SIT SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language 2023

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER RESIDENCY IN VERMONT

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VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

SIT will hold a **synchronous virtual orientation to SIT on Monday and Tuesday, May 22-23, 2023, from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT**, for new students in all of SIT's part-time, hybrid programs. Please join the faculty, dean, student services and president to learn more about the institution and your classmates. **In addition, there will be a virtual TESOL Orientation/Greeting on Monday, May 22, 2023, from 11:30-12:30 EDT.** Call-in details will be provided in advance and for those of you unable to join in, we will record the session and forward the link to you afterwards.

The official beginning of the TESOL summer semester courses is Thursday, May 25, 2023. Your first asynchronous course, *Foundations to Teaching and Learning,* will begin then.

ARRIVAL DAY IN BRATTLEBORO

For students staying on campus, please arrive on **Saturday, June 24, 2023 after 2 pm**. Staff will be in the International Center to check students in and escort them to their accommodation on campus. **All students are required to attend the evening meal together in the SIT International Center cafeteria at 6:00 pm.** Directions to campus can be found HERE. (Please note that the closest airport is Bradley International Airport in Hartford, CT.)

We will be in a seminar, including a closing dinner, until 8:00 p.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023, so please plan on departing the morning of **Saturday, July 15, 2023**. Students are asked to check out of their rooms by 10:00 a.m. EDT.

ACADEMICS

SIT's teaching and learning philosophy is grounded in the experiential learning theory developed by Robert Kolb (1984; 2015) and informed by scholars such as John Dewey, Jean Piaget, and Kurt Lewin. Experiential learning theory recognizes that learning is an active process that expands beyond formal curricula and that involves both content (what you learn) and process (how you learn).

Please note that as an accredited institution, all SIT courses are required to meet minimum regulations regarding the earning of graduate credit. Thus, over the course of the semester, students will spend approximately 15 hours in class and related activities plus 30 hours in individual and/or group work, for a total of 45 hours, for each credit earned.

While the residency will require your full-time presence (see residency below), our online courses generally follow a Thursday to Tuesday schedule with Wednesday as a day of rest. Thursdays to Sundays are for reading and doing assignments and Sunday through Tuesday are structured for posting assignments and responding to your peers' work. The schedule is meant to give you flexibility to fit your TESOL MA work around your lifework, family and well-being—and to accommodate the various time zones that cohort members live in.

MATESOL MISSION, BELIEFS AND PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

OUR MISSION:

MATESOL's mission is to enliven learning by helping teachers and learners to interrogate and transform existing paradigms of teaching and modes of learning that marginalize learners and limit their potential. The MAT program supports students to work toward a more peaceful, just and sustainable world by challenging their assumptions and continuously redefining their teaching based on an ever-deeper exploration of and connection to the world, themselves, learners, and the learning process.

OUR BELIEFS:

We believe that:

- Only awareness is truly educatable—it is a fundamental prerequisite to any learning
- Teaching is subordinated to learning
- Learning is a non-linear, emergent process
- Learning is enhanced by a diverse community that supports and challenges one's thinking
- Learning is an embodied and socially embedded experience that involves mind, body, spirit, and emotion
- Learning from experience is an ongoing process and, therefore, any assessment of learning will be unavoidably partial and incomplete

RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

Classes and other scheduled activities begin at 9:00 am each morning and generally finish by dinner (6 pm). There will be a 90-minute lunch break between the morning and afternoon classes. Students will also be involved with group meetings during what appear to be unscheduled blocks of time. Thus, students should not plan to conduct work or engage in other activities during their time on campus. Free time is built into the daily schedule. In addition, the returning MATESOL cohort will organize a language learning conference for you (Sandanona Conference) as part of their studies (you will attend the conference in your first year and create a conference for the next cohort during your second year).

FAMILY & PARTNERS

SIT Graduate Institute recognizes that, on occasion, students may wish to have a "companion" (defined as an immediate family member, or partner, to include dependent children) accompany them on their residency. It is important to recognize that the academic components require extensive time and energy. Students are expected to engage in every program activity including classes and evening/weekend group meetings. There are long days of classes and rigorous academic assignments. If students would like to bring family members to the seminar, please book accommodation off campus since the dormitories are not suitable for families.

LANGUAGE LEARNING REQUIREMENT

All students in the MATESOL program take .5 undergraduate credit of a language class together during the summer residency. Our goal is not that you will learn this language but, rather, that you will begin the program firmly grounded in the seat of language learners and exploring the diverse experiences of students in the same class.

OTHER RESIDENCY COURSES

The residency is a combination of a retreat and an intensive. During the residency you will take pieces of several core courses, but we want to also focus on providing space for community building, fun and deep reflection. Much of this will be explained to you as courses begin in the Online Foundations to Teaching and Learning course that will take place beginning online from May 25, 2023. The Foundations course is intended to orient you to the program and to 1) give you a chance to reflect on your beliefs/experiences as a teacher; 2) develop a deeper understanding of some of the current ideas in the field and enduring foundational ideas of our program; 3) begin working on becoming a learning community; and 4) develop goals for the program and your personal and professional life. When you come to campus you will pick up these threads in the following courses, some of which will extend over the first year:

- Intercultural Communications and Ethnographic Inquiry for Language Educators (3 credits)
- Developing an Approach to Teaching and Learning Languages (3 credits)
- English Applied Linguistics (4 credits)

A SNAPSHOT OVERVIEW OF THE 2-YEAR PROGRAM

During the first year of the program, you will focus on developing a reflective practice in your own context influenced by coursework that addresses the many dimensions of what goes on inside the classroom. Courses include (in addition to the ones above):

- Teaching the Four Skills (3 credits)
- Establishing a Reflective Practice (2 credits)
- Practicing Reflection (your supervised interim year practicum) (4 credits)
- Curriculum Design and Assessment (2 credits)

As noted above, your cohort will also co-organize the Sandanona Conference, a language conference modeled on TESOL's international conference (1 credit).

During the second year of the program, we make a shift. You will choose an area of specialization in the field (currently plurilingual pedagogy, refugees and displaced persons or teacher training and development) and work with a faculty member and a small subset of your cohort in an exploration of your own questions around that topic. This part of the program will focus on the world outside the classroom, networking with practitioners, and identifying gaps in the field. This will, hopefully, set you up for the final project of the program, the IPP, an independent professional project (either a materials development project, professional paper or action-research project)

SIT EMAIL - LIBRARY – CANVAS ACCESS

Approximately 30 days before the start of the program, all students will receive an encrypted message from SIT's IT department with their SIT email address and login. Once students log into their account the first time, they will find an email from the SIT library with information about how to log into the library and Canvas, SIT's learning management system.