



The [English Development through Guided Exploration \(EDGE\) Program](#) is seeking outstanding graduate students to serve as Graduate Leaders during Fall Quarter 2025. In this program, graduate leaders work in pairs to plan and lead bi-weekly outings for international students in the Chicago/Evanston areas. Outings allow international students to practice chatting in English while learning about American culture and exploring the local community.

Graduate Leaders can expect to commit 3-4 hours to EDGE in Fall Quarter in the weeks when the Kickoff and Closing events are scheduled and 2-6 during the weeks when they lead outings. Graduate Leaders typically have 2-3 weeks during the Fall Quarter when no activities are scheduled. Training and orientation sessions will be held in Summer Quarter: the exact dates will be determined based on the Graduate Leaders' schedules.



Principal Responsibilities

- Attend orientation and planning meetings as needed
- Lead activities and interact with participants at the EDGE Kickoff and closing events
- Develop and lead 3-4 outings with a partner for students enrolled in the EDGE program
- Meet with ELP leadership for feedback and guidance on event planning and execution
- During events, create opportunities for conversation, answer student questions, and troubleshoot issues
- After events, document attendance and budget details and discuss options for improvement for the future

Benefits and Awards

This is a dynamic, community-oriented experience, with the opportunity to explore Chicago and Evanston while meeting other students. Leadership in EDGE provides Graduate Leaders with skills in program development, budget oversight, leadership, outreach with international students, and a mentored team environment in which to build varied skills for future employment. This is an ideal opportunity for those who enjoy event planning, creating opportunities for conversation, developing networks within the student community, enhancing intercultural competence, and/or welcoming

international students to the Northwestern community. A supplemental stipend award of \$600 will also be provided to Graduate Leaders during Fall Quarter.

Eligibility

- PhD or MFA students in good academic standing who will be funded by The Graduate School in Fall Quarter 2025
- Able to devote 2-6 hours per week for EDGE responsibilities during Fall Quarter 2025
- Applicants who are international students should have met The Graduate School's English Proficiency requirement (exceptions may be possible for particularly strong candidates)
- Students must be living in the Evanston or Chicago area during Fall Quarter 2025

How to Apply

- Fill out the ELP Summer/Fall Mentoring & Leadership Application:
<https://tinyurl.com/ELP-mentor-leader-2025>
- Application deadline is May 27 at 11:59PM.

Questions? Please contact us using the information below:

Contact information:

English Language Programs
2016 Sheridan Road
Evanston IL 60201
p. 847.467.6053
e. elp@northwestern.edu

About English Language Programs

Northwestern University brings students and scholars together from around the world to engage in research, graduate studies, and intellectual exchange. [English Language Programs](#) provides English language training, orientation, and testing for international graduate students and scholars, to help them improve their ability to communicate in the classroom and beyond.

HEAR FROM PAST GRADUATE LEADERS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN EDGE:



"I am paying attention to the things I love about research and grad school to see how I can craft a career out of all the best things. I love my time talking to people at EDGE events, exploring new places, learning about different cultures, and helping people through challenges. EDGE has helped me learned that, and that's shaped my career goals."

"Serving the community and standing with international students is very important to me. I was inspired by all participants, both their personalities and their enthusiasm."

"It improved my sense of belonging at NU and in the US. I am also very fulfilled to help students build a community and make friends with each other. Professionally, being a graduate leader improved my ability to plan and deliver engaging events for my peers. I am also more confident in my ability to facilitate conversations and discussions."

"IT HAS BEEN AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW PEERS FROM DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS, BROADENING THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ESTABLISH FUTURE COLLABORATIONS. IT HAS ALSO BEEN A NICE WAY OF ACQUIRING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EVENTS PLANNING/ORGANIZATION/BUDGETING."

I really enjoyed getting involved at NU from this angle and getting out of my psychology student bubble. I am involved in a lot of international collaborations, so it was helpful for me to practice interacting with non-native English speakers."

"I am very happy to have served as a graduate leader: personally, it helped me further develop my leadership and logistics skills, as well as the teaching and empathy which are always appreciated in an academic context. To me, the greatest reward was the amazing feedback and gratitude of the EDGE participants, as well as the feeling of providing them with a great service and opportunity."