

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Hippisley, Andrew R  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 4:02 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Subject:** TESL certificate  
**Attachments:** TESL Graduate Certificate Proposal 2-28-13.pdf

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new graduate certificate: Teaching English as a Second Language, in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures, within the College of Arts and Sciences.

[new version with faculty of record in place]

## **TESL Graduate Certificate**

### **Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)**

#### **Purpose and Background**

The TESL Graduate Certificate is designed to provide an introduction to the core pedagogical issues and practices in teaching English as a second or foreign language. A TESL (or TESOL) Certificate is a recognized teaching credential in many educational contexts, particularly outside the U.S.

The Certificate program has two core functions: first, it allows UK students to study in a teacher preparation program in addition to pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Second, it allows UK graduates to leave UK with a teaching credential that will facilitate their opportunities to find a teaching position, particularly when living abroad.

This TESL Certificate will be attractive to a diverse range of potential candidates. Students in the department of Modern and Classical Languages are often interested in living abroad, after graduation, in order to deepen their knowledge and mastery of a language and culture. The TESL Certificate will enhance their opportunities to secure a position teaching English as a foreign language. Many refugee and immigrant programs in Kentucky and around the US are staffed by volunteers or non-educators who would welcome an opportunity to expand their teaching skills, but may have no need for a full TESL MA.

The TESL Graduate Certificate program is expected to be a feeder into the (developing) TESL MA or MATWL program, as some certificate students may be interested in continuing on to get an MA degree, or receive the certificate and return at a later date, and complete the TESL MA or MATWL degree.

Two real strengths of this program are its cross-disciplinarian design, appropriate for an applied field of study, and the fostering of collaboration among the departments/programs of Modern and Classical Languages, Linguistics and Hispanic Studies.

**Graduate Certificate Director:** Dr. Francis Bailey, MCL

## **Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language**

### **Objectives:**

The primary objectives of the TESL Graduate Certificate are three-fold:

1. Prepare teachers skilled in supporting the development of English language learners;
2. Provide candidates with a rigorous introduction to the core disciplines in English language teaching: linguistics, language acquisition and pedagogy;
3. Provide candidates with field-based experiences and in-class teaching opportunities (micro-teaching) in order to develop practical knowledge and skills of second language classroom teaching practices.

### **Curriculum:**

The TESL Graduate Certificate consists of twelve graduate credit hours. These courses will overlap with the (developing) TESL MA and MATWL programs, with the exception of the ESL Teaching Practicum, which is specifically designed for the TESL Certificate students. Please note the courses identified below meet the certificate requirements, but other graduate level UK courses may also satisfy these requirements. The director of the TESL Certificate Program is responsible for assessing these alternative courses for equivalency.

### **Required Courses:**

**Linguistics:** MCL 575: *Introduction to Linguistics for Teachers* (3cr.)

**Second Language Learning:** LIN 517/SPA 602: *Second Language Acquisition* (3cr.)

**Second Language Pedagogy:** (Students will select from one of the following)

MCL 510: World Language Teaching Methods Grades P-8 (3 cr.)

MCL 610: World Language Teaching Methods 9-12 (3 cr.)

MCL/SPA 553: Theory and Practice of Second Language Teaching (3 cr.)

**Second Language Teaching Practicum:** TSL 597: *ESL Teaching Practicum* (3cr.)

### **Resources Available:**

The following faculty teaching course that are required by the certificate:

- Tom Clayton, English
- Alan Brown, Hispanic Studies
- Stacy Dubravac, Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures
- Francis Bailey, Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures

## **Admission Standards for the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language**

- Applicants must apply to the Graduate School and satisfy the minimum Graduate School requirements for admission to a certificate program (which are identical to those for enrollment as a post-baccalaureate graduate student). No GRE exam is required.
- Applicants must also apply separately for the TESL Graduate Certificate program to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.
- Post-baccalaureate status is not available to non-Kentucky residents or international applicants.
- Post-baccalaureate students or students enrolled in (or applying to) a graduate degree program may also apply for the Graduate TESL Certificate.
- Admission to the TESL Graduate Certificate **or** award of the graduate certificate does not guarantee admission to any degree program at the University of Kentucky.
- Applicants must submit the appropriate application fee to the Graduate School.

