



# Teaching English in Sri Lanka





# The Beginning

A meeting of two open-minded strangers on a train in Germany initiated the Teaching English in Sri Lanka program. After more than a year of preparations, including several visits by officials to Germany and Sri Lanka, the implementation of a number of English Days in designated Vocational Training Centres in Sri

Lanka, a note by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka himself, in October 2016, Simon and Nils were the first students from the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, who took part in the Teaching English in Sri Lanka Program. Their place of action was the Sri Lanka



German Technical Training

Institute (SLGTI) in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka. The SLGTI was built with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation (BMZ) and opened by the Sri Lankan President and the German ambassador in July 2016. Today, SLGTI is being further supported by the Vocational Training in the North and East of Sri Lanka Project (VTN) of GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). If you would like to learn more about GIZ and GIZ VTN, please refer to their websites!

<http://vtnaita.com/>

<https://www.giz.de/de/html/index.html>



During their stay of six months at the SLGTI, Nils and Simon assisted the local teachers in teaching the English language. Furthermore, both were launching extra curricula activities such as movie nights, sport events and an English Day.



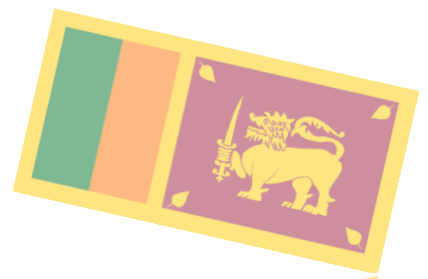
Throughout their stay, they became friends with the students and their work was appreciated by their colleagues and students alike. You are interested in getting to know the SLGTI? Check out their [website](#).



---

## New Students are Selected

While Simon and Nils were still staying in Sri Lanka, the application process at the JGU in Mainz was already in full swing. The program coordinator, Anke Lensch and her colleague, Matthias Eitelmann were reading applications and conducting



interviews with possible new candidates. By the end of the application process four students were selected to be the next participants of the program starting in April: Benedikt, Jessica, Pascal and Lisa.

Being students from different study programs, and at different stages within our studies, we were a very good team to be sent to Sri Lanka.

Jessica and I were sent to the SLGTI to take over the work of Nils

and Simon, while Benedikt and Pascal were sent even further up North, to a city called Jaffna.



You are interested in the program and want more information? Click [here](#), or make an appointment with the program coordinator Anke Lensch.

---



# Where Exactly are Kilinochchi and Jaffna?

Both places are located far up in the northern part of Sri Lanka, and most of the towns' inhabitants are ethnic Tamils. Jaffna is the capital of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka and with a population of 88,138, the 12th largest city of the island. Around 1936 when Jaffna was suffering from overpopulation and unemployment, people started to move further to the South, about 100 km south-east of Jaffna, to a place which is today known as Kilinochchi. Most people living around here are related to agricultural work.

After the Sri Lankan civil war had broken out in 1983, Kilinochchi became the administrative center and de facto capital of the LTTE (Tamil Tigers) in 1990. From that time onwards, the place was alternately controlled by the Sri Lankan Army and the Tamil Tigers. The LTTE were trying to establish an independent Tamil state in the north and east of the island, called Tamil Eelam. Fights continued in Kilinochchi and the surrounding area until May 18th, 2009, when the war was finally over.

During the war both places have been widely damaged. Houses were destroyed, people moved and the economy went down. Until today the aftermath of the war continues to affect the city of

Jaffna and the city of Kilinochchi. Only a small number of people has since moved back because rebuilding houses takes a lot of time, in some cases land ownership is unclear as documentation has been destroyed or gone missing during the time of the conflict, as well as many people have moved abroad when the war broke out. Nevertheless, the North has a lot to offer and it is a place worth visiting.

---