

# CAELC Fact Sheet 2022-23

The Center for American English Language and Culture (CAELC) provides an array of services to help members of the University of Virginia community attain the level of linguistic and cultural proficiency required for success at a research university in the United States. These services include language assessment, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes of which CAELC completes its own testing, placement, scheduling, registration, and numerous tutoring and volunteer services. The following is a summary of the services provided by CAELC over the 2022-23 academic year and summer 2023 term.

## Faculty and Staff

CAELC employs five full-time lecturers, one full-time program coordinator, one VISAS and assessment coordinator, several adjuncts, and several student assistants. The Center also gives graduate and undergraduate students credit through completing the TESOL Certificate.

## Course Offerings

### Fall 2022: 22 Course Sections

ESL 801 (3 sections)

ESL 901 (3 sections) Academic Writing I

ESL 902 Academic Writing II

ESL 905 American Pronunciation and Conversation: Navigating Campus and Community

ESL 907 Oral Communication: Negotiating the American Classroom

ESL 909 (2 sections) Advanced Oral Communication: Academic Interaction and Research Presentations

ESL 910 Pronunciation Training

ESL 911 (4 sections) Classroom Communication: Teaching and Preparing for the Job Market

ESL 914 Academic Communications Seminar for Researchers—Writing Skills

LING 3400 Structure of English Language

LING 3101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum (Undergraduate)

LING 3102 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum (Undergraduate)

LING 3103 TESOL Teaching Writing Practicum (Undergraduate)

LING 7400 Structure of English Language

## **Spring 2023: 23 Course Sections**

ESL 801 (3 sections)

ESL 901 (2 sections) Academic Writing I

ENWR 1510 ENWR Writing and Critical Inquiry: Writing as Multilingual Writer (2 sections)

ESL 902 (2 sections) Academic Writing II

ESL 907 Oral Communication: Negotiating the American Classroom

ESL 909 (2 sections) Advanced Oral Communication: Academic Interaction and Research Presentations

ESL 917 Pronunciation Training

ESL 911 (3 sections) Classroom Communication: Teaching and Preparing for the Job Market

ESL 912 Classroom Communication for Graduate Teaching Assistants II

ESL 914 Academic Communications Seminar for Researchers—Writing Skills

LING 3090 Teaching English as a Second Language (Undergraduate)

LING 5090 Teaching English as a Second Language (Graduate)

LING 3101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum (Undergraduate)

LING 3102 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum (Undergraduate)

LING 3103 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum (Undergraduate)

## **Summer 2023: 10 Course Sections**

ESL 801

ESL 913 Academic Communication Seminar for Researchers—Oral Skills

ESL 915 English for Academic Purposes (2 cohorts/8 sections)

## **Course Enrollment**

### **Fall 2022**

#### **Total enrollment: 284**

Undergraduate Students: 36 ENWR Students

Graduate Students: 183

Linguistics Students: 38

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 1

Professional Development: 1

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 25 (VISAS Workplace ESOL Program)

## Spring 2023

### Total enrollment: 164

Graduate Students: 115

Linguistics Students: 33

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 13

Professional Development: 3

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 34 (VISAS Facilities Program)

## Summer 2023

### Total enrollment: 37

Graduate Students: 10

Professional Development: 1

Summer Workplace Program Facilities Employees: 26

## VISAS Volunteer Program

The Volunteers with International Students, Scholars and Staff (VISAS) Program offers UVA students varied opportunities to work with international members of the UVA community on English and cross-cultural communication skills.

## Fall 2022

Volunteers total: 348

International Participants total: **334** (plus those in CAELC classes with ESL Assistants and those who attended VISAS Café, the drop-in English discussion group)

- **204** Language Consultants (conversation partners) working with **309** international members of the UVA community
- **86 Classroom** Consultants working with **64 prospective** international
- **3** Teaching Consultant working with **3** current international TA
- **20** ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- **27** Workplace ESL Assistants working with **27** UVA employees on English and literacy skills
- **1** intern and **3** undergraduate Conversation Facilitators planned and moderated weekly drop-in English practice at VISAS Café attended by dozens of volunteers and international students, staff, and scholars. (Weekly sign-in sheets available upon request)
- A student leadership team consisting of **10** undergraduates, trained and supervised by CAELC staff, assisted with the volunteer program

