

TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

PEPPERDINE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION &
PSYCHOLOGY



WELCOME

"The beautiful spring came, and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also." These words, spoken by the famous author Harriet Ann Jacobs, remind us of the rejuvenating power of the spring season. As the world awakens from winter's slumber, we are filled with new energy and inspiration.

In our TESOL program at Pepperdine University, we see this same spirit of renewal in our students and faculty. Nearing the end of our second semester, students are equipped with answers to the many "whats" and "whys" of language teaching and are ready to take on the "hows" through clinical placements in their final summer semester. Through our intentionally sequenced curriculum and hands-on teaching experience, we strive to empower our graduates with the tools and knowledge to make a positive impact in the world.

In this newsletter, we are excited to share some of the latest updates and highlights from our program, including our recent trip to the TESOL International Convention in Portland, Oregon, our Program Hike to the Hollywood Hills, and our vlog series that provides a behind-the-scenes look at the life of graduate students in our program. We also have sections that explore the intersection of technology and language teaching as we move further into the 21st century. With the rise of artificial intelligence and chatbots like ChatGPT, it is more important than ever for language educators to be aware of how to leverage technology to enhance the language pedagogy.

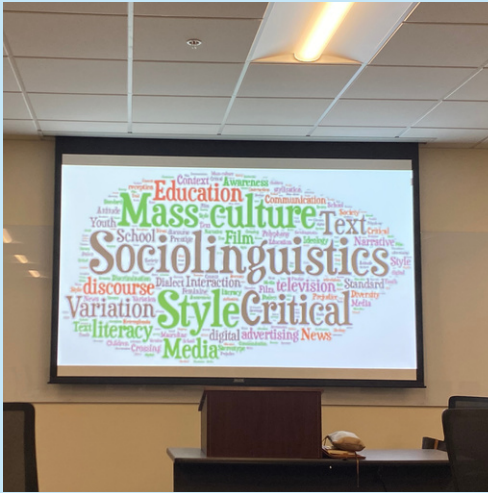
We hope that this newsletter will inspire and inform our readers as we continue to explore the many ways that language can connect and transform us. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

With gratitude,
[Kevin Wong](#), Ph.D.

kevin.wong@pepperdine.edu
TESOL Chair

LIFE AT PEPPERDINE

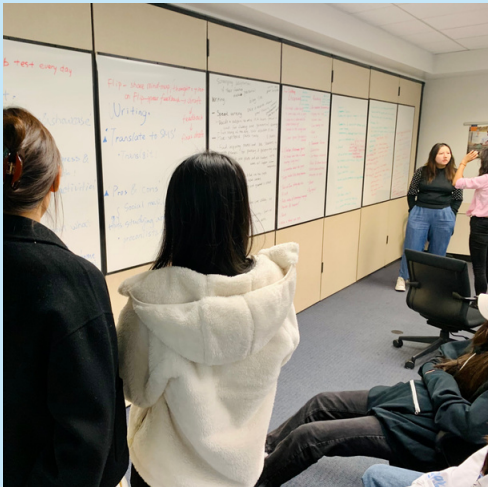
ON & OFF CAMPUS LIFE



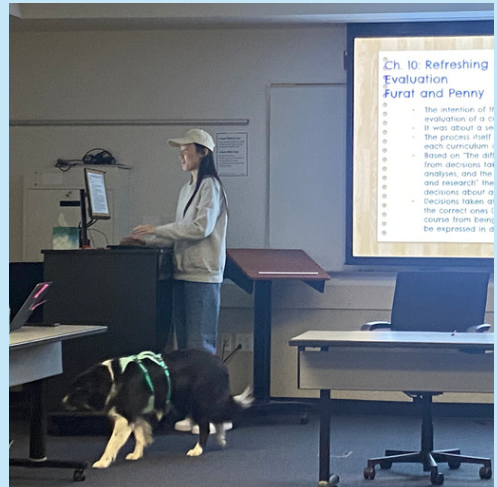
Sociolinguistics is a fascinating field



Classes can be joyful and fun!



Whiteboards capture TESOL students' wisdom.



