

# Educating the Educator

Language Magazine presents the first in a series of features outlining training options for teachers

**It has never been more important for teachers to improve** their qualifications. Federal legislation, like NCLB, and state regulations are compelling schools and school districts to insist that teachers are adequately qualified despite shortages in key areas like ESL and bilingual education. At the same time, budget restraints are forcing some states to cut teaching jobs and it is the least qualified teachers who are most likely to lose their jobs.

Due to the demand for ESL and bilingual teachers outstripping the supply, this is an area in which there have traditionally been a high proportion of less qualified teachers. Fortunately, there are now an array of training options including part-time and online programs, and maybe more importantly, more and more funding sources (see our next issue).

Here is a selection of some of the most innovative programs on offer:

## Antioch University McGregor

Antioch University McGregor, established in 1988, offers a diverse selection of powerful and distinctive programs for adult students interested in furthering their educational leadership skills. Each program emphasizes critical thinking, provides opportunities for collaborative learning, emphasizes cultural diversity and an international perspective, and promotes the integration of life and work experience with academic knowledge.

The graduate programs at AUM, nationally accredited by NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, include teacher licensure in Early Childhood Education (ECE), Middle Childhood Education (MCE), Adolescent & Young Adult Education (AYA) and Special Education (EDS) providing the Mild/Moderate and Moderate / Intensive Intervention Specialist license. All of the programs offered can lead to a Master of Education in Educational Leadership degree. Students can also enroll in endorsement programs in reading, gifted and talented, and Early Childhood Education Generalist. On-line alternative licensure programs are also available.

## University of Arizona

The University of Arizona (UA) is ranked among the top 20 public research universities nationwide. The field of Second (L2) and Foreign Languages (FL) continues to evolve and grow. As international market opportunities expand, so must the professional support and training of all involved in delivering the best education to all those seeking L2/FL skills. The University of Arizona (UA) is meeting demand at all levels of language professional development.

UA's renowned Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) offers a variety of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate options. The 50-hour online TEFL training courses provide foundational knowledge in teaching methodology and second language acquisition theory. CESL's 100-hour intensive TEFL certificate program offers a greater breadth of instruction in these same areas, as well as advanced

training in assessment, materials development, and classroom management. Participants in the 100-hour program are given hands-on teaching opportunities with English language learners on a weekly basis in Mexico.

At the Master's level, UA offers the English Language and Linguistics (EL/L) program, a two-year program with a wide range of theoretical and applied coursework, including specialized courses in methodology and technology. UA also offers interdisciplinary MAs in French and German Language and Pedagogy.

UA's interdisciplinary doctoral program in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT), consistently ranked as one of the top four Applied Linguistics programs in the US, has faculty members from 17 departments and four colleges. Students work closely with faculty in 4 major areas: L2 Use, L2 Pedagogical Theory and Program Administration, L2 Analysis, and L2 Processes and Learning. Training and research opportunities can also be found in the UA Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language, and Literacy (CERCLL), one of 15 National Foreign Language Resource Centers in the country. With a current job placement rate of 97% and a multitude of research and academic opportunities across disciplines, SLAT's reputation for excellence in the field of L2/FL teacher development continues to grow.

## University of California, Los Angeles

The Teacher Education Program (TEP), offered by UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies' Department of Education, is a two-year graduate program leading to a Master's of Education and an elementary or secondary teaching credential. All students prepare to teach in culturally diverse elementary, middle, and high schools. Based on a social justice orientation and a commitment to the integration of research-based theory and practice, TEP enables its students to study and teach successfully in low income urban schools in Los Angeles. Since its inception, TEP's goal has been to prepare teachers who are dedicated to providing a high quality education to students in the lowest performing schools. Each year, TEP places 150- 180 new teachers into local schools that fit this criterion.