## Spring 2023

Volunteers total: **291** active **62** on the waitlist (353)

International Participants total: **239** (plus those in CAELC classes with ESL Assistants and those who attended VISAS Café, the drop-in English discussion group)

- **178 Language** Consultants (conversation partners) working with **205** international members of the UVA community
- **45** Classroom Consultants working with **35** prospective international TAs
- **2** Teaching Consultants working with **2** current international TAs
- **20** ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- **22** Workplace ESL Assistants working with **22** UVA employees on English and literacy skills
- **1** intern and **5** undergraduate Conversation Facilitators planned and moderated weekly drop-in English practice at VISAS Café attended by dozens of volunteers and international students, staff, and scholars. (Weekly sign-in sheets available upon request)
- **1 intern and 8 undergraduate volunteers developed intercultural and ESL content and media and outreach materials for current and prospective participants.**
- A student leadership team consisting of **10** undergraduate interns, trained and supervised by CAELC staff, assisted with the volunteer program

## Workplace ESOL Summer English Program

**26** UVA Facilities employees participated in a pilot English program with weekly instruction and individualized English sessions, as well as daily video dialogue chats with feedback from **8** Student Instructional Assistants.

## MOVE - Multilingual Outreach Volunteer Effort

**548** volunteers representing **55** languages worked on translating documents and interpreting to extend COVID-19 relief services to international members of the UVA and Greater Charlottesville Community. Services include translating, monthly COVID-19 “Streetsheets”, interpreting for testing and vaccination efforts, and making workplace safety information available to employees who speak other languages. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Additional ESL Services**

### **Assessment**

CAELC administers the University of Virginia English Language Proficiency Exam (UVELPE) to all international graduate students whose first language is other than English and who had to submit a test of English for admission. The UVELPE is used to determine the general adequacy of English language skills for various academic purposes. In 2022-2023, CAELC assessed **345** students (**21** in August 2022, **50** in January 2023, and **274** in July 2023). Tests for incoming graduate students who speak a first language other than English and those who are prospective international TAs may take the test in July, August, or January. In 2013-2014, CAELC developed an online exam to help programs assess the needs of international students prior to their arrival to the university as well as upon arrival. In August 2020, CAELC developed online, asynchronous testing to accommodate remote graduate students in multiple countries and time zones.

### **EAP Language Intensive Program**

During four weeks of Summer Session each year, CAELC offers an intensive language and culture course to non-native speakers of English who have been admitted to an undergraduate or graduate degree program at UVA. EAP offers a series of four language-focused classes, including Academic Writing, Reading and Vocabulary Development, Listening and Pronunciation, and Academic Oral Communication, totaling 96 hours of instruction. Students are divided into cohorts based on their UVA school to provide as much Language for Specific Purposes experiences as possible in each class. CAELC also schedules excursions across campus and the Charlottesville community to encourage cultural immersion. In Summer 2023, 10 students divided into 2 cohorts, totaling 8 class sections participated in this online program. CAELC employed 3 faculty, 1 adjunct instructor and 4 Instructional Assistants to instruct and assist the two cohorts of students. The student population represented UVA School of Law and Engineering.

### **International TA Program**

CAELC provides international teaching assistants with support both before and during teaching assignments. Prior to taking on teaching duties in a new language and culture, graduate students can work on linguistic and intercultural skills in ESL 911, a course that promotes successful classroom communication. In addition, through microteaching demonstrations and "Mock Office Hours," prospective TAs practice teaching and interacting with undergraduate student volunteers who give them feedback on their communication in an English medium classroom. Students currently serving as TAs with interactive teaching duties can receive additional support through the Teaching Consultant Program, or ESL 912. Through this class, international TAs are matched with a trained student Teaching Consultant who observes and consults with the TA throughout the semester. All prospective and current TAs are encouraged to take advantage of the Language Consultant program in which they can work informally with American students, learning about the culture while

practicing English. Through the VISAS Program, CAELC works with domestic undergraduate students to foster global competence and a welcoming attitude toward international TAs.

