

» WHY STUDY AT THE ILE: TESOL PROGRAM IN JAPAN?

- 1 The **ILE: TESOL Program** presents a unique opportunity to study with both faculty and students from a variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
- 2 All ILE full-time faculty members have doctoral level degrees and extensive teaching experience in Japan and other countries where English is taught as a foreign or second language.
- 3 Due to a small student-faculty ratio (the **ILE: TESOL Program** accepts a maximum of eight applicants each academic semester), ILE faculty members can provide individualized support for each graduate student.
- 4 The **ILE: TESOL Program** is a challenging English-medium graduate program where program faculty are committed to supporting students and assisting them as they strive towards their professional and educational goals.
- 5 The extensive teaching practice under the supervision of an experienced practicum supervisor (totaling approximately 45 hours of classroom instruction and an additional 22 hours of supervisor feedback) is a central component of the overall graduate program.
- 6 Upon completion of their Master's degree, graduates of the **ILE: TESOL Program** are eligible to apply for a limited number of Assistant Lecturer positions which are offered to ILE: TESOL graduates through the World Language Center at Soka University.



Ashima (India)

I am very grateful to the TESOL Program for preparing me as a language educator, and as a future doctoral student.



My teachers constantly encouraged me as an educator and helped me become a confident and successful student in a rigorous academic environment. I would definitely recommend the program to others who, like me, want to pursue their dreams of becoming a language educator.

Miyoko (Japan)

The ILE: TESOL program offered me valuable opportunities for deep explorations of language teaching and inspiring discussions about language and culture.



The academic and professional training provided me with knowledge, skills, and confidence to teach English to different levels of learners as well as to discuss my research in the TESOL field. The two years in the program changed my life!

» TUITION & FINANCIAL AID

The cost of graduate study at Soka University is competitive compared with programs in North America, Europe, and Australia. Additionally, many graduate students at Soka University do receive some type of limited scholarship assistance.



Mingying (Singapore)



Through the ILE: TESOL Program, I broadened my perspectives of language learning and teaching. With the strong support and guidance provided by the faculty and seniors, I was also able to reflect on my teaching practices and seek continual improvement to hone my skills. Do consider joining the ILE: TESOL family at Soka University to become a language educator!

Prateek (India)

I thoroughly enjoyed the wide variety of courses that were on offer. In these two years, the most important role was played by the teachers. They work exceptionally hard, on both personal and professional levels to ensure effective learning. The knowledge I have gained from my TESOL degree is proving very useful in my ability to explore and teach English.



» ADMISSIONS

The **ILE: TESOL Program** welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds, and considers all applications in a holistic manner. Successful applicants have a passion for teaching, can be successful in an English-medium learning environment at the graduate level, and understand how the **ILE: TESOL Program** will help them meet their professional goals.



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Your TESOL Graduate Program at Soka University

The Soka University Masters Program in **International Language Education (ILE): TESOL** produces skilled language educators by providing opportunities for students to develop a deeper understanding of language acquisition, language teaching, and intercultural communication.



SOKA University

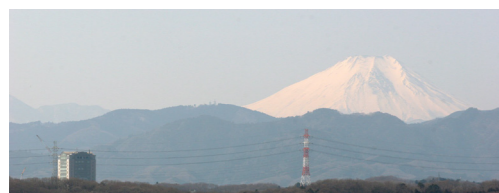
» WHAT DO YOU STUDY IN THE ILE: TESOL PROGRAM?

The **ILE: TESOL Program** emphasizes the development of a broad understanding of second language acquisition theory and research methods as well as individualized supervision and practical experience.