**TESOL student giving a presentation
in class**



Dr. Chen and students enjoying a potluck together!



Smiles on all faces (Professor Kim with Current TESOL students)

LIFE AT PEPPERDINE

ON & OFF CAMPUS LIFE



TESOL students attend the international student reception at Pepperdine University President Gash's home.



TESOL students dressed in traditional attire with President Gash



TESOL students dressed in traditional attire with President Gash



Looking forward to next year's "Your Home, My Home - International Student Reception"



Hollywood Walking Tour in progress!



We reached the Hollywood sign! Celebrate our victory!



We reached the Hollywood sign! Celebrate our victory!



According to movies, this is where dreams begin!

TESOL 2023 Convention & English Language Expo



Attendees mingle in the lobby, waiting for interesting sessions to begin



Interesting Topic: Promoting English learning through Minecraft & Presenter talking about the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) in English teaching

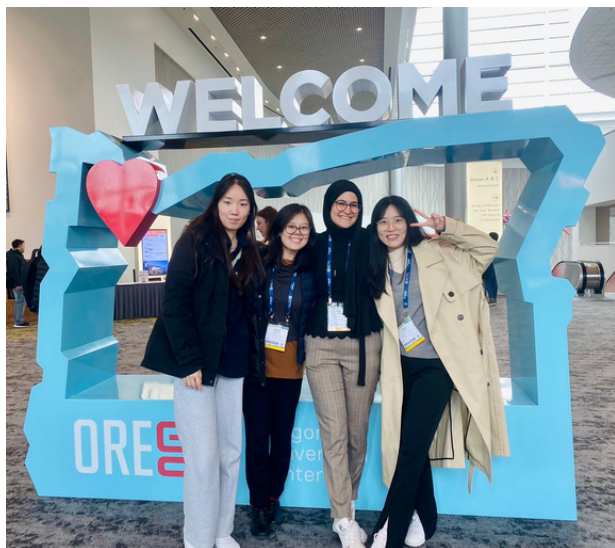


It's fun to collect tags!



Dr. Wong & Professor Lu with TESOL students and alumni (aka Future Practitioners and TESOL Scholars!)

TESOL 2023 Convention & English Language Expo



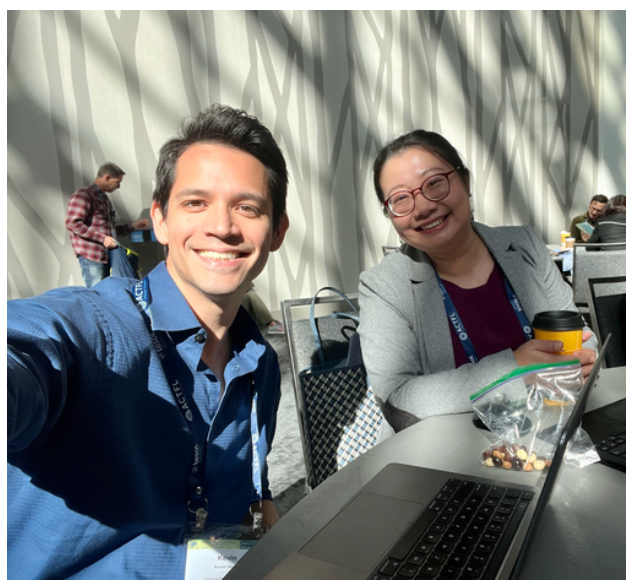
Students from the TESOL program pose for a photo before Dr. Chen's presentation



Come along to the Oregon Convention Center: A photoshoot in front of the unique bell.



Celebrating with a group from Pepperdine University who attended the conference in person.



