

TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages



WELCOME

Dear TESOL students, faculty, staff, and alumni,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 academic year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the collective effort and spirit of our community. It's been a year of growth, collaboration, and achievement, and I'm truly inspired by the dedication of each and every one of you.

One of the highlights of this summer term was the joint Capstone event with our MA in Teaching program. The synergy between our TESOL and Teaching candidates created an enriching atmosphere, where the exchange of ideas and expertise showcased the best of what our programs represent. It was a celebration of shared dedication to the art and science of teaching, and the projects presented reflected a deep commitment to improving education both locally and globally.

To our graduates, you are now stepping into the world with the power to influence and shape the future of language education. It's not just the knowledge you've gained, but the connections you've formed and the passion you've demonstrated that will make an enduring impact. Remember that teaching is a journey of continuous learning, and your role as educators will touch the lives of many in ways you may never fully see.

Please keep in touch—we're excited to see where your paths lead, and know you always have a place in our community.

With appreciation,
Kevin Wong, Ph.D.
TESOL Chair

Read our past issues:

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Edited by Feidana Yalikhun

Voices of Recent Graduates



Charles Mikhail A. Zabala, M. A.

Welcome, TESOL 25! This program will be quick and intense, but it's an exciting opportunity to grow. For those of you who are already credentialed teachers, please share your experience and insights with your peers. Your journey can offer invaluable guidance. For those who aren't credentialed in California yet, I encourage you to make it a priority early on—it's an important step in your professional growth. Personally, my favorite class was Second Language Acquisition. It was challenging, but it all came together! The theories we explored here are concepts I had encountered in Child Development courses. Trust me, it will start to make sense as you dive deeper into the material. Embrace the challenge and learn together!

Huiting Huang, M. A.

As I finished my TESOL journey, I am deeply thankful for the valuable lessons and support from my classmates and professors at Pepperdine. This program has helped me grow both personally and professionally, and I now feel more confident as a teacher. After graduation, I was fortunate to find a job immediately and started working the day after returning to my home country. I am truly grateful for everything I learned at Pepperdine, which gave me the opportunity to enter the education industry. The experiences and friendships I gained here will always hold a special place in my heart. In the future, I will continue to work hard, stay positive, and keep learning.



Maryann Gracielle Lee, M. A.

My cohort at Pepperdine became more than just a group of peers; we became friends who cared for each other. I'm deeply grateful for the incredible individuals I met during my time there, as well as the professors who guided and supported us throughout our journey.





Paige Harris, M. A.

Completing the TESOL program has been a deeply rewarding journey, filled with both challenges and growth.

I am immensely grateful for the support and guidance I received from my professors and cohort—especially Dr. Chen, Dr. Miyake-Trapp, and Dr. Wong, whose encouragement meant the world to me. As I move forward, now teaching in the Intensive English Program at Santa Monica College, I'm excited to continue fostering a love of learning in my students and supporting them on their language journeys. I'd also like to share a poem that has resonated with me throughout this experience:

Alchemy

by Sara Teasdale

I lift my heart as spring lifts up
A yellow daisy to the rain;
My heart will be a lovely cup
Altho' it holds but pain.

For I shall learn from flower and leaf
That color every drop they hold,
To change the lifeless wine of grief
To living gold.



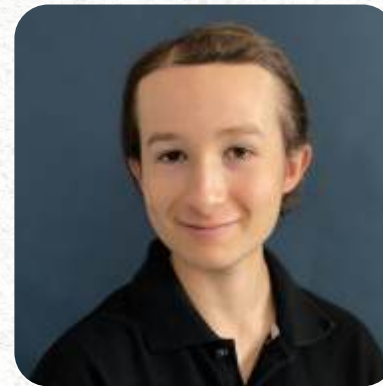
Rodolfo "Rudy" Vásquez, M. A.

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise I won't bore you."

