

E-Teacher Scholarship Program 2012-13

Special Education and Differentiated Instruction in an EFL Context (SpEd TEFL)

OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, LINGUISTICS DEPT./AMERICAN ENGLISH INSTITUTE

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering this 10-week online teacher training for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

This course is designed to be a survey of teaching methods that support learners with special needs within the context of the teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) classroom. Participants will read articles, analyze web-based resources, and discuss practices that provide teaching strategies for diverse learners with a wide variety of skills and varying levels of performance. The focus is placed on inclusive teaching models, with exploration of the current best practices. As a community of professionals, participants will engage in ongoing dialogue, sharing their experience, success and concerns in their teaching. A support system will be established with exposure to resources found within individual teaching communities and external locations such as online forums and information centers. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of a resource to take back for sharing among participants' local communities (e.g., classroom, schoolwide basis, parents or larger community).

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Define Special Education and related terminology.
- Determine ways in which to support a student with a disability in the classroom.
- List the necessary steps to implement a student support plan.
- Create or locate effective assessment instruments to evaluate student needs.
- Identify and apply Special Education teaching strategies that are in line with local curriculum and policies.
- Communicate more effectively about Special Education in English through having participated in course activities.
- Network with fellow English language teaching professionals and benefit from the knowledge and support they receive from them throughout the course and beyond it.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated in-service EFL educators or teacher trainers who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. In addition, they should:

- Have high intermediate to advanced level English language proficiency in all skill areas (approximately 525 TOEFL), particularly reading and writing.
- Have access 4-5 times per week minimum to reliable computers with high-speed Internet.
- Have basic technology skills for email, the Web (e.g., searches, downloads, uploads, managing of course logins/passwords) and file management (e.g., PDF, MS Word/Excel).