



Is CERTESL Accredited?

More complete information on this topic can be found in the Accreditation Manual located on the CERTESL website at certesl.usask.ca

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MANUAL INFORMATION.

In combination with a university degree, CERTESL is recognized as a qualification for Professional Standard I by TESL Canada, the national organization in Canada representing ESL teachers. This national recognition is sufficient for most employers in adult programs in Canada. CERTESL completers can meet TESL Canada's Professional Standard II requirements by adding one course to the core CERTESL program. Saskatchewan TESL association has its own standard, which CERTESL meets. CERTESL students qualify for TESL Ontario certification by adding one course and a Practicum Additional Hours module.

In combination with a B.Ed. degree and College of Education TESL degree credits, CERTESL is recognized as an 18-credit Integrated Program Component toward Saskatchewan's Additional Qualification Certificate (AQC) for the public and Catholic elementary and secondary school systems. In an extended ten-course format, CERTESL is also accepted as a full 30-credit Additional Qualification Certificate. CERTESL may be accepted by other provincial and U.S. state education ministries as a TESL specialization credential, but not by all. Please consult your provincial or state education ministry if you are planning to use CERTESL as a credential in the elementary or secondary school context. Saskatchewan teachers considering an AQC should consult the CERTESL Academic Coordinator for academic advising. CERTESL and AQC path substantially overlaps the College of Education's new Post-degree Certificate in EAL Education http://www.sptrb.ca/web/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Types_of_Certificates/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Types_of_Certificates.aspx?hkey=b51383a9-810d-44e0-8568-53dd4a730051

How long does it take to complete CERTESL?

We recommend that the six courses in the core CERTESL Program be spread over one to two years, but it is possible to complete the program in two semesters (eight months) with special permission from the Academic Coordinator. Such permission may be granted to experienced ESL/EFL teachers, to B.Ed. holders, or to holders of advanced degrees who can provide a strong rationale for quicker completion. Each CERTESL course is intended to be approximately equivalent in study hours to one 3-credit-unit degree course (ten hours per week). Students wishing to take longer than five years to complete the Certificate will have their program and any intervening teaching experience reviewed to ensure that their knowledge is current and active. Students planning to apply for TESL Ontario certification or TESL Canada Standard II certification may need more time in order to complete additional course and practicum requirements.

Can I transfer credits from other programs?

Yes, if the courses they represent are a good match for specific CERTESL courses in terms of content, depth and level of challenge. Please refer to the details outlined in the CERTESL Program Handbook. You should be able to find the answers to many other questions in the Handbook, so please read it carefully.

Getting a Job Teaching English

Many applicants to the CERTESL or TEFL Programs ask if they can get a job with a certificate. If you have further questions on this topic, contact the Academic Advisor.

Do I need a Bachelor's degree to get a job teaching English?

The higher the level of education you have, the better job and salary you will get and more employment options you will have in the world of teaching English as a second or foreign language.

In Canada and in most developed countries, a bachelor's degree is usually required. Poorer countries cannot always be so particular, although some have placed limits on the right of the non-degreed to accept long-term teaching positions. In some developed countries you may find employers willing to hire teachers without degrees; however, you may not be able to get a work visa for regular teaching positions without a Bachelor's degree. Often an employer can get around this, especially if you get the job while you are in that country rather than by applying while you are still in Canada. Investigate such employers very carefully, and be aware of possible legal punishments if you are found to be teaching without a legal visa.



Can I get a job with just a certificate?

Most CERTESL graduates, even those without a Bachelor's degree, are able to find jobs abroad, especially if they go to the country and knock on the doors of EFL employers and if the country in question is less developed. In fact, as an English speaker you could probably get a job right out of secondary school. However, without the knowledge you acquire by taking a certificate, you may find yourself unprepared for the job. This leads to personal frustration and lack of satisfaction among students that is passed on to both you and your employer. As previously noted, the higher your education level, the higher the job level. In addition, employers who prefer qualified teachers may be more reliable than others.

Temporary positions may be open to you legally in some developed countries with only a certificate if you are eligible for a "working holiday" visa.

Within Canada, graduates of CERTESL and other programs who do not have degrees are almost always restricted to positions as tutors or educational assistants. Aside from some rural communities where no degreed people may be available to meet learners' needs, a degree is the normal baseline expectation for almost all types of teaching positions.