- David Bowie

Being part of this cohort and the MA in TESOL

program at Pepperdine has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences I've had in my life thus far. With this program, not only did I acquire the skillset I needed to teach in a classroom with confidence, but also learned a lot about myself not in terms of limitations, but more of what I am truly capable of. Many thanks to Dr. Wong, Dr. Miyake-Trapp, Dr. Lucy Lu, Dr. Wright, Dr. Ashtari, Dr. Chen, Dr. Cotton, and professors Jacobo Coronel, Jose Ortega, and Kevin Van Houten for your endless support, and for leading by example as to how an educator should be. Words alone cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for you all believing in me and supporting me throughout this journey.



Seamus Morrison, M. A.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the MA TESOL professors for giving me the tools to embark on this wonderful and fulfilling journey.

I am planning on teaching online and in the community, through the Laubach Literacy Program at the Help of Ojai, and at the local church. Next October, I will be a language assistant in one of Spain's regional language schools. This has been the opportunity of a lifetime, and will continue to give.



Xiadani Mendoza, M. A.

Pursuing my MATESOL at Pepperdine has been one of the best decisions I've made. The Pepperdine community has provided an incredible support system, motivating me to continue my studies and advance my career. I am proud to be in my first term of the EdD in Organizational Leadership program while working full-time as an Instructional Designer for Pepperdine. I am deeply grateful to my instructors and cohort, who have played such an important role in my journey. To my cohort, I will always cherish our shared memories of celebrating birthdays, traveling together, and supporting each other to reach a shared goal.



Xinnan Qiu, M. A.

My TESOL journey is full of harvest. In addition to learning professional theoretical knowledge, I also have many practical opportunities, such as practicum in adult schools and the school observation and so on. I enjoy them !



Yuqi Wang, M.A.

One of the most memorable aspects of the program for me was the emotional bond between all the professors and the students and the students and the students. All of the students were very willing to express themselves and help each other succeed in the program. All of the professors were also very active in helping the students with any questions they had, both in their studies and in their lives, and were very helpful. I am sure we will look back on this journey as a valuable memory in the future, no matter when or where we are.



Last Chapters Days of Our Journey



The One Where We First Met



The One Where Our Chapter Ends



The One With Our First Post-Conference Dinner



The One With Our Second Conference Near Disney



The One With a Site Visit



The One With the Graduation Commencement



The One Where We Celebrated Thanksgiving Together

TESOL Award Recipients



Academic Excellence in Specialization Award: *Xiadani Mendoza, M.A.*



This award honors a student who has demonstrated exceptional mastery and deep understanding in a specific area of TESOL. This individual has excelled in their specialization, showcasing remarkable dedication, expertise, and passion. Their work stands out as an outstanding example of academic excellence and contributes significantly to the field.

Outstanding Practicum Award: *Charles Mikhail Zabala, M.A.*



The Outstanding Practicum Award is presented to a student who has shown exemplary performance during their practicum experience, going above and beyond expectations. This student has demonstrated outstanding teaching skills, adaptability, and a profound impact on their students. Their commitment and effectiveness in the classroom serve as a model for aspiring TESOL educators.

Pioneer in TESOL Award: *Yuqi Wang, M.A.*



This award honors a student who has pioneered new initiatives or research in the field of TESOL. This individual has demonstrated innovative thinking, critical reflection, and leadership in advancing the field in specific contexts. Their trailblazing efforts for educational equity in specific contexts will set new standards and open new avenues for exploration, making them a true pioneer in TESOL.

TESOL Leadership Award: *Maryann Gracielle Lee, M.A.*



This award recognizes a student who has exhibited exceptional leadership within the TESOL community. This individual has shown extraordinary initiative, vision, and influence, leading projects and activities that have significantly benefited their peers and the program. Their leadership exemplifies Pepperdine's core values of service, purpose, and faith, setting a high standard for others to follow.

