ELP Foundations is an orientation program that prepares newly admitted international PhD/MFA students for their arrival at Northwestern and supports their communication skills in English. It combines an online summer course prior to arrival with in-person events on and off campus upon arrival in September. During the summer course (Foundations of American English and Academic Culture) students will receive personalized feedback on their language skills from English Language Programs (ELP) staff, prepare for the emotional and cultural impact of study abroad, learn about academic topics such as teaching, working with advisors and mentors, and academic integrity, and get to know each other and Northwestern. Social events include receptions, tours of Chicago, and professional development events. Please review the following information as you prepare to select nominees:

Program Requirements
- **Students will be enrolled in TGE 509: Foundations of American English and Academic Culture (five-week, non-credit, online-only course) during the Summer Quarter.** There is no tuition charge for this course and the transcript grades will be either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. The online course will run from Friday, June 16 to Saturday, July 22, with weekly assignments throughout the course.
- **Students who accept an offer of admission to ELP Foundations must complete “pre-boarding” tasks between May 15 and June 5 to ensure they can access Canvas, Panopto, and Zoom conferencing software online during the course. ELP staff will assist prospective students in determining if they can access these sites.**
- **During the five-week summer course, students must be able to spend up to 3-5 hours per week on required assignments. Students may make up work if needed for limited time away (seven days or less) during the program. If students will be unavailable for more than seven days at a time, or cannot spend 3-5 hours per week on coursework, they will not be able to complete the course.**
- **Students who complete the required assignments in the course modules will earn eligibility to attend in-person social events (following safety guidelines related to COVID-19). Students who complete the entire course with a grade of A or B will receive a stipend of $300 from TGS upon their first quarter of enrollment in AY2023-24.**

**Criteria for Admission**
- **English Proficiency:** Students of all levels of English proficiency may be nominated, including those who have already met the Graduate School’s English proficiency requirement.
- **Admit Status:** All nominees must be admitted to a PhD or MFA program for Fall 2023. Departments may initially nominate up to ten students. Additional students may be nominated if any of the initial nominees decline the offer to Northwestern and/or ELP Foundations.
- **Admission to ELP Foundations will be offered on a rolling basis, beginning in late February.**
- **Students must accept the offer by no later than May 15 (if admitted by May 1) or May 26 (if admitted by May 15).**

**Time Frame & Deadline**
- Nomination deadline: May 15, 2023
- Use our online form to nominate: tinyurl.com/Nominate-Foundations-2023
- Enrolment for ELP Foundations will be limited to 75 students for 2023. Departments may initially nominate up to ten students. Additional students may be nominated if any of the initial nominees decline the offer to Northwestern and/or ELP Foundations.
- Admission to ELP Foundations will be offered on a rolling basis, beginning in late February.
- Students must accept the offer by no later than May 15 (if admitted by May 1) or May 26 (if admitted by May 15).

**Nomination Guidelines**

- **This course represented a truly inspiring experience, which showed me that in Evanston there is a wonderful, inclusive community waiting for us international students to come.”**
  - 2020 ELP Foundations student

- **I already feel the difference in the speed of my writing and organizing the ideas in a text...I really liked that we get advice from people who already lived the moment of arriving, acclimatizing, finding things different and building up a new world for themselves. I like the shared experience of other international students.”**
  - 2021 ELP Foundations student

- **At the start, I was really amazed that this course exist, and now I will be amazed if a university, which have international students doesn’t have this course. It was really informative and helpful, and I’m sure I will get back to course materials at some point. Living abroad is frustrating, but knowing many people who are in the same position as you is relieving. After this course, I’m more excited than afraid about going to US and meet people from all around the world. I thank you all from bottom of my heart to be this kind and considerate.”**
  - 2022 ELP Foundations student

- **It was fantastic getting to meet a large and diverse group of graduate students, and I really think I got the ability to practice my spoken English.”**
  - 2020 ELP Foundations student

If you have any questions about the nominations process, please contact:

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**English Language Programs (ELP)**

Northwestern University

**ELP Foundations**

English Language Programs at Northwestern University