



The [English Development through Guided Exploration \(EDGE\) Program](#) is seeking outstanding graduate students to serve as Graduate Leaders during Fall Quarter 2026. 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.

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.

Expectations:

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

Eligibility

Students must have an approved Permission to Work form before accepting the EDGE Graduate Leader position. We recommend consulting with your adviser, department/program, and school before submitting your application to confirm program/school policies.

As of Fall Quarter 2026, all applicants should be:

- Enrolled in a Northwestern PhD or MFA program
- Located in the Evanston/Chicago area
- In good academic standing in their program
- Able to devote 3-4 hours per week to the role
- Registered (includes TGS-500 and TGS-512 registration)
- Be in their second through fifth of their academic program (applicants finishing their first, sixth, or seventh year may also apply and will be approved on a case-by-case basis)
- International student applicants are expected to have fulfilled The Graduate School's English Proficiency requirement before applying. Exceptions may be possible, contact us to inquire.

How to Apply:

- Fill out the ELP Summer/Fall Mentoring & Leadership Application:
<https://tinyurl.com/ELP-mentor-leader-26>
- Application deadline extended to Friday, May 1 at 11:59PM.

Questions? Please contact us using the information below:

Contact information:

English Language Programs
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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.