Increasingly, government-funded programs for immigrant English learners are under pressure to hire only teachers who qualify for accreditation by TESL Canada, TESL Saskatchewan, or TESL Ontario. Also, any college or private language school belonging to Languages Canada is required to hire teachers who are either accredited by TESL Canada or one of the provincial organizations, or who can demonstrate an equivalent baseline of training. Schools that fall into neither of these categories may accept less, but they may also be less reliable as employers and/or less ethical as training providers as they are not subject to any form of external quality review.

How can I find a job in Canada?

If you want to find a job in Canada, search the yellow pages, do a Google search for local LINC/ELSA/MIIP programs, or visit the website of Languages Canada (www.languagescanada.ca) for a list of potential employers. Employers in Canada for adult programs are usually universities, colleges, private language schools, or immigrant settlement agencies. To teach in the public K-12 schools, Bachelor of Education degrees or Post-Graduate Diplomas in Education are usually required. Most adult programs are more open about types of degrees, but most do require degrees and may also require certification by TESL Canada (www.tesl.ca) or one of its provincial affiliates.

Many paid positions are found via personal contacts in the TEAL field, which means that volunteers in settlement agencies and other EAL venues often have an advantage in the job market. Substitute teaching lists are also a great way to break into paid employment.

Where can I find a job abroad?

Whether you are seeking a job abroad from Canada or when you actually arrive in your target country, networking is invaluable. Ask people who you think or know are involved in education about possible employers. Often the best way to find a job is to go to the country and ask about local language schools. People at "foreigner" pensions, hostels, or hotels tend to talk to each other and may know of local opportunities. If you are looking for a job from within Canada, you should contact nonprofit agencies such as WUSC or established Canadian-owned recruitment agencies such as Footprints. There are also a number of Web sites that advertise for teachers or that you can explore to find out the kinds of jobs available, educational requirements, salaries and benefits and so on. Try Google searches using the name of the country + ESL (or EFL) + Jobs. If volunteer or semi-volunteer positions interest you, try searching the site www.goabroad.com which provides posting services for a number of nonprofit agencies in less-developed countries.

Acronyms in the English-Language Teaching Field

This FAQ pertains to the acronyms in common use to describe various types of courses in the English-language teaching field. Note that these acronyms are in very general use in the English-language teaching field; they are not copyright-protected, and the use of any or all of them by a program of study does not imply any particular range or quality of instruction. If you have further questions on this topic, contact the Academic Program Coordinator.

What is TEAL?

TEAL or Teaching English as an Additional Language is the preferred acronym for the whole field of English Language Teaching in many professional circles. It is often preferred to TESL and TEFL as a label because it is more inclusive and respectful of the learner, in that it recognizes that he or she may be acquiring English not as a mere second language, but as one of several other languages. TEAL is for teachers in a wide range of teaching contexts, in both English-speaking and non-English-speaking communities. In



CERTESL, you will be prepared to teach either in English-speaking countries or abroad. However, you will always need to adapt what you learn in teacher education courses to the context in which you are teaching. Although TESL has traditionally been used in most Canadian contexts, TEAL often replaces it because of its greater inclusivity. Within Saskatchewan, TEAL is given preference in K-12 contexts, and TESL tends to be used in adult contexts involving newcomers to Canada.

What is TESL?

TESL stands for Teaching English as a Second Language. It is most often used when teachers are working with learners in countries where English is the official language, and their learners need to use it for everyday life and work; English becomes their “second language” in the sense that although they were raised speaking something else, English is now the language they need for living.

Some varieties of ESL contexts include

- teaching adult newcomers to Canada often in immigrant settlement agencies,
- teaching non-English speaking children and adolescents in the school system,
- teaching in special high school programs for students from abroad,
- teaching adults in special focus English programs such as English for academic purposes, business English, English for specific professions and trades, preparation for taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and
- skill-specific courses such as writing improvement or conversation classes.

What is TEFL?

TEFL is short for Teaching English as a Foreign Language. TEFL is the teaching of English in countries where English is not the first language of the community. TEFL training courses are for people who do not want to teach in Canada or other English-speaking countries. They do not include content related to the particular needs of immigrant and refugee learners because students living overseas have a narrower range of language needs than students in an English-speaking country. Core methods are the same for both TESL and TEFL; however, in general someone with solid TESL training has an easier time adapting to overseas teaching expectations than someone with TEFL training adapting to the more complicated teaching and learning context of an immigrant community in Canada.

