



TESOL FAQ's

1. What's the difference between TESOL, TESL and TEFL?

The basic teaching skills for all of the above are the same; the difference between the names TESL and TEFL relates to where you are teaching.

TESL = Teaching English as a Second Language, or teaching English in a country where English is the primary language, for example, in a country like Canada, or Australia.

TEFL = Teaching English as a Foreign Language, or teaching in a country where English is a foreign language, and is not the first language of the residents, for example, in a country like China, or Mexico, or Korea. Often TEFL is replaced with a more generic term, ELT which means English Language Teaching.

TESOL = Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, is a name that includes both TEFL and TESL.

2. What are the minimum requirements for the TESOL program?

To qualify for this program, students must have an advanced level of English (iBT 80, IELTS 6.5); have an interest in learning about other cultures and a desire to teach English to international students. Please refer to TESL Canada's website as well. www.tesl.ca It is recommended that you have a university degree but grade 12 is the minimum requirement to take the program.

3. What is the difference between Level 1 and Level 2?

TESOL Canada has 3 levels of certification. Level One is for someone who has taken a program of 100 hours or more. Level Two is from a program of 250 hours or more. Level 3 is for someone who has a Masters in TESOL or Applied Linguistics

Greystone College has two programs.

Level 1 Certificate – TESOL 130

Level 2 Diploma – TESOL Diploma

International Students can also take an introductory TESOL program, TESOL 101

4. What is TKT?

Cambridge Teaching Knowledge Test

This test is an option in our TESOL program. The cost is \$240. The test is a formal Cambridge test that takes about 5 hours (in 3 parts). The test is scored by band levels – Band One being lowest, Band 4 the highest. See [www](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org).

5. I am a native English speaker: do I need training to teach English?

Yes. The Greystone College TESOL program provides comprehensive instruction in all aspects of language teaching, for example: how to teach all four skills -speaking, listening, reading, and writing - as well as how to teach the language areas – grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.



Other important topics like: lesson planning, creating appropriate lesson materials, curriculum development, classroom management, intercultural communication and so on. Also a TESOL program like the one offered by Greystone College allows you to practice teaching in a supervised practicum.

6. I don't have an undergraduate degree; can I still take your program?

Yes. However, if you plan on teaching English in Canada, you are required to have an undergraduate degree, as well as a TESOL certificate that is recognized by TESL Canada.

If you plan on teaching overseas, it might not be necessary to have an undergraduate degree – countries have different minimum hiring requirements; a TESOL certificate alone might be enough for some countries.

TESOL training will help also you if you plan on tutoring, rather than teaching in a formal classroom setting. When students show particular learning errors, you will have more confidence to direct them and to plan lessons for them.

7. I am a native English speaker with no teaching experience – which program is best for me?

The more training the better. However if you have just finished university, you can handle the shorter program - a certificate program which would be Level 1 with TESL Canada and that would be sufficient for preparing you to teach overseas. Consider your long term goals also. If you are only interested in teaching in Canada, you will be competing against experienced teachers so a longer training program would be an asset.

8. I am a native English speaker with over 1 year of teaching overseas experience – which program is best for me?

TESOL 130 would give you TESL Canada qualifications (Level 1) which is the minimum for teaching in Canada.

9. I am an international student with no teaching experience– which program is best for me?

First the TESOL 101 and then the TESOL Diploma program

10. I am an international student with a lot of teaching experience– which program is best for me?

Unless you are almost native speaking level, we recommend the TESOL Diploma program. If you are taking the training in Canada to get Canadian certification, you want the Diploma, not the Certificate.

11. I am Canadian and want to go overseas to teach English – will the Greystone College TESOL program help me?

Absolutely! The Greystone College TESOL program is a really comprehensive, “hands-on” program, successfully combining classroom learning and practical teaching experience. The classroom instruction portion of the Greystone College TESOL program will give you important teaching tools. The supervised practicum will give you the skills and



confidence to stand up in a classroom and teach, and practice what you've learned. We also have connections with schools who want to hire our graduates.