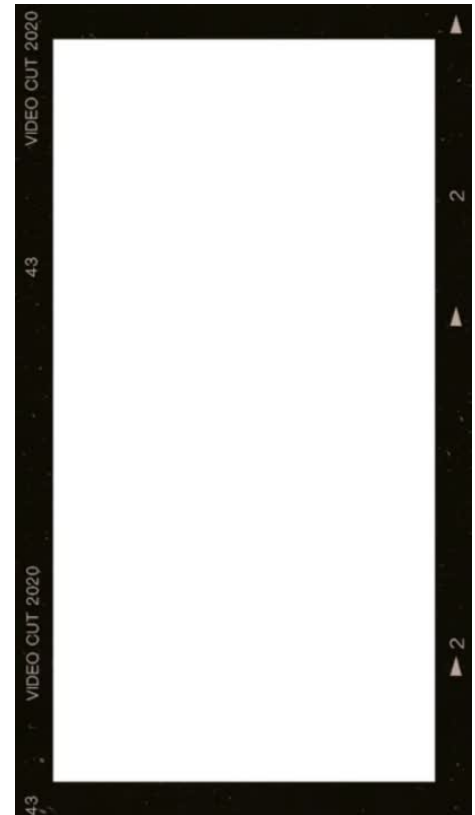
Dr. Wong and Prof. Lu doing a final rehearsal for their presentation on blended learning.

TESOL

CONVERSATION WITH

Current students

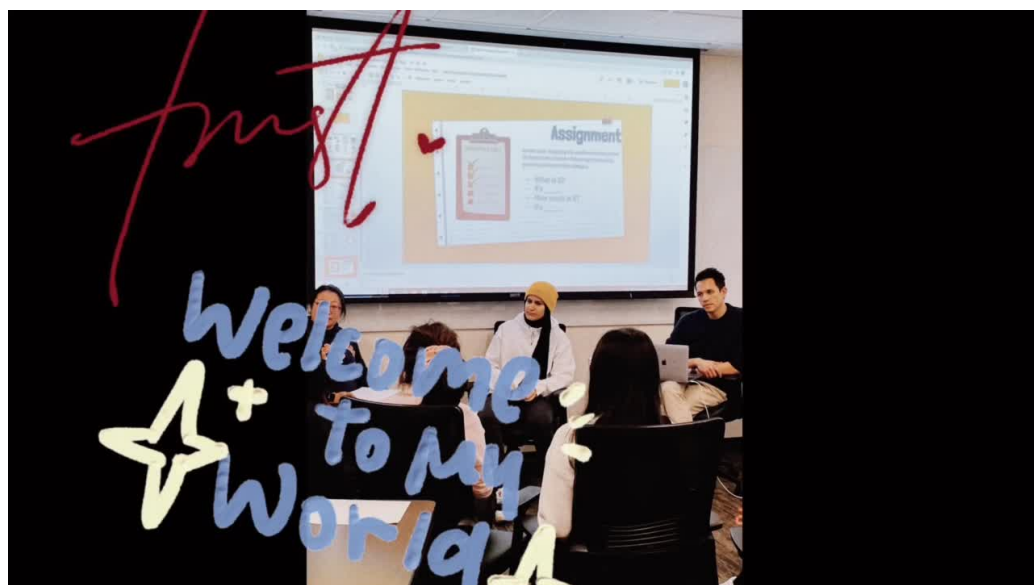
A common question we are asked by prospective students is whether you need to have studied language teaching to succeed in this TESOL program. Listen in to what some current students think about the answer to that question.



A Day at Pepperdine

TESOL

Have you ever wondered what a typical day looks like for a TESOL student on campus? Follow Feidana Yalikhun's (TESOL '22) VLOG as she explores the Calabasas and Malibu campuses and brings you into Dr. Wong, Dr. Cotton, Professor Lu and Professor Ortega's classrooms this Spring semester.



OPINION PIECE

Have you heard about the new Artificial Intelligence tool, ChatGPT? Do you wonder how it works? Or whether it is appropriate for the language teaching classroom? We invited **Julie Vad**, TESOL Graduate of 2021, to weigh in on the question, “Can Chatgpt help in language learning and teaching?”

After conducting research, it is clear that ChatGPT is not a suitable tool for language learning purposes, and the AI in ChatGPT even acknowledges this fact. As the AI states, “Please note that I’m not a human, so I won’t be able to have a natural conversation with you like a human language exchange partner would.” Language and culture are intricately connected, and AI lacks culture, emotions, and humor, and is only driven by facts.