## Gonzaga University

Gonzaga University's Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) offers an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language: Studies in Language & Culture. This unique joint program with Peace Corps is designed to prepare professional and knowledgeable English as a second/foreign language teachers, language specialists, and teacher trainers to develop competencies to participate in culturally and linguistically diverse contexts. The program offers several practical field-based opportunities to enhance the PCMI students' ability in language use and language teaching, which is excellent preparation for Peace Corps service. For example, each PCMI course requires a minimum of 30 hours of practical applica-



tion which may include focused observations, assisting, tutoring and teaching. Moreover, students are required to collaborate on at least one student project that demonstrates their understanding of the principles and theoretical underpinnings of each course. A unique feature of the PCMI program is its adjoining ESL program that has been serving ESL students from 80 different countries for over 30 years. Both programs share the same faculty, another unique feature of the program.

Collectively, the PCMI faculty represents over fifty years of teaching and international experience and is well equipped to provide creative opportunities for their graduate students to participate and serve in global contexts. Students take three consecutive semesters (including summer), or 26 credits and are awarded ten credits over the course of their 27 month Peace Corps service. Depending on the students' program goals and their Peace Corps assignment, their service would fulfill: 1) MTSL practicum requirement, 2) initial research for a master's project or thesis, 3) a pre and post reflection and observation course, 4) a capstone project that will be individualized to reflect the students' Peace Corps experience upon their return. The students work closely with an advisor in order to document this ten credit theory/practice experience.

### University of Minnesota

The Second Languages and Cultures (SLC) program is among the strongest in the country for language teacher preparation and development, and for the preparation of future scholars in the field of language education. Teaching and learning is addressed in a range of language settings—English as a second language (ESL), foreign (world) language education, and bilingual, dual language and immersion education. By incorporating a range of language teaching contexts and both majority language and minority language learners, the program provides students with the opportunity to gain broad perspectives that are valuable regardless of what setting they plan to teach in.

Located in the highly diverse, vibrant metropolitan area of the Twin Cities, the University of Minnesota boasts a rich environment for language education. ESL programs serve refugee and immigrant learners representing well over 100 language/cultural groups, with the three largest being Hmong, Latino and Somali. The state is home to approximately 50 language immersion programs serving about 8,000 students from preschool through high school in French, German, Hmong, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Minnesota has a long history of offering strong world language programs in K-12 and postsecondary contexts, and the University of Minnesota benefits from the support of many centers on campus, such as the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) and the new Confucius Institute.

### The New School

The New School — along with a team of international experts - has developed an online MATESOL, an innovative master's program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Offering two concentrations, teaching and curriculum development, this graduate program trains students to take a leadership role in this evolving field.

New School students come from countries around the globe. They are passionate about advancing their careers and understand the importance of effective communication in business, politics, nonprofit management, and education. Some have taught TESOL; others are ready to launch new careers in a field that allows them to help others and work across borders and cultures.

While the TESOL master's degree is demanding, the flexibility offered by online study allows students to fit coursework into their life. Dynamic class discussions are led by renowned TESOL scholars, including Elton award winner Scott Thornbury and Jeremy Harmer. There is also the option of blending online studies with in an intensive summer teaching residency in New York City.

### University of Nevada, Reno

The University of Nevada, Reno offers a doctoral program in Educational Specialties with an emphasis on language, literacy, and culture. The degree program is housed in the Department of Educational Specialties, part of the College of Education. The curriculum is interdisciplinary and focuses on the interconnectedness among language, literacy, and culture, and emphasizes research and scholarship on preparing learners to effectively live and work in a democratic and pluralistic society. The program is designed for those interested in the intersection of first and second language acquisition, TESOL, bilingual education, literacy, and multicultural education.

The university is located in a picturesque community located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, nationally recognized for year-round outdoor recreation opportunities. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. A master's degree is required for admission, and students often come with master's preparation in one of the following areas: teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), literacy studies, or multicultural education. Master's degrees in these areas also are available in the Department of Educational Specialties.

