

ELP Foundations

English Language Programs at Northwestern University

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

ELP Foundations is an orientation program that prepares newly admitted international PhD/MFA students for graduate study at Northwestern and life in the US. It combines an online, asynchronous summer course with in-person events on and off campus upon arrival in September. During the summer online course, students will prepare for the emotional and cultural impact of study abroad, learn about academic topics such as teaching, working with advisors and mentors, making presentations, networking, and academic integrity, and get to know each other and Northwestern. The course can be completed asynchronously, but optional live discussion sessions with current graduate student peers are also offered. Additional optional English language support software is available for students who wish to opt in. 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 a special non-degree program and online course during Summer Quarter. There is no tuition charge for this course and the transcript grades will be either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.
- Students who accept an offer of admission to ELP Foundations must complete "pre-boarding" tasks between **May 23 and May 30** to ensure they can access Canvas, Panopto, Zoom video conferencing software, and other instructional tools. Most students only need 1-2 hours on average to complete these tasks. ELP staff will assist prospective students in determining if they can access these sites.
- The online course will run from **Friday, June 20 to Saturday, July 27**. Required course assignments can be completed asynchronously. Auditors are not permitted; students must commit to engaging on a weekly basis, and completing all required assignments (average time to complete required work is 3-6 hours per week).
- Students who complete the required assignments in the course modules will earn eligibility to attend in-person social events in the fall. Students who complete the entire course with a grade of A or B will receive a stipend of \$325 from TGS upon their first quarter of enrollment in AY2025-26.



“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 are, 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

Time Frame & Deadline

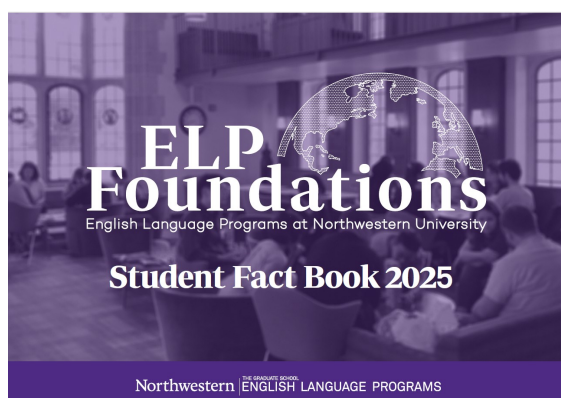
- Nomination deadline: **May 15, 2025**
- Use our online form to nominate: <https://tinyurl.com/ELPF-nominate-25>
- Enrollment for ELP Foundations will be limited to 75 students for 2025. Departments may initially nominate up to ten students. Additional students may be nominated if any of the initial nominees decline the offer to Northwestern and/or ELP Foundations.
- Admission to ELP Foundations will be offered on a rolling basis.
- Students must accept the offer by no later than **May 23**.

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 Summer or Fall 2025 with a support package. You may nominate a student who has not yet accepted an offer, as long as an offer has been made.
- Time in USA:** Students who have never visited or lived in the 50 US states will be given preference over students who have lived or studied in the the 50 US states for more than 30 days. We are usually able to accommodate all students who wish to participate.
- Country of Origin:** ELP Foundations is intended for international students. However, U.S. Citizens and permanent residents are also eligible to attend if they have lived primarily outside the US, are nonnative speakers of English, and/or or are native speakers of a dialect of English that is spoken primarily outside the 50 US states.
- Special Circumstances:** Please contact us if your student has a particular need for language services that is not already addressed here. We are happy to discuss the specifics of your student's case.

“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



Faculty, staff, and prospective admitted students can download our [Student Fact Book](#) or visit our [website](#) for more information on ELP Foundations.

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

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