

# TESOL NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Dear TESOL students, faculty, staff, and alumni,

As the 2022-2023 academic year draws to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work. This year has been filled with challenges and triumphs, and I am proud of the outstanding achievements of our students.

At the TESOL Capstone and Culminating Luncheon, our Masters in TESOL candidates showcased remarkable Capstone Projects, reflecting their passion for the field and commitment to making a positive impact through research and practice. To our graduates, as you step into the world of language education, know that you are equipped to make a meaningful difference.

In the words of Maya Angelou, "You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." Let's face obstacles with courage, conviction, and resilience.



I commend the faculty and staff for creating a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment that has contributed to our students' success. Your dedication has made a lasting impact.

As we move into the summer break, take time to rest and reflect on the journey. Embrace the lessons learned, and return with renewed energy for the adventures ahead.

Thank you for being a part of our academic community. And to our newly minted TESOL graduates, please keep in touch! You always have a home with us here in Malibu.

With gratitude,

Kevin Wong, Ph.D.

[kevin.wong@pepperdine.edu](mailto:kevin.wong@pepperdine.edu)

TESOL Chair

Sharing from

# RECENT ALUMNI

## **Furat Abdeljaber**

This past year has been life-changing. Every month was gratifying yet challenging. I still remember our orientation day and how anxious I felt meeting everyone. But today, thinking about how far we have come, not only as individuals but as friends, that anxiety has disappeared thanks to our experience in this program. I will never forget the early or the (very) late classes and seeing the cohort come together for another fruitful two hours and fifteen minutes. Although I am sad to leave this beautiful place behind, I am certain that everything I have learned will be with me as I face all my endeavors.



## **Gina Ghaffari**

Reflecting on our journey together as our program concludes, I'm grateful for the laughter, tears, and growth we have shared. Thank you for your presence and for making this program a unique experience. I have learned so much from each of you and discovered more about myself in the process. Together we faced challenges and celebrated our achievements. This opportunity has been a true blessing and created many cherished memories. I hope everyone finds happiness and pursues their passions while continuing to get to know yourselves better. Our cohort has become a network of friends that I am thankful for. I also extend my gratitude to our professors for their dedication to teaching and as role models. Let's stay connected as we welcome all of the possibilities that the future holds. Wishing you all joy, love, and growth always. Congratulations and Best Wishes Class of 2023!



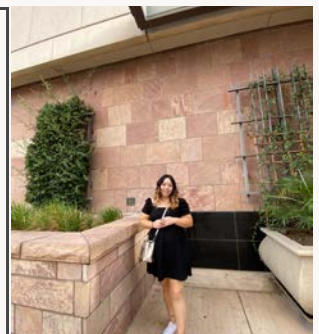
## **Ziyan Guo**

Throughout this enriching experience of studying at GSEP at Pepperdine University, I have not only acquired a wealth of knowledge but have also discovered my true passion and niche within the program. With my supportive cohort and esteemed professors, whose constant encouragement and guidance have played a vital role in my growth, I accomplished many achievements and became more confident about being an educator. I am genuinely appreciative of everyone's support, respect, and admiration. Now equipped with a clear vision for the future, I aspire to continue my study on learning technology to make a lasting impact in the TESOL field, bringing value and innovation to language education. May we all thrive in our lives.



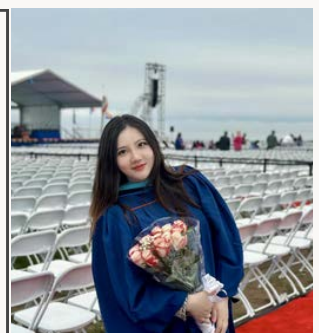
## **Christie Kang**

Getting my Masters wasn't something I had in my plans. But going through this program opened up doors I didn't know I needed to open for myself. Not only did I learn a lot about education & TESOL, but I was able to learn more about leadership through my specialization in Leadership in K-12. This program has helped me to improve the skills I had already as well as form new ones that will equip me for my future. I am very thankful for the professors I've had because of their amazing impact on my view of education and how I now view myself as an educator and individually. And I am thankful for the friends I've made. It has also helped me to see my worth as an individual and an educator. Finally, I'm thankful for the friends I've made and the support they've given me!



## **Yixiu Li**

These 11 months have been an amazing journey. I have gained friendship, support, and trust from the warm community of TESOL. Thank you to my classmates and professors, who have given me a clearer vision of my future life and career. As a future educator, I hope to give all my passion and inspiration to people around me.



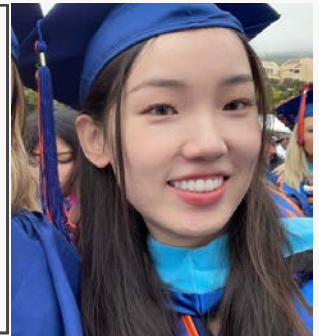


Sharing from

# RECENT ALUMNI

## Peiyao Wang

I am grateful to Pepperdine University for its welcoming and supportive environment. The faculty, staff, and students were always willing to help and connect, making me feel at home. The inclusive atmosphere and diverse community enriched my educational experience. I appreciate the opportunities beyond academics, such as extracurricular activities and leadership roles, which allowed me to develop valuable skills. I am thankful for the transformative experience at Pepperdine and will carry the connections and lessons with me as I move forward in my journey.



