S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Primary school teacher

Profesór/a ensinu báziku

Education & childcare · ISCO-08 2341

Primary school teachers teach children to read, write and count, and teach other subjects in the first years of school. It is one of the biggest jobs in Timor-Leste: 6 in every 100 workers were primary school teachers in 2021.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**University (UNTL)** Faculty of Education and Humanities
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Large employer · Priority** 6.0% of all workers; national plans
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$292 / month** Average for all professionals in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Plan lessons: Prepare lesson plans that follow the national curriculum; Make teaching materials: pictures, charts and games; Plan activities for children who learn fast and slow.

Teach: Teach reading, writing and numbers; Teach other subjects such as science, art and sport; Use songs, stories and group work to keep children interested.

Check progress: Give and mark homework and tests; Follow each child's progress and help those who fall behind; Write reports for the school and for parents.

Care and community: Keep order in class and keep children safe at break time; Meet parents to talk about their child; Take part in staff meetings and school events.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 2341, Primary school teachers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Public schools (Government basic-education schools); Church & private schools (Catholic and other private schools); Town & village schools (In Dili and in the municipalities).

Classes can be large. The government plans to build more classrooms to reach an average of 35 pupils for each teacher. Teachers often plan lessons and mark work at home too.

In 2011 the national plan said more than 75% of teachers were not qualified to the level the law requires. The current government wants every primary teacher to have modern teaching skills and access to digital learning.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Patience, Explaining things simply, Speaking in front of a group, Organising your time, Reading and maths.

You like: Children, Learning new things, Helping others grow, Being part of a community.

Good Tetun and Portuguese help. The government wants to train more teachers in Portuguese.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Faculdade de Educação e Humanidades, UNTL** · Trains education professionals. Primary-teacher course title: to confirm.
- **Professional development for teachers** · Government aim: modern skills and digital learning for every primary teacher

Course length, entry rules and fees: to confirm with UNTL. This list is incomplete. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Student teacher** · UNTL Faculty of Education and Humanities
- **Primary school teacher** · Keep learning on the job
- **Lead teacher or school director** · Path to confirm
- **University lecturer** · Further study; path to confirm (ISCO 2310)

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · There is no official programme that sends Timorese teachers abroad yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer from an Australian employer.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

1. ILO, ISCO-08 unit group 2341 Primary school teachers https://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/
2. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 12: top 5 occupations https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf
3. UNTL faculties https://www.untl.edu.tl/estudo/faculdades/
4. Government of Timor-Leste, Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030 (2011), education https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Timor-Leste-Strategic-Plan-2011-20301.pdf
5. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028 (18 Jul 2023), education https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
6. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
7. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/primary-school-teacher/?lang=en