



**English Language Programs** is seeking outstanding graduate students to serve as Online Peer Mentors for the ELP Foundations program in Summer Quarter 2025.

[ELP Foundations](#) is a hybrid course for incoming international PhD and MFA students that pairs online instruction in the summer before students arrive on campus with in-person experiences in Evanston and Chicago. ELP Foundations provides linguistic, emotional, academic, and practical support to entering students through an online course on using American English and practical advice on integrating into an American university and the local culture. Students will begin to build their new support network over the summer online and then have the chance to meet their classmates in person once they begin their program coursework.

**Online Peer Mentors:** Through recorded interviews and engagement with the ELP Foundations Canvas course site, Online Peer Mentors share their knowledge about graduate student life, including coursework, research, scholarship, networking, and teaching. Online Peer Mentors can expect to commit 5-8 hours per week to the program when supporting the online course.



### Principal Responsibilities:

#### *In Spring Quarter (May/June)*

- Attend one virtual training meeting with Teams Leads and/or ELP Staff.
- Participate in a recorded video interview with ELP Staff on topics related to graduate student life.

#### *In Summer Quarter (June 20-July 26, plus one day in early August)*

- Respond to students in Canvas each week that the course is in session.
- Host an informal discussion session online each week for one hour with a partner.
- Attend a weekly online staff meeting of 30 minutes while the course is in session.
- Serve as a mock student in two 30-minute language assessment sessions in early August.

### Benefits and Awards

These service opportunities provide mentors and guides with experience in program development, leadership, outreach with international students, and a mentored team environment in which to build varied skills for future employment. A stipend of \$600 will also be provided to mentors at the conclusion of the online program in Summer Quarter. This is an ideal opportunity for those who enjoy event planning, sharing knowledge, creating opportunities for conversation, developing networks within the student community, enhancing intercultural competence, or welcoming international students to the Northwestern community.

**Eligibility**

- PhD or MFA students in good academic standing who will be funded by TGS in Summer Quarter 2025
- Able to devote 4-6 hours per week for ELP Foundations responsibilities during Summer 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)

**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](mailto:elp@northwestern.edu)  
w. <https://www.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 ONLINE PEER MENTORS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN ELP FOUNDATIONS:



*I enjoyed interacting with the incoming students during live zoom chats and watching them share their experiences via Flipgrid and the written assignments.*

**"Working with the ELP staff throughout the summer was a great experience for me."**

I loved sharing my experience with the new students, particularly things that I had learned very recently. I also enjoyed learning about other programs and how they work in addition to many cultural aspects of countries all over the world. On top of that, it was a reminder about how much I have learned about US culture beyond what Hollywood presents.

**"I GAINED IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND UNDERSTOOD A BIT OF THE BACKEND THAT'S INVOLVED IN PLANNING SUCH A COURSE."**

**Thank you for this awesome opportunity, I really enjoyed being an OPM!**

It was really nice to meet so many new international students and be able to share some (hopefully) useful and interesting information with them. I think that I also learned a lot from the students while I was reading their discussion comments and watching their videos.