

Thank you for your interest in our Conversation Specialist position located in Dnipro, Ukraine.

We offer a rewarding and amazing life adventure like no other! To continue the interview process, please review this Q and A to determine if this position is right for you.

Q: What are the most important professional qualities a Conversation Specialist needs?

A: You must have a strong desire and ability to ask interesting questions in order to engage students in conversation. A **FUN PERSONALITY** to make the lessons enjoyable, a **GENUINE PASSION** for people and for teaching, **FOCUSED LISTENING** so you can correct speaking mistakes, a **COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING** of your audience (meaning you know the speaking level of your students), **ENTHUSIASM**, **TEACHING EXPERIENCE** and **LESSON PREPARATION** so you can handle any classroom situation.

Q: What and how are you going to teach?

A : Our lessons are interactive, fun, energetic, interesting and useful. Our native teachers focus on developing “8 core areas” in each student’s speech: pronunciation, vocabulary, phrasal verbs, idioms, slang, collocations, speed, confidence.

Our methodology is simple: *students practice the English they have, use what they learn and have a great time doing it*. We have a working document of best practices that teachers are expected to learn and implement in their lessons. **The feeling and focus is on more student generated content, review and practice** than us teaching and explaining new words. For example, our approach is that teacher generated material takes less time to present and starts 25-30 minutes into the class. It’s a slower approach for the student and the result is really learning and using something versus constantly writing down and forgetting new words.

We approach each lesson with the same outline and methodology:

- 1) **Conversation** (*practice what they know*)
- 2) **New words from their “English world”** (*use what they learn*)
- 3) **Review**
- 4) **Student Speeches**
- 5) **Today’s Lesson**
- 6) **Review**

Q: Who are the students?

A: Our students are 22-35 year old professionals. We teach very intelligent software engineers, developers, designers, project managers, artists and CEO's. The IT industry is the #3 export in Ukraine and growing. This generation is creating a middle-class and changing the mentality of this country.

Q: What is the employment process?

A: Every teacher works through this progression:

- 1) Read Q and A
- 2) Schedule a Skype interview with Liya Dovganeko, Native Teacher Support Manager
- 3) Skype interview with Andy Allinson, Director
- 4) A Skype test lesson with one of our students
- 5) Job Offer
- 6) Prior to arrival prep and training
- 7) Arrival and first 7 weeks
- 8) Student evaluations
- 9) Visa run
- 10) Contract and THRIVE

Q: So the first 8-weeks is like a “probationary period” where I prove myself and earn a visa, correct?

A: Yes, the job offer gives you the opportunity to earn a spot on our team. We have local partnerships with universities and cultural centers and they provide assistance in obtaining visas.

Q: How much is the visa?

A: \$185 – teacher pays for this and we reimburse this cost when the teacher completes his/her contract.

Q: How much is a plane ticket to Ukraine?

A: It varies depending on your point of departure in the US, but a round trip ticket costs between \$800 - \$1,200

Q: What are the living accommodations like and how much is rent?

A: While we offer a **“3 month come and see if you like it contract”**, our goal is to hire teachers looking for long-term opportunities. Every teacher starts with a 3-month contract and then extends. It is vital that our students love learning English with you and that you love your job, the city of Dnipro and want to stay for 1-year. **The only way to ensure happiness and success on all sides is for teachers to come and see if it works.**

Option #1: Housing Partner Program

This is why we provide a unique opportunity to live with one of our Ukrainian family housing partners for the first 6-8 weeks. All housing partners provide the teacher a private room. Utilities, WiFi and rent is only 3,500uah per month (about \$140). As a way to connect and build this cultural and language exchange experience with the host family or individual, the native teacher provides one free English lesson a week. This is a total “win-win” and also a positive experience for everyone.

Option #2: Private Apartment

If living with one of our Ukrainian family partners doesn't suit you, we can find you a comfortable apartment near the city center. Based on your living preferences, we can provide either single or roommate housing. We manage and negotiate everything with the landlord on your behalf. Monthly rent does not include utilities and WiFi: approximately \$275-\$325 for shared living or \$325-\$400 for single. We show you sample pics of different apartments after you are offered a position. At the beginning of a rental contract, the renter pays for the first month, last month as a security deposit and rental fees. Prior to arrival, the teacher must provide a \$650 non-refundable deposit to cover these costs.

Q: What do I need to bring?

A: Apartments come fully furnished. We provide pillows, clean sheets and pillow cases. For teaching, a laptop with an HDMI connection is required. We provide the cables.

Q: What about medical care?

