



# ESOL Program

## English for speakers of other languages.

International students and speakers of languages other than English are supported in many ways here at Ringling College of Art and Design. We know that our home, Sarasota, Florida, has a culture different to that of the 65 countries represented by our international students, and the ESOL Program faculty and staff understand that adapting to a culture different from your own takes some adjustment. We are here to support your academic acculturation. The ESOL Program offers ESOL classes and English language tutoring to students whose first language is not English.

### Language Skills Practiced

Students in the ESOL Program will work individually and in groups to build the skills they need to succeed in their courses and after graduation. Students will practice the following:

- Large and small group discussion
- Presentations
- Reading comprehension
- Note taking
- Listening skills
- Grammar
- Pronunciation
- Vocabulary
- Critiques
- Short answers for testing
- Learning strategies



### Student Learning Outcomes

Throughout this program, students will learn to:

- Engage in clear communication
- State concise opinions and ideas
- Learn new vocabulary
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Build higher level speaking and listening skills
- Practice presentations
- Understand classroom etiquette
- Develop reading comprehension of academic and professional materials
- Practice native-like intonation and pronunciation
- Explore and understand their new surroundings
- Discover best practices for success at Ringling College



## Our Program

Our comprehensive ESOL Program is designed to introduce non-native English speakers to the resources available to them on campus while also building writing, reading, speaking, and listening proficiency and outlining classroom expectations and etiquette. Our program provides students with opportunities to explore the language and prepare for success in their Studio and Liberal Arts courses. From vocabulary practice to discussions and presentations, students can take the skills directly from our program to their studio classes and their Liberal Arts classes to join and participate in the communities of their majors.

### Program includes:

- **ESL Skills to connect students with campus services and staff**
- **Writing Studio to enhance reading and writing proficiency**

**ESL Skills: Joining the Ringling Community** is a one-semester course created to introduce international ESOL students to the resources and nuances of life at Ringling College. This course introduces students to campus resources such as Career Services, the Student Learning Center, the Library, and the Health Center. As part of the Ringling Community, you will feel comfortable approaching each of these departments when necessary throughout your time at the College.

### ESL Skills is designed to:

- **Improve classroom and campus life experience**
- **Strengthen communication with faculty and staff**
- **Introduce proper classroom etiquette and expectations**

Thirty to forty percent of our international student population takes this course to ease the transition of studying in a new country.

Our ESL class sizes are small, and we guarantee individualized attention, a necessary factor in ensuring we meet the distinct needs of each student.

## ESOL Program Placement and Assessment

Placement into ESL Skills is determined by the ESOL Program Coordinator and ESOL faculty. During Orientation, new international students take a listening and speaking assessment and complete a writing placement essay. The program staff also take into account TOEFL scores and other criteria from a student's admissions file as appropriate. Program faculty and Advising staff work together to place students in classes that best suit their needs and ensure their success. Class placement is smooth and seamless; if you are to take ESL Skills, you will know before the first day of classes.

## Our Goals

The services and goals of our program include:

- **Building your confidence while speaking with colleagues and teachers**
- **Increasing your language proficiency in speaking, pronunciation, writing, listening, and reading**
- **Helping you learn and understand how classroom expectations and etiquette work here at Ringling College**

Our program and classes were developed specifically for Ringling College students!

