

CAELC Fact Sheet 2017-2018

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 2017-2018 academic year and summer 2018 term.

Faculty and Staff

CAELC employs one full-time lecturer, two part-time lecturers, one full-time program coordinator, one VISAS and assessment coordinator, several adjunct and graduate student instructors, and several student assistants. The Center also provides opportunities for undergraduate students to earn credit through a volunteer internship experience in program administration and English language teaching as well as earn credit for completion of the TESOL Certificate.

Course Offerings

Fall 2017: 42 Course Sections

ESL 800 American English Language and Culture and U.S. Higher Education
ESL 801 (2 sections) Workplace Communication for English Language Learners
ESL 802 (2 sections) Multi-skills English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESL 804 TOEFL Test Preparation
ESL 806 (2 Sections) Advanced Oral Communication
ESL 901 (5 sections) Academic Writing I
ESL 902 (2 sections) Academic Writing II
ESL 905 (2 Sections) American Pronunciation and Conversation: Navigating Campus and Community
ESL 907 (3 sections) Oral Communication: Negotiating the American Classroom
ESL 909 (6 sections) Advanced Oral Communication: Academic Interaction and Research Presentations
ESL 910 Pronunciation Training
ESL 911 (2 sections) Classroom Communication: Teaching and Preparing for the Job Market
ESL 913 (2 sections) Academic Communications Seminar for Researchers – Oral Skills
ESL 914 Academic Communications Seminar for Researchers – Writing Skills
ESL 916 (2 sections) Academic Communications Seminar for Researchers II – Oral Skills
ENWR 1507 (2 sections) Writing and Critical Inquiry Stretch I for Multilingual Writers
LAW 8802 Graduate Legal Research and Writing
LING 3400 Structure of English
LING 5101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum
LING 5102 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum
LING 5103 TESOL Teaching Writing Practicum
LING 7400 Structure of English (Graduate Section)

Spring 2018: 33 Course Sections

Center for American English Language and Culture, 2017-2018

ESL 800 American English Language and Culture and U.S. Higher Education
ESL 801 Workplace Communication for English Language Learners
ESL 802 (2 sections) Multi-skills English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESL 806 Advanced Oral Communication
ESL 901 (3 sections) Academic Writing I
ESL 902 (4 sections) Academic Writing II
ESL 905 (2 sections) American Pronunciation and Conversation: Navigating Campus and Community
ESL 907 (2 Sections) Oral Communication: Negotiating the American Classroom
ESL 909 (3 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 912 Classroom Communication for Graduate Teaching Assistants II
ESL 913 Academic Communication Seminar for Researchers – Oral Skills
ESL 914 Academic Communication Seminar for Researchers – Writing Skills
ENWR 1508 (2 sections) Writing & Critical Inquiry Stretch II for Multilingual Writers
LING 5090 Teaching English as a Second Language
LING 5101 TESOL Teaching Language Practicum
LING 5102 TESOL Teaching Culture Practicum
LING 5103 TESOL Teaching Writing Practicum

Summer 2018: 12 Course Sections

ESL 800 American English Language and Culture and U.S. Higher Education
ESL 915 (12 sections) English for Academic Purposes

Student Enrollment

Fall 2017

Total enrollment: 443

Undergraduates: 66

Graduate Students: 260

Linguistics: 61

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 8

Professional Development: 6

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 17

Dependents and Community members: 25

Spring 2018

Total enrollment: 294

Undergraduates: 16

Graduate Students: 182

Linguistics: 23

Academic Division Researchers/Staff/Faculty: 7

Professional Development: 4

Non-Academic Division Employees & Contracted Employees: 25

Dependents: 17

Visiting Students: 20

Summer 2018

Total enrollment: 68

Graduates: 27

Visiting Students: 41

VISAS Volunteer Program

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

Fall 2017

Volunteers total: 242/ International Participants total: 262 (plus those in CAELC classes with ESL Assistants)

