international programs. As the travel industry has evolved and access to opportunities to see the world have grown, their mission has transformed into something much greater than building a bridge between travelers and organizations: they've developed and evolved over the past two decades to meet the ever-changing needs of travelers, positioning themselves as the resource for meaningful travel around the world. Today, they continue to work tirelessly to create new resources and share international travel opportunities, because they believe anyone can find their own way to see the world.

Visit GoAbroad at www.GoAbroad.com.



Going overseas doesn't have to be intimidating. Having a travel buddy you trust makes a world of difference – that's where Go Overseas come in. Whether you're planning your trip abroad, you're overseas right now, or you're back home, they have just what you need!

As a company of seasoned travelers, everyone at Go Overseas has experienced firsthand what a stressful and difficult experience it is to find reliable information about programs abroad. Their mission is to give you the knowledge and confidence to choose the right program for your next adventure, whether it be working in Australia, studying in England, teaching in Asia, or volunteering in Peru, taking a bike tour through Tuscany, or all of the above. They want to empower human connection through perspective-changing travel.

Visit Go Overseas at www.gooverseas.com.

SPONSORS



Founders Brewing Co. has been lucky to evolve into one of the highest recognized breweries in the United States. They've been ranked in the top breweries in the world by Ratebeer.com for the last five years, and they have several beers listed in the top 100 beers of the world on Beeradvocate.com. They're now among the top ten largest craft breweries in the country and one of the fastest-growing. They're proud to be doing what

they're doing and give credit to their staff for continuously working to reinvent what beer can be and thanks to their many customers for whom they work to provide world-class beers. It's not always pitchers and pints, though. Founders Brewing passion extends beyond beer. They're focused on reducing their environmental footprint and supporting national and local causes in Social Justice, Environment, and Arts & Culture and also match all employee donations to various local organizations.

Visit Founders Brewing at www.foundersbrewing.com.



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Visit TQUK at www.tquk.org.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2020 ITA Teach Abroad Film Festival possible. A special shout out to Lynda Galea and Stéphane Le Mentec, both part of our ITA Marketing Department and the masterminds behind this entire event.

To our sponsors - we appreciate you all SO much! Without you guys coming on board and getting behind this event, much of it would not have been possible, so thank you.

And last but not least, thank you to our team of jurors, our host Shay Ames, the ITA staff, and of course all of the ITA alumni filmmakers who shared their experiences teaching English abroad and online to help us all expand our view of the world. We applaud your efforts to help make a difference in this world.

ITA CARES

Making a Difference at home and abroad, together.

As Global Citizens, we are committed to helping those in need locally and around the world.

International TEFL Academy believes it is our responsibility to leave the world a better place than how we found it. Our staff, instructors, and students are Global Citizens, and we realize how fortunate we are to travel and live abroad. We have a commitment to make an impact on the world, both large and small, by direct involvement or by simply spreading the word on what each one of us can do.

Each year, ITA commits a portion of its profits to international and local charities. We also provide free ESL lessons to our local Chicago community.

70+

Total Charitable
Organizations Helped by ITA

\$107K

Total Donations Made by
International TEFL Academy

1K

Non-native English Speakers
who received free ESL classes
from ITA in Chicago

SOME OF THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT



ALLIANCE for the
GREAT LAKES



World
Central
Kitchen

CHICAGO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD,
FOR EVERY CHICAGOAN.



GIRLS FOR A
CHANGE



RECLAIM
THE
BLOCK



International TEFL Academy is proud to join forces with **LEAP Innovations** as our 2020 Film Festival charity partner. LEAP is a dynamic organization on a mission to catalyze learning innovation by creating access to equitable, high quality personalized learning experiences for all learners, particularly

those in underserved communities. No longer satisfied with incremental change, LEAP aims to dramatically increase student achievement by improving teacher practices, increasing student agency, and fostering student-centered learning environments.

Originally, 100% of ticket sales from the Film Festival were going to be donated to LEAP, but since we're going virtual, International TEFL Academy is stepping up and donating \$1,500 to LEAP Innovations. We invite you to join us in donating to this great cause!

WWW.LEAPINNOVATIONS.ORG

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IRAQ CZECH REPUBLIC CHINA ARGENTINA JORDAN
BRAZIL OMAN THAILAND COLOMBIA MOROCCO
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COLOMBIA MOROCCO GERMANY VIETNAM CHILE
RUSSIA CAMBODIA ECUADOR POLAND
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