

# *George Brown College* **THE TORONTO CITY COLLEGE**

## **Teaching English As A Second Language To Adults**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Language Studies Department of George Brown College has been delivering ESL programming for over 30 years, and we have been training ESL instructors since 1974. Our work in this field is well respected and recognized, both locally and internationally. The Language Studies Department is an active member in CSLP (Council of Second Language Programs in Canada). The George Brown College TESL program is certified by TESL Ontario and TESL Canada. It consists of six courses, and a Practicum (seven courses altogether). Each course with the exception of the Practicum) is 45 hours in length. The Practicum consists of 50 hrs of classroom teaching and observation, as well as the development of a teaching portfolio (20 hrs).

#### **In semester 1:**

There are three courses: Phonetics and Phonology, the Pedagogy of English Grammar, and TESL Methodology. They are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

#### **In semester 2:**

There are three courses and a Practicum. Teaching Skills I, Teaching Skills II and Theories of Language and Language Learning are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Practicum seminars are held on Mondays (or TBA).

**Practicum: This is offered after students complete the second semester. Students who are accepted into the TESL program must be able to commit to a full-time Practicum. Students must be available for at least a three-week block of time from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

The program consists of two semesters and has two starting dates:

With a **September start**, first semester runs from **September to December**, with class times **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Second semester runs from **January to May (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)**

With a **January start**, first semester runs from **January to May, in the evenings** with class times **6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Second semester runs from **September to December, evenings, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM.**

Upon successful completion of the six courses and the Practicum, a certificate in TESL will be awarded. It is expected that most students will complete the program in one year. However, students may take fewer than the three courses in each semester and will be allowed two years to complete the program.

## FEES

If accepted into the program, students must register and pay for each course separately. The cost for each of the six courses and the Practicum is \$594.00 (total program cost is 7 X \$594). For some of the courses, students are required to purchase textbooks which are available in the George Brown College Casa Loma Bookstore (total cost of books -\$300).

Fees are subject to change.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Education:** An undergraduate degree from an accredited university is required.
- **Applicants must have excellent communication skills in English**
- **Language Proficiency:** Applicants whose first language is not English **must** provide proof of language proficiency. Please see the **TESL Ontario Language Proficiency Requirements** below.

### TESL Ontario Required Language Test Proficiency scores:

	Old Test	New Test: minimums	
<b>a) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)</b>	250 (computer score)	reading	24
TWE (Test of Written English)	5.5	listening	24
TSE (Test of Spoken English)	50	speaking	27
		writing	28
<b>OR</b>			
<b>b) IELTS (International English Testing System)</b>			7.5
with no score lower than 7			
Academic Module	with an oral score of		8
	with a writing score of		7
<b>OR</b>			
<b>c) MELAB (Michigan English Language Assessment Battery)</b>			85
	with a composition score		87
	Test of Spoken English		4 <b>OR</b>
	with a TOEFL TSE score of		50
<b>OR</b>			
<b>d) CanTEST</b>	Listening, reading, writing		5 overall
	Speaking		4.5
<b>OR</b>			
<b>e) YELT (York English Language Test)</b>		Band 1 (80-100)	
		for each of Part I/written; and Part II/oral	
<b>OR</b>			
<b>f) COPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)</b>			minimum total of 6, with no zero in any
skills area,			and no less than 2 in writing

**OR**

g) CAEL (Canadian Academic English Language Assessment) Band 80 overall, with a minimum of 70 in each of the writing and speaking subtests.

For more information on these tests please go to the following web sites:

1. TOEFL: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)
2. University of Toronto provides a list including TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB and COPE at: [www.library.utoronto.ca/admissions/essential\\_english.html](http://www.library.utoronto.ca/admissions/essential_english.html)
3. CAEL is the Carleton University test and the site for locations, dates and other information is: [www.cael.ca](http://www.cael.ca)
4. CanTEST: [www.cantest.uottawa.ca](http://www.cantest.uottawa.ca)
5. YELT: [www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/requirements/yelt.html](http://www.yorku.ca/web/futurestudents/requirements/yelt.html)

**TESL Ontario, the Ontario Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language, will not certify ESL teachers who do not possess an undergraduate degree. Those applicants who are non-native speakers of English will have to comply with the language requirements listed in order to receive certification from TESL Ontario.**

## **EXEMPTIONS AND PLAR**

Only **one** exemption is allowed in the TESL program. An exemption is allowed for either one course or the Practicum.

Course Exemption: Documentation must be provided of a post-secondary course similar in length and content completed within the last five (5) years.

Practicum Exemption: Documentation must be provided of ESL teaching to adults (50 hours minimum) completed within the last five (5) years.

Courses may be challenged for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). The Practicum is **not** eligible for PLAR. If you want to discuss PLAR options, contact the Access Program Office to meet with the Program Co-ordinator. For information, call 416-415-5000 Ext. 7527. There is a fee for a PLAR challenge.

Applicants accepted into the program can contact the office of the Language Studies Dept. (416 415 5000 ext 6339) to see if they are eligible for an exemption.

## **TESL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **TESL METHODOLOGY: (1<sup>st</sup> semester course – 45 hrs)**

This course provides participants with a thorough foundation in theoretical and practical issues in English as a second language teaching. Students examine the following topics: principles, approaches, methods and techniques of L2 teaching; the adult learner; assessment of learner needs; lesson planning; classroom management; the evaluation and adaptation of ESL materials and resources; the delivery of ESL classes in Ontario; testing; examination of Canada Language Benchmarks; LINC curriculum; cultural pluralism in Canadian society; possible barriers to L2 speakers participation in Canadian society.

