

Sheridan

Welcome to Sheridan's TESOL Plus Program!

We would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Sheridan's Hazel McCallion Campus. We are so pleased that you have chosen our program to further your English language teaching career! We are very excited to get started on our journey together, and we wanted to take a moment now to advise you of a few key things before the semester begins.

You should have already received a separate welcome letter directly from our program coordinator, which provided information about the following:

- Resources for self-directed study on language systems
- Your unique code and log-in details to access the free grammar course offered through University of Cambridge
- Attached pdfs of the CELTA pre-course task and CELTA pre-course task answer key
- Information about our two key textbooks
- Information about scheduling
- An invitation to our program orientation

If you did not receive this email, or if you had any difficulty with your unique grammar course link or the pdfs, please contact the program coordinator, Tania Meridew (tania.meridew@sheridancollege.ca) as soon as possible.

As you know, this program is unique with its triad of accreditations: the University of Cambridge CELTA, TESL Ontario, and TESL Canada (standard II). Due to the need to satisfy the combination of syllabus and procedure requirements, there are a few things we wanted to take a moment to remind you of before the semester begins.

First, please do take the time to read over and complete the pre-course task, as it does a great job preparing you for the course content. This is a mandated component of the CELTA syllabus, so please remember to submit your completed pre-course task as per the instructions in the program coordinator's email.

Second, please remember that final schedules may not be fixed until the end of the second week of the semester. If you have any specific requests, please contact the program coordinator as soon as possible, and she will do her best to accommodate you. This particular program does not have flexible timetables once the schedule is set, and it does not permit swap/drop of courses.

Third, it is important to understand that this graduate program has a higher workload than normally expected by university alumni; it surprises everyone (and we mean everyone – even our MA and PhD holders). The first few weeks can feel a little heavy as there is a sharp learning curve while you orient yourself to the program, the online learning platform (SLATE), the timetable, your new colleagues and instructors, and most importantly the practicum course. **As such, it is important that you attend all**

classes right from the start. We will be doing a lot of key preparation and orientation work in the two weeks before your actual teaching practicum begins in Week 3, so it can be very difficult to catch up after missed classes.

Fourth, as you know already, semester 1 is fully online. This means all your classes, including the practicum teaching practice classes, will be online and delivered through our SLATE Virtual Classroom. Therefore, it is essential that you have access to a computer, laptop or tablet with a microphone and camera and have a robust and reliable internet connection. You will be expected to have your camera on during classes and it is mandatory to have the camera on during your teaching practice lessons. It is your responsibility to ensure you have access to all required technology throughout the program. We recommend you have a 'Plan B' set in place to ensure all goes smoothly!

Finally, we hope you are as enthusiastic and keen to dive into this amazing, challenging, rewarding and fun field of teaching as we are. Combined, our faculty have taught in over 20 different countries, to thousands of students, over a combined career of 60 years – and we can't wait to share our knowledge, experience and expertise with you.

We look forward to seeing you at the Orientation Event on September 1, from 1:00 – 3:00pm, where we will review the structure of the program, dive into ideas on teaching and learning, and review schedules, the core text list, and all the supports Sheridan and our program have to offer you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be sure to contact us with any questions you might still have.

We are all looking forward to meeting you again soon!

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