

Rise of digital holiday jobs

As we head into the long summer break, unemployed students will turn to holiday jobs to earn a little bit of money. Unfortunately, the impact of Covid-19 has all but wiped out the availability of traditional student jobs, with posts for cashiers, waiters and bartenders in short supply. Which is why students should look to technology for safe and flexible part-time work to fund their festive break.



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“A holiday job is a great way to make some extra cash, bulk up your CV and make professional connections. While industries that rely on face-to-face interaction may be cutting back, the number of jobs in the online space, which can be completed remotely, are multiplying,” says Tom Gibbons, director at the Tefl Academy, South African course provider of teaching English as a foreign language.

With average salaries between R190 and R560 per hour, depending on experience, teaching English online could provide the perfect opportunity for students this holiday season. Since many foreign countries have different school terms, and don’t have as long a December break as South Africans do, there continues to be an abundance of work available in this sector.

“The flexibility of teaching online makes it an attractive option for students who still want to enjoy their summer break. Students can teach from anywhere in the world, as long as they have a laptop, a webcam, internet access and a legitimate Tefl qualification – which can be completed within four to six weeks,” says Gibbons.

In terms of working hours, peak teaching times are Monday to Friday, 11am to 4pm South African time, and 1pm to 4pm on weekends. Alternatively, teachers can set their own hours by adding themselves and their qualifications to an existing agency database where Tefl learners all over the world can easily find them.

“Teaching remotely allows students to observe social-distancing measures, while still gaining valuable, real-world work experience. It also demonstrates initiative and innovation to future employers, who will be on the lookout for those who were able to succeed in difficult times,” says Gibbons.

“Beyond short-term employment, once a student is Tefl-qualified, they have the option of turning it into a full-time career. When travel restrictions are lifted, they’ll also have the opportunity to travel and teach abroad,” concludes Gibbons.

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