

CAELC Fact Sheet 2020-2021

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 2020-21 academic year and summer 2021 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 provides opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to earn credit through completion of the TESOL Certificate.

Course Offerings

Fall 2020: 18 Course Sections

ESL 901 (3 sections) Academic Writing I
ESL 902 (2 sections) 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 (3 sections) Classroom Communication: Teaching and Preparing for the Job Market
ENWR 1507 Writing and Critical Inquiry Stretch I for Multilingual Writers
LING 3400 Structure of English
LING 3101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum (Undergraduate)
LING 3102 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum (Undergraduate)
LING 3103 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum (Undergraduate)

Spring 2021: 18 Course Sections

ESL 901 (2 sections) Academic Writing I
ESL 902 Academic Writing II
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 (3 sections) Classroom Communication: Teaching and Preparing for the Job Market

ESL 912 Classroom Communication for Graduate Teaching Assistants II

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)

LING 5101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum (Graduate)

Ling 5102 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum (Graduate)

Summer 2021: 16 Course Sections

ESL 806 Advanced Oral Communication

ESL 913 (3 sections) Academic Communication Seminar for Researchers—Oral Skills

ESL 915 English for Academic Purposes (3 cohorts/12 sections)

Student Enrollment

Fall 2020

Total enrollment: 235

Undergraduate Students: 52

Graduate Students: 160

Undergraduate Exchange Students: 0

Linguistics Students: 49

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 2

Professional Development: 0

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 21 (VISAS Facilities Program)

Dependents and Community members: 0

Spring 2021

Total enrollment: 160

Undergraduate Students: 24

Graduate Students: 111

Linguistics Students: 27

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 1

Professional Development: 0

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 24 (VISAS Facilities Program)

Dependents and Community members: 0

Summer 2021

Total enrollment: 54

Graduate Students: 51

Professional Development: 3

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 2020

Volunteers total: 234/ International Participants total: 272 (plus those in CAELC classes with ESL Assistants)

- 137 Language Consultants (conversation partners) working with 232 international members of the UVA community
- 52 Classroom Consultants working with 41 prospective international TAs I don't know how many TAs
- 0 Teaching Consultant working with 0 current international TA
- 15 ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- 21 Workplace ESL Assistants working with 21 UVA and contracted employees on English and literacy]
- 9 undergraduate and 1 graduate intern, trained and supervised, assisting the volunteer program

Spring 2020

Volunteers total: 235/ International Participants total: 196

- 153 Language Consultants (conversation partners) working with 168 international members of the UVA community
- 47 Classroom Consultants working with 39 prospective international TAs I don't know how many TAs
- 3 Teaching Consultants working with 3 current international TAs
- 9 ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- 24 Workplace ESL Assistants working with 24 UVA and contracted employees on English and literacy

LLM Summer English Conversation Program

15 Law School students participated in an online English conversation program with weekly individualized, small group, and large group meetings, as well as daily video dialogue chats with feedback from 6 Student Instructional Assistants.

MOVE - Multilingual Outreach Volunteer Effort

335 volunteers representing 35 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 2020 CAELC developed remote testing for all testing. 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 December. In 2013-2014, CAELC developed an online exam to help programs assess 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. For the 2020-2021 academic year, CAELC administered the UVELPE to over 385 students and the standalone UVELPE Oral to over 91 students

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 2021, 36 students divided into 3 cohorts, totaling 12 class sections participated in this online program. CAELC employed 3 faculty, 3 adjunct instructors and 6 Instructional Assistants to instruct and assist the three cohorts of students. Student population represented UVA School of Law, School of Nursing, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the School of Arts & Sciences.

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.

International Center ESL Courses

Each semester, the Lorna Sundberg International Center provides ESL courses and related services to dependents of those who are associated with the University. Courses include Multiskills English for Speakers of Other Language, Oral Expression in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Advanced Oral Communication, and Pronunciation Workshop. Other services include Book Discussion Groups, English Conversation Groups, and Language Consultant partnering. English language programs at the International Center are supported through part-time instructors, as well as through volunteer efforts of UVA students and community members.

Student Language Consultants

International students and scholars have the opportunity to 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. A total of 290 volunteers (137 Fall, 153 Spring), and 400 international students (232 Fall, 168 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 are able to assist with the delivery of support services for English language learners at the University. There have been over 120 TESOL certificate applicants since its advent and 73 students who have graduated with or completed the certificate as of summer 2021.

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, this year on-line. "VISAS Café" drew an average of 12 international and 5 volunteers over the 10-week cycle and was planned and implemented by a supervised VISAS Intern.

Workplace ESL Courses

The VISAS Volunteer program offers weekly ESL/English Literacy sessions for multilingual UVA Facilities workers. This year, employees and volunteers met together on-line in Zoom meetings where they shifted between whole group activities and one-to-one sessions in breakout rooms with their volunteer partners. CAELC's volunteer director supervised three on-line sessions, staffed by 7 volunteers, and led by 2 student interns each

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 2020-21 school year, CAELC supplied the Writing Center with an ESL-trained tutor in the fall and an ESL-trained tutor in the spring, totaling 480 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 online courses and English for Academic Purposes Program for summer
- Developed a translation program for multilingual individuals to share their language resources with the UVA and Greater Charlottesville community.

For more information about the Center for American English Language and Culture, visit caelc.virginia.edu. CAELC is located in Nau Hall room 153 and can be reached at 434-924-3372 or caelc@virginia.edu.