A: Compared to the United States, medical care in Ukraine is very cheap. We have a good company doctor that speaks English and will assist with any medical problems while you are here.

Q: Why is there a 1-2 week orientation/training period?

A: Teachers work through this progression: **crawl (orientation) - walk (semi-autonomous) – run (fully-autonomous)** Dnipro is our “work campus” so we travel to different office buildings located throughout the city. Our goal is that by the end of your 2nd week, you know where all your classes are located, you understand each student's level, company security procedure, how to use copiers, etc. Also, you understand how to use public transportation and where shops, restaurants, cafes and points of interest are located. We have a first class teacher support team that assists you through this learning curve and helps you get settled into Dnipro life.

Q: How much does a Conversation Specialist make?

A: Reaching our top salary point is determined by a teacher's preparation before arrival, performance in the classroom and completing daily and weekly operation requirements. We do offer a higher beginning salary for good, caring and professional teachers. Teacher's with a lot of ability can earn a higher starting rate by showing their skills and willingness to work with our approach during the test lesson. Your salary is paid once a month and is based on how many classes you teach.

Great Teachers

Crawl	orientation and training (week 1)	250uah/hour	5-10 intro. lessons	300uah/hour
Walk	semi-autonomous	250uah/hour 375uah/1.5hour	15-20 lessons / wk	350uah/hour 525uah/1.5hour
Run	fully-autonomous	275uah/hour 400uah/1.5hour	17-22 lessons / wk	400uah/hour 600uah/1.5hour
Thrive	continuously EXCEL	300uah/hour and 450uah/1.5hour	20-22 lessons / wk	400uah/hour 600uah/1.5hour

**After the first 90-days, salary for a long-term contract (9-12 months) is 400uah/hour and 600uah/1.5hour*

Q: I want to make 32,000uah a month, how many classes is that and what's the schedule like?

A: Great! After you complete your first 60-days, receive good evaluations and fulfill all operation requirements, you will average 4-5 lessons a day (20-25 lessons per week, 80-100 lessons per month) and make 400uah per a 1-hour class. No two schedules are alike. Some companies prefer morning classes, others prefer afternoon or evening classes. However, the earliest start time is 9am and the latest end time is 8:30pm. We understand that either a morning to afternoon or afternoon to evening shift makes the best schedule. We try to create the best schedule for the teacher, but split shifts do happen from time to time.

The biggest reward about this job are the amazing people you will teach and meet while living in Dnipro, Ukraine and the great sense of satisfaction that you receive by helping people create brighter futures.

Q: Classroom performance and lesson preparation are very important, aren't they?

A: Yes! Your classroom performance, student evaluations and lesson preparation are very important if you want to thrive as a Buckeye English instructor and extend your contract. We help you become an expert in "massaging" **Ukrainian English** into **Real Life American English**. We create a fun, interactive atmosphere where students learn and practice English in conversation. This position is called "Conversation Specialist" because we want to get our students talking. You are required to have lesson plans and materials prepared 1-week in advance.

Q: How much money should I bring to Ukraine?

A: Since you get paid on or before the 15th of the next month, you will need money to live on until your first paycheck. You will need to bring rent money for your first month's rent. Rent is due when you arrive and is then taken out of your salary for the following months. You will also need money for food, entertainment, etc. (\$500-\$1000)

Q: What is Dnipro like?

A: Awesome! Dnipro is the perfect size, not too big, not too small. It's alive with a cool vibe! A wonderful place for a native teacher to live and work. Read more here <https://gorod.dp.ua/eng/guide/>

Q: When are teachers expected to arrive in Dnipro?

A: Ideally, anytime between the last 4 or first 4 days of the month. Your first week consists of recovering from jet lag settling into your apartment, a busy orientation, observation, training schedule and teaching your intro. lesson.

Q: What if I can't make it now, but I'm interested in this opportunity?

A: Start the interview process now! We are opening new locations and hiring more teachers in the nearest future.

Q: What is the interview process?

A: 1) Skype interview with Liya Dovganeko, Native Teacher Support Manager
2) Skype interview with Andy Allinson, Director
3) Test lesson with one of our students

Please consider these questions and answers carefully. If you have any questions or would like to continue the interview process, please write to Andy Allinson, Director, at andy.buckeye@gmail.com or connect on Skype at "**buckeye.teachers**". We'll begin the process of getting you started on an amazing work and life adventure. Generally, Skype interviews are conducted anytime from 11am-2pm EST. Ukraine is 7-hours ahead of EST.

BUCKEYE ENGLISH advertises
"AN AMAZING WORK AND LIFE EXPERIENCE"

and they certainly deliver on
that promise



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