While it is possible to use ChatGPT for translation or to understand idioms, it cannot provide the essence and culture that are essential parts of a language. Learning a new language requires practice in all four components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. ChatGPT can assist with writing and reading, but it cannot aid in speaking and listening.

After asking ChatGPT if it can teach me French this is what the AI said, “Find a language exchange partner; Find someone who speaks French and is willing to practice with you. Immerse yourself in the language: Surround yourself with the language as much as possible. Listen to French music, read French books.”

To achieve fluency in a new language, daily practice is essential, and one must find a native speaker to practice with, read enjoyable books, and write from the heart. Although technology has advanced, certain aspects of language learning still require traditional methods. While it can be used for some language-related tasks, it cannot provide the complete experience of learning a new language.



Julie Vad
TESOL '21

As a language model, ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionize language teaching and learning in numerous ways. With its advanced language processing capabilities and ability to understand and respond to natural language, ChatGPT can act as a personalized language tutor, enabling learners to practice their language skills in a safe and supportive environment.

One of the key benefits of ChatGPT is its ability to offer personalized learning experiences. Through adaptive learning algorithms, ChatGPT can tailor its instruction to the individual needs and learning styles of each student. This allows learners to focus on the areas where they need the most help, and progress at their own pace.

In addition to personalized instruction, ChatGPT can also provide real-time feedback and correction to learners. By analyzing students' language output, ChatGPT can identify common errors and provide targeted feedback to help students correct their mistakes. This can help learners to avoid developing bad habits and reinforce correct language usage.

Overall, ChatGPT has the potential to have a hugely positive impact on language teaching and learning. By providing personalized instruction, real-time feedback, and accessibility, ChatGPT can help learners to improve their language skills in a way that is engaging, effective, and convenient. As the technology continues to evolve, ChatGPT is likely to become an increasingly valuable tool for language learners of all ages and levels.

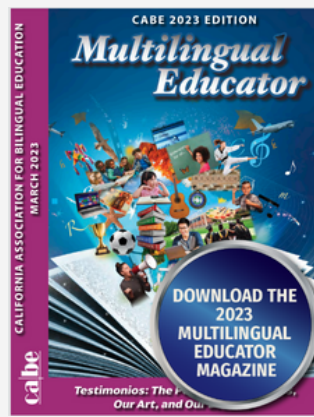


Reference: ChatGPT. “Write an essay to argue that ChatGPT will have a positive impact on language teaching and learning.” OpenAI, 21 Mar. 2023.

For an in-depth discussion of the potential of ChatGPT on language teaching and learning, take a look at the most recent [CATESOL Newsletter](#)!

COMMUNITY Shoutouts

We take great pride in our Pepperdine TESOL community that is reaching greater heights and making important contributions to the field of language teaching. Let's take a moment to celebrate the Spring successes of our community members; together, we are stronger! #GoWaves



“An Examination of the Landscape and Vision/Mission Statements of Chinese-English Dual Language Bilingual Education Programs in California.” [Click here](#) to read the latest issue of Multilingual Educator. Dr. Kevin Wong & Feidana Yalikun's article is featured on p.57.



Promoting Interaction in Blended ESL Environments: An Innovative Pedagogy/Technology (OEIP).
Presenters: **Professor Yi Lucy Lu** (Ph.D. student, staff, adjunct faculty);
Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty);
Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)



Supporting Multi-level Instruction through Gameful Learning and Assessment.
Presenter: **Dr. Weina Chen** (Faculty)



Increasing Student Engagement and English Language Acquisition with Canva
Presenter: **Feidana Yalikun** (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '22)

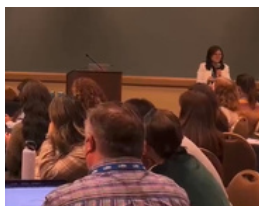


**Presentations at the Annual
California Association of
Bilingual Education (CABE)
Conference 2023:**



Tome la iniciativa: Tome la iniciativa: Preparándose para ser un padre/madre proactiv@ en el desarrollo académico de sus hijos

Presenter: Dr. Garcia-Ramos



Building a Social Emotional Learning Community for Language Learners.