- 134 Language Consultants (conversation partners) working with 211 international members of the U.Va. community
- 41 Classroom Consultants working with 33 prospective international TAs
- 1 Teaching Consultant working with 1 current international TA
- 45 ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- 21 Workplace ESL Assistants working with 17 UVa and contracted employees on English and literacy

Spring 2018

Volunteers total: 233/ International Participants total: 364

- 124 Language Consultants (conversation partners) working with 288 international members of the U.Va. community
- 38 Classroom Consultants working with 44 prospective international TAs
- 1 Teaching Consultant working with 1 current international TA
- 41 ESL Assistants working within the ESL classes offered by CAELC
- 29 Workplace ESL Assistants working with 25 UVa and contracted employees on English and literacy

Additional ESL Services

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.

Workplace ESL Courses

The VISAS Volunteer program offers ESL/English Literacy ESL weekly workshops in the Observatory Hill Dining Hall and at Newcomb Hall Dining Hall to Dining Services, Aramark employees, and now UVa Facilities workers. At Observatory Hill, 2 interns and 17 volunteers work individually with 13 employees twice a week. At Newcomb Hall/Facilities, 10 student volunteers supervised by 2 student interns work with 10 employees, differentiating English instruction and literacy development. CAELC also offers conversation partners and English language development for UVa Hospital and Hospital Cafeteria/Morrisons employees. 1 intern and 3 volunteers work individually with 3 employees.

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 2017-2018 school year, CAELC supplied the Writing Center with 4 ESL-trained tutors, totaling 328 hours.

Student Language Consultants

International students and scholars have the opportunity meet weekly in pairs or triads with a native speaker of English for conversation practice. These meetings provide opportunities for participants to practice English while learning about life at U.Va. and in the U.S. during the fall and spring semesters. A total of 258 volunteers (134 Fall, 124 Spring), and 499 international students (211 Fall, 288 Spring) participated in this program.

VISAS Café

International students, staff, scholars, and their families were invited to participate in weekly English language and culture discussions with VISAS volunteers, while enjoying international snacks. "VISAS Café" drew an average of 20 international and 6 volunteers over the 10 week cycle and was planned and implanted by a supervised VISAS Intern.

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 88 TESOL certificate applicants since its advent and 54 students who have graduated with or completed the certificate.

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 have not been in an English-speaking academic environment for six or more years. The UVELPE is used to determine the general adequacy of English language skills for various academic purposes. 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. CAELC also administers the SPEAK test for prospective international teaching assistants may take the exam in August, December, or May of each year. For the 2017-2018 academic year, CAELC administered the UVELPE to over 248 students and the SPEAK test to 147 students.

English Drop-in Café

Acquired funding through IWL Grant for the VISAS ESL Café and established successful English conversation group open to all international students and family as well as all VISAS volunteers. International students, staff, scholars, and their families were invited to participate in weekly English language and culture discussions with VISAS volunteers while enjoying international snacks. "VISAS Café" drew an average of 20 international participants and 6 VISAS volunteers weekly for the 10 week program.

Global Partnerships

CAELC partnered with the UVA in Guatemala Initiative to provide on-line English courses for our affiliates in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. These courses offered TESOL practicum students an opportunity for supervised curriculum and materials development and experiences with computer-assisted language learning while providing Guatemalan partners an opportunity to develop oral English skills. During the 2017-2018 year of this program, 6 undergraduates provided on-line English tutoring to English language learners in Guatemala, totaling 15 hours of administration, 15 hours of supervision, and 90 hours of practicum student service.

Curricular Initiatives

- Created an Intake and Exit Speech Sample and Feedback system for CAELC ESL students and instructors
- Revamped the oral English curriculum for CAELC ESL classes.
- Began process of revamping written English curriculum for CAELC ESL classes.
- Developed on-site ESL courses for international Architecture graduate students.
- Developed on-site ESL courses for international Engineering graduate students.

For more information about the Center for American English Language and Culture, visit <http://www.virginia.edu/provost/caelc/>.

CAELC is located in Nau Hall room 153 and can be reached at 434-294-3372 or caelc@virginia.edu.