GRADUATE STUDENTS:

APPLY TO BE AN ONLINE PEER MENTOR!

Support your international peers while getting leadership and mentorship experience.

Read on for responsibilities, application and award details
English Language Programs is seeking outstanding graduate students to serve as Online Peer Mentors for the ELP Foundations program in Summer Quarter 2020.

ELP Foundations is a hybrid course for incoming international PhD and MFA students that pairs online instruction in the summer before students arrive on campus with in-person experiences in Evanston and Chicago in September (assuming that classes are meeting again on campus in Fall Quarter). ELP Foundations provides linguistic, emotional, academic and practical support to entering students through online content on using American English and practical advice on integrating into an American university and the local culture. Students will begin to build their new support network over the summer online and then have the chance to meet their classmates in person in September to explore Chicago together.

Online Peer Mentors: Through recorded interviews and engagement with the ELP Foundations Canvas course site, Online Peer Mentors share their knowledge about graduate student life, including coursework, research, scholarship, networking, and teaching. Online Peer Mentors can expect to commit 3-6 hours per week to the program when supporting the online course.

Responsibilities include:

In Spring Quarter
- Attending one in-person training meeting with all of the Online Peer Mentors and ELP Staff
- Recording a series of video interviews on topics related to graduate student life with ELP Staff

In Summer Quarter (June 22-July 26, plus one short event in early August)
- Attending a weekly online staff meeting of 30 minutes while the course is in session
- Hosting an informal discussion session online once per week for one hour
- Informal commenting on student video and discussion board assignments in Canvas each week that the course is in session
- Answering student questions posted through the Canvas course site or shared via email
- Serving as a mock student in a language assessment in early August (to be scheduled and dependent on whether campus reopens in summer)

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 $500 will also be provided to Mentors at the conclusion of the online program in Summer Quarter.

Eligibility
- PhD or MFA students in good academic standing who will be funded by TGS in Summer Quarter 2020
- Students must be in residence on or near the Evanston or Chicago campuses during Summer Quarter 2020, and must have time to devote to the ELP Foundations during that time.
- Applicants who are international students must have met The Graduate School’s English Proficiency requirement.

Who Should Apply
- PhD or MFA students who wish to serve the graduate community through outreach to international students. 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.
- Students who wish to develop skills in leadership, mentorship, and teamwork

How to Apply:
- Fill out the online application form for the Online Peer Mentor position: https://tinyurl.com/OPM-2020
- The deadline to apply to be an online Peer Mentor is Thursday, April 30 5:00 PM.
HEAR FROM LAST YEAR’S ONLINE PEER MENTORS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE:

All of us have learned some tips and tricks after years of living in Evanston. If anyone is looking for a way to pass on their experience, this program offers a great opportunity to help international students in their adventure in moving to the US. It also provides a chance to improve leadership skills. By the end of the program, you will have tons of new friends from all over the world and have learned a lot about other disciplines and cultures.

HALEH ALE-AHMAD, PHD STUDENT, IRAN

I was more excited than I expected meeting people from all over the world. It was fantastic to hear their stories. I also enjoyed myself by answering any possible questions they may have about the new environment when facing such a huge transition in their lives. Being a peer mentor was also a educational journey for myself. I learned a lot of interesting facts from people from various background. Meanwhile, I improved the skills coping with culture disparities.

HANYIN WANG, PHD STUDENT, CHINA

Whether you had a seamless transition into graduate school or wish it had been smoother, consider paying it forward by serving as an Online Peer Mentor this summer! You'll join a wonderful community within English Language Programs and also connect with students in other departments that you will continue to see around campus. I have really enjoyed my experience at Northwestern, and want to pay it forward by directing incoming students to resources that I found helpful during my transition into graduate school.

GRACE BELLINGER, PHD STUDENT, USA