## **Student Language Consultants**

International students and scholars can meet weekly in pairs or triads with an English speaker for conversation practice. These meetings provide opportunities for participants to practice English while learning about life at UVA and in the U.S. during the fall and spring semesters. 382 volunteers (204 Fall, 178 Spring), and 514 international students (309 in the Fall and 205 in the Spring) participated in this program.

## **TESOL Certificate Program**

In the Spring of 2012, the Linguistics Program and CAELC began offering a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language (TESOL). The certificate is available to both undergraduate and graduate students on grounds who are interested in earning a certificate in addition to their degree and will prepare future teachers of English. Participants are required to complete fifteen credit hours of a series of courses in applied linguistic theory and language teaching pedagogy along with practicum credit which entails ninety-nine total hours of practice. During their training, students can assist with the delivery of support services for English language learners at the University. There have been over 130 TESOL certificate applicants since its advent and 96 students who have graduated with or completed the certificate as of summer 2023.

## **VISAS English Drop-in Café**

International students, staff, scholars, and their families were invited to participate in weekly English language and culture discussions with VISAS volunteers in UVA's "Language Commons." Over the course of the 10 weeks cycle each semester, "VISAS Café" drew an average of 25 participants consisting of 13 international students and their guests and 12 volunteers and student leaders. The drop in discussions were planned and implemented by a supervised VISAS Intern and 5 volunteer facilitators.

## **Workplace ESL Courses for UVA Staff**

The VISAS Volunteer program offers weekly ESL/English Literacy sessions for multilingual UVA Facilities workers. This year, student volunteers partnered with English learning Facilities employees for one hour of English sessions within a workshop setting in the Language Commons where they shifted between whole group activities and one-to-one sessions. In the fall of 2022, this program expanded to include a class for North Grounds evening employees. The two daytime sessions and the evening session were supervised by CAELC, led by student interns, and staffed by VISAS volunteers.

## **Writing Center ESL Tutoring**

CAELC staffs the UVA Writing Center with part-time tutors who are trained to address the specific writing needs of non-native English language writers. Students who need help with their English as a Second

Language writing can schedule an appointment to review their work with a CAELC tutor. During the 2022-23 school year, CAELC supplied the Writing Center with ESL-trained tutors in the fall and the spring, totaling over 330 hours.

## Curricular & Administrative Initiatives

- Continued to revise and administer Intake and Exit Speech Sample and Feedback system for CAELC ESL students and instructors
- Developed online, asynchronous UVELPE delivery and updated the testing offerings.
- Launched digital hubs via Microsoft Teams to facilitate information sharing and engagement with faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders.
- Migrated Darden UVELPE Testing registration process to Microsoft Bookings and Teams.
- Aligned the writing English curriculum for CAELC ESL classes and developed program diagnostic
- Developed a translation program for multilingual individuals to share their language resources with the UVA and Greater Charlottesville community.
- Expanded Workplace English offerings to international staff who work the evening shift in North Grounds.
- CAELC participated in and provided support for the International Student Orientation Classroom Culture and International Peer Mentoring Program
- CAELC provided guidance on pedagogy, program design, curriculum, and assistance with recruitment and training of volunteers to establish an English program within Cville Tulips, a UVA Equity Center community engagement project for refugee women in Charlottesville.
- CAELC initiated university-wide discussions on international students and the Honor Code which helped propel a handbook for international students on Honor, a study of International students' perceptions of UVA's Honor Code, a new option for international students to have an interpreter present (from the MOVE program) at honor violation hearings, and efforts to incorporate Honor Code information and training beyond orientation throughout the university.
- CAELC is partnering with International Nurses/PassportUSA UVA Health to provide English practice and intercultural training for visiting nurses as they acclimate to the U.S. and UVA.
- CAELC is continuing initiatives to study and understand the use of artificial intelligence use for language learning for consulting pan-university.

For more information about the Center for American English Language and Culture, visit [caelc.virginia.edu](http://caelc.virginia.edu). CAELC is located in Nau Hall, Room 153 and can be reached at 434-924-3372 or [caelc@virginia.edu](mailto:caelc@virginia.edu).