The **ILE: TESOL Program** includes four core components that are emphasized throughout students' two years of study:

- ◆ Understanding and utilizing learning theory and teaching methodology
- ◆ Understanding, utilizing, and conducting research
- ◆ Integrating teaching ideas through practical experience
- ◆ Specialization through research, practical and professional interests

Based in Japan, the **ILE: TESOL Program** is a rigorous academic program at the graduate level that employs a distinctively Western approach to graduate study, requiring students to actively prepare for and participate in class discussions. Although challenging, the program staff and faculty are dedicated to providing support for students so that they can successfully meet their educational goals and the expectations of the program.



Koki (Japan)

I truly believe that the two years in the Master's program were one of the most rewarding and life-enriching experiences for me. With the completion of the program, you will realize that you have built unshakable foundations as an English instructor and educator. Your life in the program will be fulfilling no matter how challenging the tasks are. Your classmates and teachers will be there to support you from day one. Bon voyage!



» THE ILE: TESOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The **ILE: TESOL Program** focuses on the following four major areas:

UNDERSTANDING AND UTILIZING LEARNING THEORY AND TEACHING METHODOLOGY

For every teacher, learning theory lays the foundation for how to teach, how to make sense of what occurs in the classroom, and how to help all students achieve their individual goals. Within the **ILE: TESOL Program**, the core courses that provide this foundation include:

- ◆ Principles of Second Language Acquisition
- ◆ Pragmatics and the Study of Communication
- ◆ Second Language Teaching Methodology
- ◆ Pedagogical English Grammar
- ◆ Sociolinguistics and Education
- ◆ Language and Culture in EFL Education
- ◆ Syllabus and Curriculum Design



UNDERSTANDING, UTILIZING, AND CONDUCTING RESEARCH

The ability to access, understand, utilize, and conduct research are important skills necessary to become a productive member of the language education profession. To develop these skills, students examine a range of research methods used in TESOL and discuss important historical and relevant current research in all their courses.

INTEGRATING TEACHING IDEAS THROUGH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The practical component plays a major role in the training of our graduates. Students have the opportunity to collaborate and teach a communicative course with an experienced faculty member, including observing, co-teaching, receiving supervision and feedback, and developing content- and level-appropriate activities and lesson plans.

SPECIALIZATION THROUGH RESEARCH, PRACTICAL OR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Practical emphasis

Students can choose a more practice-oriented track during their second year and complete a Teaching and Learning Project in TESOL, including innovative teaching materials and curricula.

Research thesis

Students can choose a research-oriented track, develop a formal research proposal and carry out that research under the supervision of experienced faculty members.



Research paper

Students can take advantage of additional coursework and opt for completing an extensive literature review of a topic of importance in TESOL under the guidance of a ILE faculty member.

Selection of Elective Courses

Students are encouraged to pursue their professional interests through a number of elective courses in order to tailor their studies to best suit their goals as future language educators. The list of available elective courses includes:

- ◆ Writing Skills for Graduate Students
- ◆ English for Academic/Professional Purposes
- ◆ Language Testing and Assessment
- ◆ Technology and Second Language Education
- ◆ Pedagogical Pronunciation
- ◆ English for Secondary Education



» WHILE YOU ARE STUDYING

SOKA UNIVERSITY

Soka University is located in Hachioji, a suburb of Tokyo and major university community. The spacious, 810,000-square meter campus represents an ideal space for scholarship in a natural environment. With central Tokyo accessible by train, students can take advantage of a variety of activities in one of the most vibrant and international cities in the world.

PART-TIME WORK OPPORTUNITIES

While enrolled, ILE students can take advantage of part-time work opportunities on the university campus in a variety of self-access centers or as research or teaching assistants, and in the local community through a number of private language schools.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

The **ILE: TESOL Program** enjoys an exchange program with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand, where students experience lectures, practicum teaching, and cultural exchange. The **ILE: TESOL Program** is currently developing exchange opportunities with other universities in countries outside of Japan to provide additional international perspectives to our students' graduate studies.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Soka University arranges a variety of activities for international students to deepen international friendships between both international and Japanese students. Excursions are also planned to allow international students to visit different areas in Japan and deepen their cultural understanding of the country.