

TDSB TESL Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the specifics of the TDSB TESL training program?

The TDSB TESL training program is an intensive, part-time course, with 270 hours of classroom instruction and an additional 50 hours of practicum which is completed outside of classroom hours in our day, evening, or weekend classes. The program follows the TESL Ontario requirements. It lays the theoretical foundations of teaching English as a Second Language while focusing on the ESL teaching and assessment methodology, as well as practical classroom management skills and techniques in an adult ESL teaching context. The program runs Tuesday and Thursday evenings and most alternate Saturday mornings.

2. Why should I choose the TDSB TESL training program?

As the largest ESL service provider in Canada and the fourth largest board of education in North America, our TESL training program will provide you with the resources, knowledge and support needed to succeed. In our dynamic classroom environment, you can share and learn from a wide range of teaching experiences under the guidance of highly professional staff. We will arrange your required teaching practicum at various locations within the TDSB.

3. What requirements do I need to be eligible for the TDSB TESL training program?

a) University Degree

A three-year university degree, from an accredited university is required.

b) Language Proficiency

English language fluency in spoken and written English is necessary. This includes a strong command of grammar, spelling and pronunciation.

Candidates whose mother tongue is not English and who have not completed at least four years of full-time study in an English language school system, will be required to provide evidence of English language proficiency by achieving acceptable scores in one of the following tests:

Tests	Required Scores
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) TWE (Test of Written English) TSE (Test of Spoken English)	Reading 24 (computer score) Listening 24 Speaking 26 Writing 27
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Test	Reading 7 Listening 7 Speaking 7 Writing 7
Canadian Academic English Language Assessment	Minimum of 70 in each of the speaking and writing subtests

[Visit the TESL website](#) for more information.

4. What if I don't meet all program entry requirements?

While our program reflects the TESL Ontario requirements needed for certification, not all providers of ESL programs in Canada and abroad require a post-secondary degree or the same level of English language proficiency. To this effect, under certain circumstances, special consideration may be given to individuals who are interested in participating in our program but who do not meet all of the requirements outlined above, yet want to be well-prepared to teach abroad. Successful candidates will receive a certificate of participation from the Toronto District School Board but these candidates will not be eligible for TESL Ontario certification.

5. I have completed a degree in another country. Will your TESL program accept my foreign educational credentials?

All applicants who have completed university programs outside Canada must provide a Canadian equivalency assessment of their university degree(s) as part of their application. Assessments must be completed by a recognized credentials assessment service. See the following web site for more information:

Call: World Education Services (WES) - Canada at 416-972-0070 or University of Toronto, Accreditation Department

[Visit the TESL website](#) for more information.

6. What is the cost of the course?

For the 2023/2024 academic year, the cost will be \$4,100.00. Included in the course cost are HST and all required course texts and materials. Space is limited so register early.

7. What if I can't pay the program fee in full?

You may pay in two installments (an additional administration fee of \$200.00 will be charged). This includes a first payment of \$2,300.00 and a second payment of \$2,000.00 in mid-January, 2024. Payment can be made online with a credit/debit card.

8. What if I miss a class?

Your attendance is very important for the completion of the program. 300 hours of participation in, and successful completion of all components of the course are required to receive your TDSB TESL certificate.

9. How are classes affected by holidays?

There are no classes scheduled on statutory holidays or during the winter and March breaks. A school year calendar will be distributed before the first day of class.

10. Do I receive a certificate?

Yes. If you participate in the required number of classroom hours, successfully complete all assignments and meet the required practicum standards, you will receive a certificate from the Toronto District School Board. If you have a university degree, you will receive an additional certificate of accreditation from TESL Ontario which qualifies you to teach adults in Continuing Education Programs at boards of education, colleges and universities.

11. How do I register?

Registration usually is open from mid-May until the 3rd week of September, unless we reach capacity prior to that. Send your resume and cover letter to teslprogram@tdsb.on.ca . We will contact you to schedule an interview. Once contacted, please be sure to bring your application form, your official university transcripts and equivalency assessments (if necessary), and a copy of your language proficiency test scores (if necessary).

12. When will I be advised of my acceptance?

You will be advised of your acceptance shortly after your interview.

13. Refund Policy?

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing. Full tuition fees (less \$100 administration fee) will be refunded to students who withdraw before the first class. Half fees will be refunded to students who withdraw before the eighth class. After that, there are no refunds available.

The Toronto District School Board reserves the right to cancel the TESL course if there is insufficient enrollment and a full refund will be given.