



# Bank Street Graduate School of Education

## Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Programs

The Bank Street Graduate School of Education's Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) programs are designed to prepare New York City teachers to work with students learning English as a New Language (ENL). Through a student-centered, culturally sustaining approach to teaching and learning, both our master's degree and non-degree advanced certificate programs equip teachers with the tools needed to respond effectively to the academic, linguistic, and emotional needs of one of our most vulnerable student populations.

### Our Impact

Effective ENL teachers are needed now more than ever. In New York City, English language learners make up around 13 percent of the population, and the children in our city's schools speak over 150 languages. Our classrooms demand qualified ENL teachers who are well versed in best practices for multilingual students and are able to create rich, expansive learning experiences that help them grow.

Bank Street's TESOL programs produce the types of teachers our students need most—teachers that can react with flexibility, adapt instruction to suit the needs of diverse learners, and create meaningful opportunities for learning that validate students' authentic use of language.



### Our Approach

Grounded in the developmental-interaction approach, Bank Street's TESOL programs are steeped in the belief that through careful observation, culturally sustaining pedagogy, inquiry, and assessment, teachers are able to respond to students' unique shifts in development and interests. We prepare teachers to be advocates, critical thinkers, and innovators of teaching and learning. Our graduates are able to collaborate and make decisions with a range of colleagues and families around curriculum development, assessment, and program planning for multilingual learners.

### Our Programs

Through our master's degree and non-degree advanced certificate TESOL programs, candidates learn to work practically and effectively in a field that requires proficiency with instruction and assessment practices, data analysis, and state and national standards:

#### **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Master of Science in Education**

Our degree program begins with a rigorous body of coursework strongly grounded in a study of language development theories, principles of social justice, culturally sustaining pedagogy, curriculum, collaboration, management, assessment, and differentiation.

During their second year, graduate students will complete two in-classroom fieldwork experiences—one in an elementary (pre-K through 6) school setting and the other in a secondary (7 through 12) school setting. The fieldwork component of the program allows candidates to translate theory to practice as they critically examine how social, political, and socioeconomic factors frame student populations and their use of language in schools. While working in the field, candidates will participate in regular group advisement sessions with an experienced faculty mentor to ensure that they are deeply supported throughout the program.

In the sessions, groups discuss challenges and successes that arise in schools, build on their instructional practices, and come to a better understanding of their own needs as ENL educators. Advisors will also visit each candidate monthly for half a day in their fieldwork setting to provide individualized support toward their growth.

### **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Advanced Certificate (Non-Degree)**

Applicants to the advanced certificate program must have a master's degree in education and hold a valid teaching certification in early childhood, elementary or childhood, middle childhood, secondary or adolescent education, or literacy or special education. All candidates will complete a specialized body of coursework, and supervised fieldwork/advisement opportunities will depend on their existing teaching certifications and experiences. Supervised fieldwork/advisement is not required for those candidates who have appropriate experiences teaching in both elementary (pre-K through 6) and secondary (7 through 12) school settings.

Graduates of Bank Street's TESOL programs will be eligible for New York State certification in TESOL grades pre-K through 12.