### **PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY: (1<sup>st</sup> semester course – 45 hrs)**

Students are introduced to concepts and terminology in phonetics and phonology. The course focuses on articulatory descriptions of English sounds and some positional variants of these sounds. There is an emphasis on suprasegmentals, such as stress and intonation, and their significance in discourses. The pronunciation difficulties of particular language groups, as well as general problems in pronunciation, are discussed. The relevance of phonetics and phonology to classroom practice is highlighted. Students engage in diagnosing the pronunciation problems of a variety of learners.

### **PEDAGOGY OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR: (1<sup>st</sup> semester course – 45 hrs)**

Participants examine a wide range of grammatical structures in the context of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). The course focuses on the grammatical knowledge teachers require in order to teach basic to advanced level ESL. Other contexts and issues explored are : major grammar problems for ESL learners; identifying and explaining grammatical errors; grammatical concepts and metalanguage.

### **TEACHING SKILLS I and TEACHING SKILLS II: (2<sup>nd</sup> semester courses – 45 hrs each)**

These courses provide a framework with practice activities and demonstrations for teaching and testing the language skills. Teaching Skills 1 deals with teaching the skills of reading, writing and grammar. Teaching Skills 2 focuses on listening, speaking and pronunciation. Students examine primary considerations in the teaching and learning of these skills. Classroom activities are introduced by type and level of difficulty. Teaching demonstrations include adaptations for specific learners and situations. The design of tests for each skill is examined. All aspects of the framework are critically evaluated.

### **THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE LEARNING: (2<sup>nd</sup> semester course–45 hrs.)**

This course introduces participants to some key concepts in linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and language acquisition. Learners examine the following topics: the nature of language and linguistic models; theories and research in sociolinguistics; first and second language acquisition; learner language and factors affecting second language acquisition.

**PRACTICUM: (2<sup>nd</sup> semester course – 50hrs. + 20 hrs. seminar)**

The student is paired with George Brown College ESL professors to fulfill the requirements of the practicum. The practicum consists of three components: observation and practice teaching and teaching portfolio seminars (parts A , B and C).

**Part A: Observations (30 hours)**

The student observes George Brown ESL faculty as they teach their classes. The teacher/ student interaction is examined in the context of various approaches to teaching ESL. Students relate classroom practice to TESL methodology they have studied.

**Part B: Practice teaching (20 hours)**

Under the guidance of George Brown College ESL faculty, the student prepares and delivers ESL classes to students in the Intensive English program.

In addition to the observations and practice teaching, TESL students are required to develop a teaching portfolio.

**Part C: Portfolio Development Seminars**

Participants meet to develop individual teaching portfolios, to discuss observations, practice teaching and job search.

# Why study TESL at George Brown?

## ❖ **RECOGNIZED AND REPUTABLE CERTIFICATION**

George Brown College has been training ESL teachers since 1973. Certified by the TESL Association of Ontario, and TESL Canada, George Brown's TESL program consists of six courses and a Practicum offered over two semesters. Courses cover both theoretical and practical topics. Highly qualified professors using a variety of formats (lectures, seminars, workshops,) as well as videotape, audiotape, computer labs and language labs make the program highly interactive and stimulating.

## ❖ **PRACTICAL FOCUS**

First semester courses give participants a solid grounding in the theory of ESL teaching as it relates to classroom practice. Second semester courses emphasize practical hands-on training. The program has been designed to provide opportunities for observing, teaching, tutoring and volunteering in George Brown's ESL classes under the guidance of experienced faculty.

## ❖ **DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT**

The TESL program is housed in an actual ESL teaching department, providing TESL students with the opportunity to experience real life teaching and learning situations. TESL students not only observe classes and interact with students regularly, but they can also participate in a variety of activities, which will strengthen their practical experience.

## ❖ **SUPPORTIVE FACULTY**

The faculty in the TESL program have a great deal of ESL/EFL teaching experience and are highly qualified academically. They understand the concerns and issues of day-to-day ESL teaching and go out of their way to make the TESL experience relevant and satisfying to student teachers.

## ❖ **HIGH CALIBER STUDENTS**

Our TESL program has always attracted a wide variety of individuals. Some have had English teaching experience abroad, others are shifting careers and are drawn to the field of ESL. Some are recent university graduates who want experience in teaching and the possibility of traveling and teaching abroad. Many of our former graduates now hold positions at York university, at the University of Toronto, at George Brown and the other community colleges, and at boards of education in Toronto and elsewhere.

## ❖ **QUALITY PROGRAMMING**

The George Brown Certificate in teaching English as a Second Language enjoys a well deserved reputation for academic excellence. The courses reflect the most up-to-date teaching methods and theories. The content of the courses reflects current research in second language acquisition, sociolinguistics, linguistics and methodology.

## ❖ **COMMITMENT TO GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY**

We are proud of our graduates! We are committed to helping our graduates find suitable employment. To that end we always hire a certain proportion of our TESL graduates to teach in George Brown's Intensive English and Continuing Education English programs. Currently we employ a number of TESL grads. We offer job search workshops to help grads locate work. We also take some of our TESL grads to teach in China. These teachers acquire important TEFL experience and memories to last a lifetime..