



**English Language Programs** is seeking outstanding graduate students to serve as Online Peer Mentors and Team Leads for the ELP Foundations program in Summer Quarter 2026.

[ELP Foundations](#) is a hybrid program for incoming international PhD and MFA students that integrates online instruction in Summer Quarter with in-person programming in Evanston and Chicago upon arrival. The program offers linguistic, academic, emotional, and practical support through coursework focused on U.S. English usage and orientation to American academic and cultural contexts. Participants begin developing a peer support network during the summer online experience and then meet and connect in person as they begin their academic programs.

**Online Peer Mentors:** Through recorded interviews, live discussions, and active engagement in the ELP Foundations Canvas course site, Online Peer Mentors share insights into graduate student life, including coursework, research, scholarship, networking, teaching, and exploring daily life and community in the U.S. During the online portion of the program, Online Peer Mentors should expect to commit approximately 5–8 hours per week.



### Principal Responsibilities:

*In Spring Quarter (May/June)*

- Attend virtual training meetings 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 25, plus one day in early August)*

- Reply to students in Canvas discussion thread.
- Plan/host weekly informal discussion sessions online.
- Meet with a Team Lead and your partner for support.
- 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

Students must have an approved Permission to Work form before accepting a Peer Mentor or Team Lead position in ELP Foundations. We recommend consulting with your adviser, department/program, and school before submitting your application, if possible, to confirm program/school policies.

As of Summer Quarter 2026, all applicants should be:

- Enrolled in a Northwestern PhD or MFA program
- In good academic standing in their program
- Able to devote 5-8 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-2026>
- Application deadline extended to Friday, May 1 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.