ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The globalization of English and a national and regional increase in non-native English speaking populations create a need for highly-trained practitioners who can address the specialized educational needs of adult English language learners at home and abroad. While the number of immigrants is increasing, evidence suggests that the English language barrier is becoming more common. According to the Pew Research Center, the proportion of U.S. immigrants who speak English “less than very well” (i.e. they are not proficient in English) increased from 43% in 1980 to 50% in 2013.

Labor markets project that the language school industry in Pennsylvania is set to grow by 22% between 2015 and 2025, much faster than the average growth of 7.4% in Pennsylvania alone. Accordingly, the region is seeing an exploding need for language school services and, by extension, for a well-trained language educator workforce. The MA TESOL will help the region meet this urgent need.

Slippery Rock University’s MA TESOL prepares graduates for the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world, aiming to educate world citizens who acquire linguistic skills through intellectual acculturation. Through challenging, quality, and interdisciplinary training, SRU graduates will be prepared to work in dynamic and pivotal roles by providing adult ELL instruction in higher education, community literacy, and multicultural global settings, as well as instructional media and materials development in the TESOL publishing industry, thus facilitating their lifelong skill development in the increasingly vital area of TESOL.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Slippery Rock University’s Master of Arts in TESOL is 30 to 33 credits, depending on which track you select, and offers:

• Flexibility to fit your busy schedule - online, blended, and once-weekly evening courses
• Two tracks, experiential and general, that can be completed in 16-24 months
• Interdisciplinary instruction from five academic departments
• Curriculum includes a 13-credit graduate certificate (www.sru.edu/tesol) and click on link of your choice at the bottom of the page for certificate program)
• TESOL practicum may be completed locally or abroad
• Expert faculty with earned doctorates

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must submit the following materials along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 2.75 in English, modern languages, theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics, education, or a related field. Other areas of study, including minors in the above disciplines, will be considered (Prior coursework in linguistics will be strongly recommended but not required). Conditional admission with a 2.5 GPA will be considered.

2. Official undergraduate transcripts from the applicant’s baccalaureate granting institution and any graduate transcripts (if applicable)

3. Two letters of recommendation

4. Statement of Intent (including personal and professional goals)

5. GRE not required

International students should check with the Office for Global Engagement to review all international documents and visa status. Please visit the Graduate Admissions website at www.sru./graduate for more information.
TUITION AND ASSISTANTSHIPS
Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures and available through the Financial Aid Office www.sru.edu/FinAid or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

TESTIMONIALS
“Having a Masters degree in TESOL will set you apart from many other job applicants in the field. As a student at SRU, I was able to complete my internship while teaching English in Ukraine, which gave me an additional leg up on other candidates for my current position. Your advanced degree, combined with the experiences you will gain during your internship/practicum will allow you to find a job teaching English almost anywhere in the world, even in places where the economy is struggling and the job market is tight.” Dr. Vanessa MacKinnon, MA TESOL graduate Dec 2017, Teaching ESL for Study Abroad Canada

“Due to some family commitments, I recently had to move back home after many years of living abroad. Fortunately, English teachers with Masters degrees in TESOL are highly sought-after all over the world, which enabled me to find meaningful work teaching at an English language school in my home town. I interact on a daily basis with interesting and enthusiastic young people from around the world who are eager to improve their English for university, travel, and their current and future careers.” Anonymous, MA TESOL graduate, 2018