ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
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The English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Lehigh offers academic semester and summer courses for undergraduate and graduate students and their families. Additional academic and cultural instruction is provided to international students through ESL’s International English Language Center, conversation groups, and other language enrichment courses.

Credit Instruction
English as a Second Language (ESL) credit courses are offered to both undergraduates and graduates who wish to increase their English proficiency in the areas of writing, reading, speaking, and presentation skills. All credit courses are at an advanced level of English study. Graduate students should contact their departments regarding acceptance of credit towards residency requirements. ESL credit courses are open to regularly enrolled students or General College Division students with placement or permission by the ESL Director.

StepUp Intensive English Program
The non-credit StepUp intensive English program is open to graduate and undergraduate international students who have been accepted to Lehigh but whose English fluency skills as measured by the TOEFL iBT exam do not meet the minimum requirement of an applicant’s intended program of study. The StepUp program is also open to advanced level students who are preparing for study at another American university or who wish to improve their English fluency skills for professional purposes.

International English Language Center (IELC)
The International English Language Center at Coxe Hall provides private English language tutoring for international students and their spouses wanting to improve their speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar, and preparation for the Lehigh University TOPSS exam (required for teaching and graduate assistants).

English Testing for Teaching & Graduate Assistants
International graduate students whose first language is a language other than English who apply to become Teaching Assistants or Graduate Assistants must take and pass Lehigh University’s Test of Presentation and Speaking Skills (TOPSS) prior to beginning their instructional responsibilities. Students should contact their academic department directly for more specifics regarding the format and timing of the exam.

The Freshman Composition Requirement
ENGL 003 and ENGL 005 are the approved first-year English composition courses for international writers whose first language is a language other than English and for those international students who have not previously lived and studied in the US for four years or more. International undergraduates who wish to improve their advanced spoken English skills may also register for ENGL 015, Speech Communication for International Speakers.

ESL Teacher Training
Upper level undergraduates or graduate students with native or near-native English fluency who wish to learn about teaching English as a Second Language should register for ENGL 310, Introduction to the Principles & Practices of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The ESL Department also offers ENGL 314, ESL Teaching Practicum, for those students who desire guided, real-life experience teaching English in the US or abroad.