## **Application Procedures for the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language**

- Applicants must provide to the TESL Certificate Director a two-page essay on why the individual needs and desires a Graduate Certificate and a one-page resume which includes the student's educational and work experience, as an aid to the admission decision.
- Applicants for admission to the Graduate TESL Certificate must be approved by the Certificate Director, who shall notify the Graduate School in writing of the student's admission.
- Admission to the Graduate TESL Certificate in MCL may be limited so that the faculty and resources are not overwhelmed.

## **Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language Requirements**

- The Graduate TESL Certificate curriculum requires a total of 12 graduate credit hours, including 9 hours of required courses, and a teaching practicum.
- All course work for the Graduate TESL Certificate must be completed within 5 years of admission.
- Graduate Certificate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in their TESL certificate courses to progress in the curriculum. This GPA requirement is assessed at the end of each term.

## **The Award of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language**

When a student enrolled in the UK Graduate School has successfully completed the last required course and has satisfied the GPA and grade requirements, the Director of the TESL Certificate shall send a completed, signed Graduate Certificate Completion Form to the Dean of the Graduate School verifying that the student has fulfilled all requirements for the Certificate and requesting award thereof. The Graduate School shall then issue the student's certificate and

officially notify the University Registrar of the awarding of the Certificate for posting to the student's permanent transcript.

### **TESL Faculty of Record**

The TESL Faculty of Record committee meets once per semester (or more often as needed) in order to review and propose changes to program policies, procedures and curriculum for the TESL Graduate Certificate Program. The committee consists of UK faculty who are knowledgeable about second language teaching and teacher education and teach in the TESL program. The program director nominates faculty for a two-year term to MCL's executive committee and the executive committee presents the committee members' credentials to the full department for approval and the appointment of the committee chair.

The proposed committee for 2012-14 consists of the following faculty:

- Francis Bailey (Director of TESL Program)
- Stayc Dubravac (DGS for MATWL Program in MCL)
- Alan Brown (Faculty, Hispanic Studies)
- Kristen Perry (Faculty, Curriculum & Instruction, COE)

### **TESL Student Learning Outcomes**

The TESL Graduate Certificate program is designed to meet the following set of learning outcomes. Candidates must:<sup>1</sup>

#### **I. Language & Learning**

- \* demonstrate professional level knowledge of the English language, including English as a linguistic system and as a tool for social and cognitive functioning;
- \* demonstrate knowledge of research in second language acquisition processes;

#### **II. Culture**

- \* demonstrate skill in inquiring into cultural groups, processes, and identities to support language development.

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<sup>1</sup> These are a subset of TESOL Standards.

### **III. Planning, Implementing and Managing Instruction**

\* demonstrate the ability to create lesson plans and effectively implement them according to current educational research, concepts and “best practices;”

### **IV. Assessment**

\* demonstrate the ability to inquire into students’ personal histories and linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds in order to adapt instruction to learner needs.

### **V. Professionalism**

\* demonstrate the characteristics of a “reflective practioner,” through questioning and inquiry into their own teaching practices and using professional development opportunities;

\* demonstrate the ability to adhere to ethical standards for Kentucky educators<sup>2</sup>;

### **Certificate Program Evaluation:**

Two years after leaving graduating from the program, all TESL certificate alumni are surveyed to determine employment status and level of satisfaction with their preparation for the ESL teaching profession. This information will be used to benefit program development.

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<sup>2</sup> See the “Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Certified Personnel”  
[http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/code\\_of\\_ethics.php](http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/code_of_ethics.php)

## **Benefits**

### **For Students:**

- Provide the opportunity for students to obtain formal training in TESL, without pursuing a terminal graduate degree
- Enhance job opportunities in the TESL field

### **For the Department of Modern and Classical Languages:**

- Enhance opportunities for graduates of world language programs to live and study abroad, after graduation, by enriching their professional teaching skills
- Build an initial program that will be antecedent to the creation of a full MA in TESL
- Foster collaboration among the departments/programs of Modern and Classical Languages, Linguistics and Hispanic Studies

### **For the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky:**

- Provide a pool of trained TESL professionals some of whom may pursue terminal degrees in the MATWL program (or the developing TESL MA program)
- Provide appropriate educational experiences in TESL to support English language development to English language learners in Kentucky, and beyond
- Provide career opportunities for UK graduates in the second language teaching field
- Strengthen UK's reputation as an institution that values and actively fosters internationally-oriented careers in education

**N.B.** Included with this proposal are forms and syllabi for two new courses:

- MCL 575: Linguistics for Teachers
- TSL 597: ESL Teaching Practicum