ELP Foundations is an orientation program that prepares newly admitted international PhD/MFA students for life 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 TGS 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 Tuesday, June 21 to Friday, July 22, with weekly assignments throughout the course.
- Students who accept an offer of admission to ELP Foundations must be able to access Canvas, Panopto, and Zoom video conferencing software online in the summer when the online course is offered. 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 2-4 hours per week on required assignments. Arrangements can be made to make up work 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 2-4 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 AY2022-23.

Time Frame & Deadline

- Nominations must be submitted no later than May 13, 2022, via our online form: tinyurl.com/nominate-Foundations-2022.
- Enrollement for ELP Foundations will be limited to 60 students for 2022. 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 no later than May 24, 2022.

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 2022 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 U.S. will be given preference over students who have lived or studied in the U.S. 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. U.S. Citizens and permanent residents ARE eligible to attend if they are non-native speakers of English. Students whose country of origin is Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, or New Zealand typically do not participate, but may be nominated on a case-by-case basis.
- 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.

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

**“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