Presenters: [Dr. Weina Chen](#) (Faculty); [Erika L. Saito](#)

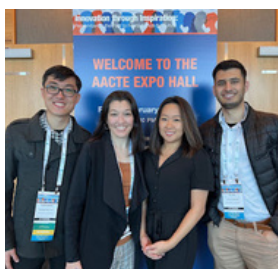


Online World Language Teaching: Lessons from Chinese Early Immersion Contexts.

Presenters: [Xintian Ji](#) (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '18); [Professor Yi Lucy Lu](#) (Ph.D. student, Pepperdine staff, faculty); [Feidana Yalikun](#) (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '22); [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty)



**American Association of
Colleges for Teacher
Education (AACTE)
Annual Meeting 2023**



Developing Critical Partnerships: Teacher Educators and Instructional Designers as Technology Collaborators

Presenters: [Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp](#) (Faculty); [Terrance Cao](#) (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff); [Elias Saade](#) (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff); Linda Lee (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff)



**Presentations at the
American Association
for Applied Linguistics
(AAAL) Conference 2023**



Humanizing language instruction through “playful” pedagogy in a Newcomer virtual classroom.

Presenters: [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty); Helen Chan Hill (Ed.D. candidate); Elizabeth Najera

Language negotiation during interactive read-aloud activities in preschool Chinese immersion classrooms.

Presenters: Dr. Robin Harvey; [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty)

Beyond monoracial paradigms: A critical mixed-race perspective for East Asian language classrooms.

Presenters: Dr. Aurora Tsai; Samantha Harris; [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty)



**Presentations at the
American Association
for Applied Linguistics
(AAAL) Conference 2023**



Humanizing pedagogy in the aftermath of COVID-19: Reconsidering “Normal” in language teaching.

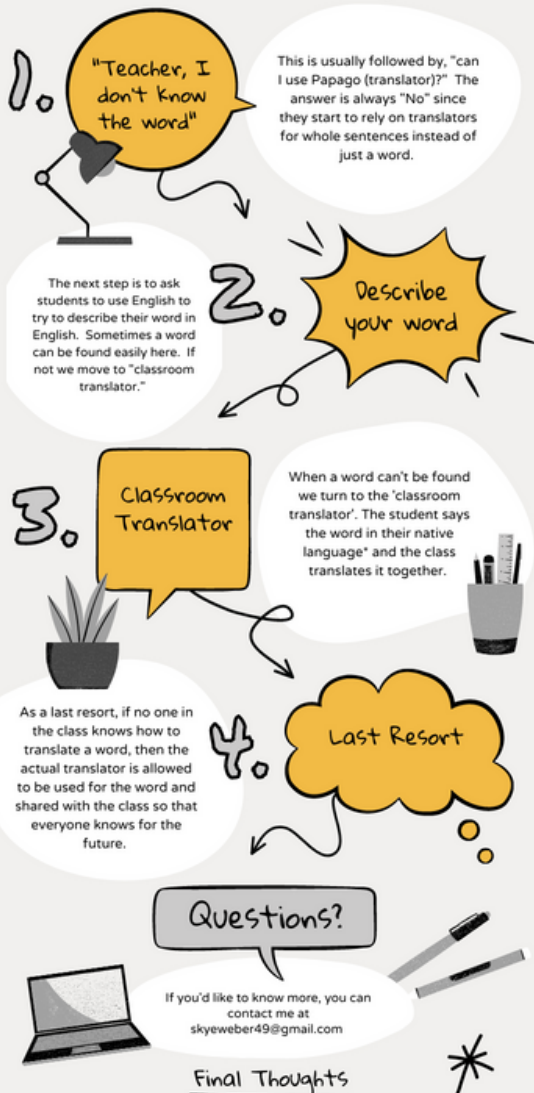
Presenters: [Dr. Kevin Wong](#) (Faculty)

TEACHING TIP

Would you like to expand your teaching strategies? Take inspiration from **Skye Weber**, recent TESOL alumni from 2021 and current English teacher in South Korea, who has some valuable tips to offer.