EFL teaching contexts can include

- Teaching students of all ages in private language schools or for companies,
- Teaching children or adolescents in the school system,
- Teaching young adults in university or college credit English language classes,
- Teaching adults in special-focus English programs such as academic purposes, business, or preparation for, English proficiency tests, and
- Skill-specific courses such as writing improvement or conversation.

What is TESOL?

TESOL means Teaching English as a Second or Other Language. The terms TESL, TEAL, and TEFL tend to be used in Canada, while TESOL is used in the USA. Like TEAL, TESOL covers both TESL and TEFL. The rest of the world will understand all four terms.

Computer-Enhanced CERTESL Courses

This FAQ on computer-enhanced courses has been provided to explain the value of this mode of study and to encourage you to try to study online. If you have further questions about computer-enhanced courses, contact the CERTESL Program Office at certificates.admin@usask.ca or call **306-966-6488**.

What are computer-enhanced courses?

Computer-enhanced courses allow you to interact with other students and with the instructor on course content. Educators believe that learners deepen their knowledge and analytical abilities through discussion. In addition to the required interaction for each course, you can connect on a social basis and network with each other, developing a community of English-language teachers that may extend beyond the duration of the course. In addition, you will further develop your comfort with information technology. This will help you participate in other computer-enhanced or Web-based courses in this program and elsewhere.



How are computer-enhanced courses different from the print-based courses?

You will receive a print-based course package as well as instructions for linking to the course Web site that includes directions for participating online. Computer-enhanced courses also include links to Web sites related to course content to supplement your studies. Also, being linked via computer allows you to submit your assignments electronically.

Will I need to be at the computer at a specific time?

No, you will not. As an adult learner, you have a busy life with responsibilities in addition to your studies. For this reason, interactions in your computer-enhanced courses are time and place independent. That is, you can participate in the interaction anywhere that you have access to a computer and at times of the week convenient for you. The required discussions are asynchronous, meaning that you can read others' comments and then add your own; you will not be participating in live chats or synchronous events that demand you be at your computer at a specific time. We do ask, however, that you log on to the required discussion forum at least three times weekly, reading messages and responding appropriately.

Will the discussion be guided?

Each module in the computer-enhanced course has one or two assigned discussion questions or activities. Discussion on these topics will be facilitated by the course instructor. To some extent, the online discussion questions replace the study questions in the print-based courses. However, you should still use the discussion questions to prepare yourself for the final exam.

Will my participation be graded?

Yes. We believe that learning is a communal activity that is enhanced by dialogue with others. Discussion is such an important part of your learning experience that your participation in course discussions will be weighted from between 15-20% of your grade. Of course, this means that the weight of assignments and final exam will be less.

What if I need help with computer-enhanced learning?

In order to participate in a computer-enhanced course, you should have a basic familiarity with how to use the Worldwide Web and e-mail. Your instructor will guide you in the interactive discussions if you have problems. A technical person is available to help you with difficulties related to the conferencing system (software), and your Internet Service Provider (ISP) should be available to help you with any problems in connecting to the Internet. See the latest CERTESL Handbook to find out which courses are being offered online.

What is TOEFL?

TOEFL stands for Test of English as a Foreign Language. It is one of the most common of the language proficiency tests often required by non-English speakers to enter academic study. Often teachers find themselves teaching in TOEFL preparation programs.

What is the TOEFL iBT?

This is the new internet-based TOEFL, which is scored quite differently from the traditional paper- or computer-based TOEFL.

What is IELTS?

IELTS stands for International English Language Testing Service, an alternative to the TOEFL based in the United Kingdom. Many find its academic version to be a better predictor of success in the social sciences (including Education) than the TOEFL.

What is CanTEST?

This is the Canadian Test of English for Scholars and Trainees, a Canadian alternative to TOEFL and IELTS. Like IELTS, a number of academics in the social sciences find it to be a better predictor of success than TOEFL. Its approach to speaking in particular responds better to conversational reality than the TOEFL speaking test, which is essentially a spoken essay.