Excellence in Teaching Award: *Paige Harris, M.A.*



The Excellence in Teaching Award is given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding teaching abilities and a commitment to educational excellence. This individual has shown exceptional creativity, effectiveness, and dedication in their teaching practice. Their innovative approaches and passion for teaching have made a profound impact on their students.

Tips for Navigating Your Next Chapter

Stepping (Back) Into the Professional World

1. Embrace that life will change, but view it as a chance to grow:

Moving to work life means earlier mornings, commuting, and less weekday fun, but try to see these changes as opportunities for growth.

2. You've adapted before, and you'll do it again:

Think about when you first started university. You'll quickly find your routine in the working world, too.

3. Keep an open mind; the workplace might surprise you:

Forget preconceived ideas about work life and approach it with an open mindset.

4. Be patient with starting tasks—more fulfilling roles come with time:

Initial roles might involve more administrative work, but patience and persistence will lead to more rewarding tasks.

5. Stop comparing yourself to others; everyone's journey is unique:

Social media can be misleading. Focus on your path, not what others showcase online.

6. Don't feel intimidated by senior colleagues; learn from them:

Older or senior professionals can seem unapproachable, but they were once in your shoes. Use them as learning resources.

7. Be proactive in learning your new role:

Take initiative and learn quickly on the job. You've developed transferable skills—now apply them.

8. Ask questions and share ideas confidently:

Employers value your curiosity and fresh perspectives. Don't be afraid to contribute.

9. Build healthy work habits and take care of yourself early on:

Establish good habits like eating well, exercising, and relaxing to maintain balance and perform at your best.

To read the full article that includes more details, [click here](#).



Case Management Pilot Program (CMPP) is seeking individuals to join the CMPP, providing case management and legal assistance for non-US citizens in immigration proceedings. These roles could impact national asylum policies.

Open Positions: <https://careers.rescue.org/us/en>

- Spanish Speaking Caseworker (x2)
- Mental Health Caseworker
- Resource Navigation Specialist

note that these positions might not yet be posted/live on the website

San Diego office:

Volunteer/Intern Positions (UNPAID):

- Citizenship Education Volunteer (on-site; various libraries)

- **ESL Volunteer: Level 1**

Mon./Wed. 10am-12pm (virtual w/Lead Instructor Supervision)

- **ESL Intern/Volunteer: Level 2**

Tues./Thurs. 10am-12pm (virtual; account and materials provided)

- **ESL Intern/Volunteer: Conversation**

Fri. 10-11:30am (virtual; account and materials provided)

Special thanks to our alum, Liliana Perez, for sharing the opportunity with us!



Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center has an open position for an experienced Adult ESL Instructor! This role requires at least three years of experience teaching adult ESL and offers a full-time position with a competitive salary of \$56/hour.

Minimum Qualifications:

- California Credential authorizing assignment to teach ESL classes for adults
- Three years of ESL teaching experience
- Ability to travel to multiple locations on a given day

Application Procedures:

To be considered, you must submit the following documents:

1. Letter of Interest
2. Current resume with professional preparation (include employee number, if an LAUSD employee)
3. List of (3) references including the most recent supervisor (email and phone number)
4. Copy of valid teaching credential

Application materials must be in PDF format and emailed to:

Veronica Tylor, Coordinator at vmt6117@lausd.net

For more details, check [HERE](#).



MAXINE WATERS
EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION CENTER

Take the Next Step

For more information, watch our TESOL Information Session below:



Watch on YouTube
PEPPERDINE EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY

Take the Next Step

Reach out to us to learn more about Pepperdine's MA in Learning English of Other Languages (TESOL) Program

Get In Touch

Fill out the Request Information form to learn more and get in contact with an Enrollment Officer.

[REQUEST INFORMATION](#)

Attend an Info Session

Experience an In-depth overview and meet program leaders.

[SEE THE SCHEDULE](#)

Start Your Application

Submit the application form early to meet scholarship and enrollment deadline. It takes less than 15 minutes.

[APPLY NOW](#)