Classroom Translator

Do you need a way to help your students find a word in English in an English-only classroom, but don't want them to rely on a translator? Try Classroom Translator. Students have to follow these steps to find their word in English.



This works better than simply allowing a translator because it allows everyone in the class to work together to develop the words in English and gets students used to asking each other for help before turning to a translator.

*This is when I allow them to break the school's 'English Only' rule

Final Thoughts

1. This activity works best if your students speak the same native language. If they don't, step 3 may be more difficult. You can still do this step if there are multiple speakers of their language, and other students may get a chance to learn a few words in another language.
2. My school is an English-Only Academy that does not allow students to speak their native language during class. Whether I agree or not, this is a fun way to enable us to break that rule for educational purposes without anyone getting in trouble. Just make sure you can explain, if questioned by management, how it is beneficial to students.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas on how to make this better!
skyeweber49@gmail.com



Skye Weber (MATESOL '21)
ESL Teacher | ESL Tutor - South Korea

ALUMNI PROFILE



Ana Guzman

Adjunct professor (Pasadena City College)

I am a Doctoral student at Pepperdine University majoring in Learning Technologies. I received my M.A. in TESOL in 2021 and have a B.A. in Art Education. I am interested in language revitalization, safe learning spaces, and in Art strategies that support language acquisition. I am currently working at Pasadena City College as an adjunct professor teaching ESL to students with various language levels. I have presented my research at the California Art Education Association (CAEA), The Los Angeles Museum of Art (LACMA), and will travel this summer and co-present at the Arts in Society Conference in Krakow, Poland.

● *How has the MA in TESOL supported you in your career trajectory?* ●

My professors are always rooting for me and supporting my growth as a professional and an academic. They have led me to so many opportunities such as publishing and motivating me to present at conferences. The knowledge I acquired in my TESOL program has helped me in getting me current position at Pasadena City College. I am extremely grateful for my Pepperdine Family.

ELTjournal

**HOT OFF
THE PRESS**

In the July 2021 issue of *ELT Journal*, Dr. Ryuko Kubota (The University of British Columbia) published an article entitled “Critical Antiracist Pedagogy in ELT.” By exploring the significance of incorporating anti-racist principles into English language teaching (ELT), Kubota posits that traditional ELT materials and practices tend to perpetuate systemic racism and promote a “native speaker” standard that ignores linguistic diversity and reinforces colonial power dynamics.

Kubota introduces examples of anti-racist pedagogy, including the use of diverse texts and critical language awareness, and highlights the importance of centering marginalized voices and experiences in ELT. In addition, she emphasized the need for educators to critically examine their own biases and positions to create inclusive and anti-racist learning environments.

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

CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of job opportunities curated for our TESOL alumni. This list is representative of jobs that TESOL graduates can apply for and is not meant to be exhaustive. For ongoing TESOL updates and job opportunities, please join our [Pepperdine TESOL LinkedIn Group](#).

Job Title	Location	Full/Part Time	Application Deadline	Source
Per Diem ESL Substitute	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	USC
Residential ESL Summer Camp Activity Manager	Northridge, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	Oxford International North America
PT Faculty/ Adjunct Instructor -English as a Second Language	Los Angeles, CA	Part-Time	Until Filled	Santa Monica College
Translator/Interpreter	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Full-Time/ Part-Time	Beverly Hills Fertility
Student Services Advisor	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	UCLA
Coordinator, International Student Services	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	California State University, Los Angeles
商务英语专员	Beijing, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	联验电子科技
海外市场研究员	Wuhan, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	武汉精臣智慧标识
Speech-Language Pathologist	Peterborough, Canada	Full-Time	Until Filled	Five Counties Children's Centre

TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

For more information, watch our TESOL Information Session below:



Take the Next Step

Reach out to us to learn more about Pepperdine's MA in Teaching English to Speakers 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 deadlines. It takes less than 15 minutes.

[APPLY NOW](#)