12. What are the different minimum hiring requirements for teachers in other countries?

As mentioned above, most Canadian private language schools only hire TESOL teachers who have an undergraduate degree and TESOL training. In fact, schools that are registered with CAPLS (Canadian Association of Private Language Schools) are not permitted to hire people without degrees and training.

If you are interested in teaching overseas, it is recommended that you research the specific destination, since countries and even some schools within the same country, have very specific hiring requirements, even indicating the *specific* teaching certification required.

Generally, most language schools overseas want to hire teachers who have an undergraduate degree and TESOL training and some are satisfied with TESOL training alone.

Some schools even hire teachers simply on the basis that the person is a native speaker of English. However, expecting to step into a classroom unprepared, armed only with the fact that you can speak English is a very scary thought – imagine piloting a plane with the only “training” being that you had been a passenger on many flights! Teaching a language requires many specialized skills, skills that a program like the Greystone College TESOL program can offer you.

13. There are so many TESOL programs offered – which is the best one?

A quality program like the one offered by Greystone College will offer at least 100 hours of classroom instruction in a licensed facility. In a quality TESOL program, the classroom instruction should focus on linguistics (for example, syntax, morphology, sociolinguistics), pedagogical theory (for example, learner styles, factors that affect learning, teaching adults, and so on) and language teaching methodology (for example, how to teach all the language skills and language areas, classroom management, lesson planning, materials analysis, assessment and feedback), as well as professional development. The practicum should be at least 20-hours long and include supervised classroom observations, and practice teaching under the supervision of two separate people.

If you already have considerable teaching experience, but you do not have TESOL qualifications, you may decide to take a shorter program like CELTA or a 100 hour program (our TESOL 130 runs part time in the evenings, 130 hours includes practicum). If you have no experience it is absolutely in your best interests to take a longer program of at least 250 hours. Our TESOL Diploma program has 360 hours including practicum.

14. Will the Greystone College TESOL program guarantee me a job?



While we cannot guarantee an actual job placement, the Greystone College TESOL program will prepare you to successfully teach anywhere, giving you the tools you need to feel confident and secure in the classroom. Several of our TESOL program graduates have gone on to teach overseas and in Canada – they have really been able to *Learn a Living!* The College can help with job research and resume writing. We have several contacts with international schools with job postings, which we make available to TESOL students. In fact, we have several schools abroad who constantly ask us to send us graduates. We will help you as much as we can. If you are interested in teaching in Canada and meet the requirements, we will guarantee an interview with at least one language school in Vancouver.

15. What shall I do to prepare before taking the TESOL program?

Native speakers should review grammar prior to taking a course. It is advisable to purchase or borrow a grammar book that includes the terminology, structure, and example usages of each point. A good example would be Betty Schramper Azar's Understanding and Using English Grammar. Please contact Greystone College and request a comprehensive list of grammar points to review. You will be expected to complete a grammar quiz prior to starting the course.

If you are an **international** student, you first must achieve Advanced English standing prior to taking the TESOL program. We also have TESOL 101 to help prepare students for the concepts and vocabulary of TESOL. This course also helps prepares students to be successful when writing the TKT exam.

16. What kind of working conditions should a new teacher expect from a school?

When researching a suitable place of employment, a new teacher should find out as much about the school as possible. Good questions to ask a potential employer would be:

- a. How old is the school?
- b. Does the school have an established curriculum?
- c. How much preparation is there?
- d. Are teachers expected to create their own lessons, and / or materials?
- e. How many teaching hours a week?
- f. How many students in each class? What are the students' ages?
- g. Will I receive my own class? For how many weeks, and hours per week will I be teaching them?
- h. What support do new teachers receive? (Teaching resources etc.)
- i. Who is the person who supervises and schedules the teachers?
- j. Is there a teacher library on site?
- k. What happens if I'm sick and can't teach?