### Teachers College, Columbia University

Teachers College, Columbia University is the nation's oldest and largest graduate school of education and its location in the heart of the world's most exciting city gives it an unrivalled vibrancy. The College's faculty,

with their wide-ranging areas of expertise, offer students many philosophies from which each can develop his or her own personal approach. The interplay between theory and practice, where concepts converge with the reality of work, makes Teachers College unique, ensuring that every graduate of the institution becomes the kind of leader our nation and our world need today.

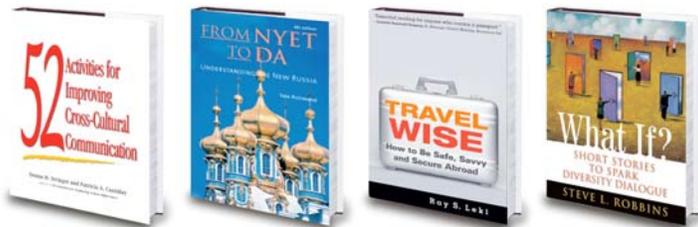
In addition to programs in Early Childhood Education and Literacy Specialist preparation, the Department of Curriculum and Teaching offers a program in Elementary Inclusive Education, which prepares teachers to teach all children, particularly in urban contexts. The course of study emphasizes curriculum development for heterogeneous classrooms, critical multiculturalism, and teaching for equity and social justice. With more than sixty programs of study, graduates go on to pursue careers in educational policy and international and comparative education as well as education and educational leadership. Students are candidates for Master of Arts (MA), Master of Education (EdM), Master of Science (MS), Doctor of Education (EdD), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees. Students interested in becoming a part of a dynamic and diverse community of scholars are invited to consider Teachers College, Columbia University.

### Texas A&M University

The College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University trains more certified teachers in the high-need areas of bilingual education, math, science and special education than any other

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Texas university. The Master's Program in Bilingual Education prepares students to be teachers or program coordinators and directors by focusing on development, coordination and evaluation of bilingual and dual-language programs. This 36-hour degree program is available as a Master of Education or Master of Science and is delivered face-to-face on the Texas A&M campus, via the Trans-Texas Videoconference Network and online. After completing the fifteen credit hours of core classes, students are prepared to take the Texas certification supplemental exams in Bilingual Education or English as a Second Language. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency and the Office of English Language Acquisition currently provide substantial funds for certified Texas teachers to train for Bilingual Supplemental and ESL Supplemental certification through two online professional development courses. These courses align with Texas educator competencies and TESOL standards, making the courses practical for teachers across the nation.

### University of Texas at El Paso

UTEP's location on the U.S.-Mexico border allows it to offer unique academic and research programs that are helping to fill a critical regional and national demand for experts in education, health, environmental science, homeland security, and other disciplinary areas.

The Ph.D. in Teaching, Learning, and Culture program seeks to inform the field of educational research about best practices in teaching and learning in diverse and multilingual communities. The program has

an excellent and growing faculty with extensive areas of expertise in preparing professionals to conduct research that can inform the national debate about aims in education, standards, and equity, especially for the U.S.-Mexico border region and the State of Texas.

Graduates will be knowledgeable about implications of shifting demographics and cross-cultural teaching and learning.

### Western Governors University

The Teachers College at Western Governors University is helping to meet the need for ESL teachers by offering an accredited master's degree in English Language Learning/English as a Second Language; a program that will prepare already licensed teachers to teach effectively in ELL or ESL settings.

The degree program incorporates three domains of study, including ELL, instructional design and performance, and research fundamentals. WGU is the only exclusively online university accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The online degree programs are focused on adult learning through flexible, technology-based instruction, and their competency-based model is not based on the time spent in a classroom or credit hours; instead, it focuses on what students know and the skills they possess. This approach makes it possible for students to complete the requirements for their degree more quickly based on their prior experience, academic background, and time commitment to study. **X**




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