

# English as a Second Language (ESL)

Within the Bachelor of Arts, St. Thomas offers a unique English as a Second Language (ESL) program for students whose level of English proficiency is not high enough to pursue regular studies in English-Learning University. These students receive the opportunity to begin university studies for real while they continue to improve their language skills in a planned, individualized program of study.

To be eligible for this program, ESL students must have TOEFL (computer-based) scores of between 173 and 230 or the equivalent on other tests. Admission to courses in other disciplines enables students to achieve the level of proficiency in English necessary to succeed in regular university studies. All of the courses that students take in the ESL program carry credit.

A person applying is the ESL applicant. Every student who has not yet formally tested English is tested through an interview, vocabulary grammar test, and an essay assignment. Based on the results of these tests, an individualized applicant is developed for each student's level for his or her level. The applicant will be challenging, but not overwhelming. It will be based on a portfolio of work.

1013 upon their arrival will successfully take ESL courses over two years, while students admitted to ESL 2213 will take two courses in one year.

## Integrated Courses

These sections of regular St. Thomas University courses (such as Introduction to Psychology and Literature) reserve for ESL students. They are taught by professors who meet with the instructor each week so that they can present the material more slowly and take extra time to ensure that the students understand the material.

## Assisted Courses

These regular St. Thomas University courses are open to students. ESL students receive with a tutor who meets with them to review the material presented in class, to help understand the readings, and to assist with assignments and preparations.

## Regular Courses

These are the regular offerings for St. Thomas University students. Hundreds of courses in more than 25 different disciplines are available for first-year students each semester.

### Semester 1

ESL 1013 English for Academic Purposes Reading and Writing I

ESL 1033 English for Academic Purposes Speaking and Listening I

Two Integrative Courses

One Assistive Course (option I)

### Semester 2

ESL 1023 English for Academic Purposes Reading and Writing II

ESL 1043 English for Academic Purposes Speaking and Listening II

One Integrative Course

Two Assistive Courses (option I)

## Intersession and Summer Session

Some full-time ESL students may elect to serve only taking fewer than five courses per semester, which is the norm for full-time course load. The university therefore permits ESL students who are required to take fewer than five courses to make up those credits through Intersession (May-June) or Summer Session (July-August) free of charge.

## Admission Requirements

Students who meet the following minimum English Language Proficiency scores on the St. Thomas Admission Requirements are eligible for the ESL program: TOEFL 61 (Internet-based), TOEFL 173 (computer-based), TOEFL 500 (paper-based), MELAB 6, IELTS 5.0.

Students with TOEFL scores of 88-89 (Internet-based), 230 (computer-based), 570 (paper-based) or MELAB score of 80 or on IELTS score of 6.5 or greater are eligible to take a regular admission course to meet the integrative assistance courses if they wish.

### Regulations

1. The ESL program has a grade sequence of courses that eligible students are required to complete from their entry level. For example, students admitted to ESL 1013 upon their arrival will typically take six ESL courses over two years, while students admitted to ESL 2213 will take two courses in one year.
2. Students who want to leave the program before they have completed it must convince the Director that they have the required English Language skills by achieving a grade of A- on their last ESL course on one of the following scores on an external test: 60 on MEL 230 on TOEFL (computer-based) or 88 on TOEFL BT. The MEL test is available at Saint John College and UNB-Saint John, NB. On TOEFL tests are available in Sackville, NB. In Halifax, NS. Students must arrange to pay for these tests themselves.
3. Students must successfully pass the first-year courses before moving on. A student who fails the first-year courses twice is excluded from the ESL program. These students will be eligible to re-apply to St. Thomas University when they demonstrate that their English Language skills are stronger.
4. Students taking courses in the ESL program are restricted to a total of 15 credits per semester. In exceptional cases, the Director may permit a student to exceed this course load.

5.

## ESL-2223. Advanced English for Academic Purposes II

This course is designed to assist ESL students in further developing their ability to meet the long-term expectations of university courses. The emphasis will be on reading writing skills. Attention will also be devoted to listening, speaking, reading, grammar, and vocabulary acquisition. Students will explore how the various language skills interrelate in the university context. The course is intended for students whose first language is not English and whose TOEFL scores range between 550 and 575 (or recognize equivalent). Prerequisite: ESL 2213 or Director's permission.

## Integrated Courses

### ENGL-1013. Introduction to Literature for International Students (ESL)

An introduction for international students to representative sampling of fiction and poetry written in English. The course will concentrate on the acquisition of reading skills and expository writing skills. It will also explore some of the key themes of western literature. Open only to ESL students.

### ESL-1053. Topics in Canadian Studies for ESL Students: Maritime Society

Students will learn the salient points of the geography, history, government, economics and social makeup of the Maritimes. The contributions and struggles of diverse groups living in the region will be examined, including First Nations, Acadians, English, Irish, Scottish and multi-cultural communities. In this interdisciplinary course, students will gain insight into the issues, problems and issues that inform Maritime society. They will also analyze the perspective of the Maritimes within national trends in the migration of Maritimers across the country.

### ESL-1063. Topics in Canadian Studies for ESL Students: Maritime Arts and Culture

Students will representative selection, in the original English or in translation, of short stories, poems and excerpts from novels and plays from major voices of the Maritimes, including First Nations, Acadians, Anglophones and multi-cultural communities. Challenges posed by writing and translating regional literatures and the languages of other groups will be examined. Students will also study films, visual arts and music. They will investigate the category of identity and the tensions between regional/national and internationalization within the province of Maritime literature.

### ESL-1073. Academic Coursework

This course options integrate skills approach to English for Academic Purposes (EAP), addresses elements of EAP process for major skill reading, writing, listening and speaking. The course is designed to provide additional support in management instruction for students who require reinforcement of key EAP subjects.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Program Director for more information about current and planned course offerings.*