## Kate Ye

"If you only have love for your own race- then you only leave space to discriminate. to discriminate only generates hate- and then you're bound to get irate. People killing, people dying. Children hurt, hear them crying. Can you practice what you preach? Or would you turn the other cheek? I feel the weight of the world on my shoulder. As I'm getting older, people get colder. Most of us only care about money making. Selfishness got us following the wrong direction. Whatever happened to the values of humanity? Whatever happened to the fairness and equality? Instead of spreading love we're spreading animosity. Lack of understanding, leading us away from unity. That's the reason why sometimes I'm feeling down. There's no wonder why sometimes I'm feeling under. Gotta keep my faith alive until love is found. Now ask yourself-Where is the love?"  
Where is the Love? - Black Eyed Peas



## Shihua Zhang

As an international student, I am fortunate to have spent my first year in the United States at Pepperdine University. All of the staff and professors did their best to provide a warm and supportive atmosphere. The TESOL program helped me professionally by equipping me with language and teaching skills. The clinical practicum has given me a clearer direction for my future career. I would like to thank my classmates for the inspiration they brought me in every discussion, their support in group work, and the companionship they provided. I am ready to use everything I have gained in this program to help more learners. May we all keep learning, keep growing, and keep our passion alive.



# LIFE AT PEPPERDINE

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EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR AS WE KICK OFF THE TESOL CAPSTONE EVENT WITH A WARM WELCOME FROM DR. WONG! THANKS TO OUR GRADUATE ASSISTANT, FEIDANA, FOR PROVIDING TRANSLATION SERVICES. EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF LINGUISTIC OR CULTURAL BACKGROUND, BELONGS IN THIS TESOL COMMUNITY!



WE WERE HONORED TO HAVE PROF. JACOBO CORONEL'S INSPIRING WORDS FILL US WITH HOPE AND DETERMINATION IN HIS KEYNOTE SPEECH.



MS. SHIHUA ZHANG PRESENTS, "DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE THROUGH THE DIRECT METHOD IN EFL CLASSES".

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

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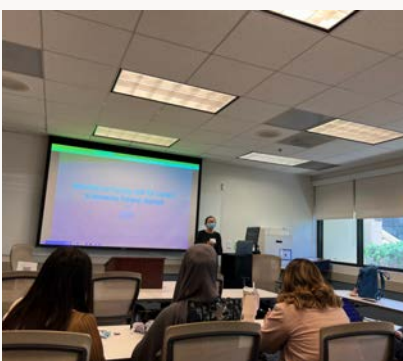
MS. PEIYAO WANG PRESENTS, "GAMEFUL PEDAGOGY IN MULTI-LEVEL LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS".

MS. YIXIU LIU PRESENTS, "PRACTICAL CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN IMMERSION SCHOOL'S ELD PROGRAM"



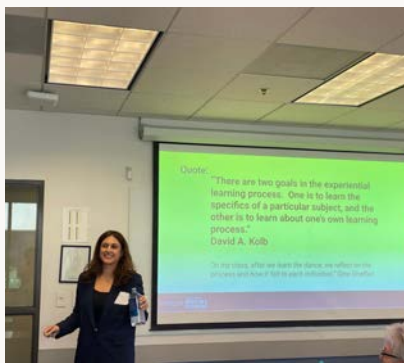
MS. CHRISTIE KANG PRESENTS, "EQUIPPING MONOLINGUAL TEACHERS IN TEACHING MULTILINGUAL CHILDREN".

MS. ZIYAN GUO PRESENTS, "INTEGRATING AI TECHNOLOGY INTO ESL/EFL CLASSROOMS TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING".



MS. GUORAN ZHANG PRESENTS, "MOTIVATING AND ENGAGING ADULT ESL LEARNERS: A HUMANIZING PEDAGOGY APPROACH".





MS. GINA GHAFFARI PRESENTS, "USING DANCE TO MOTIVATE ADULT ESL LEARNERS THROUGH TPR AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING".

MS. FURAT ABDELJABER PRESENTS, "CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM: HOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE PALESTINIAN IDENTITY THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS".



TREATING OUR GUESTS TO A SPREAD OF DELECTABLE SNACKS AND REFRESHING DELIGHTS!



EACH GRADUATION SPEECH BROUGHT ITS OWN FLAIR! FROM HEARTFELT EMOTIONS TO WITTY HUMOR - THEY ROCKED THE STAGE!



A BIG SHOUTOUT TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL GUESTS WHO JOINED US IN HONORING THESE TALENTED INDIVIDUALS & FUTURE EDUCATORS!



GRATEFUL TO OUR AMAZING CLINICAL PARTNERS, THE  
BACKBONE OF OUR SUCCESS!

SEEING EVERYONE ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS AND CROSS THE  
FINISH LINE TOGETHER IS A FEELING LIKE NO OTHER!



WE'VE LAUGHED, CRIED, AND SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER  
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, AND NOW WE STAND HERE AS A  
TESTAMENT TO OUR HARD WORK, PASSION, AND  
DETERMINATION!

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE THE FEELING OF REUNITING  
WITH OUR CHERISHED ALUMNI.



## FINAL SEMESTER ON CAMPUS



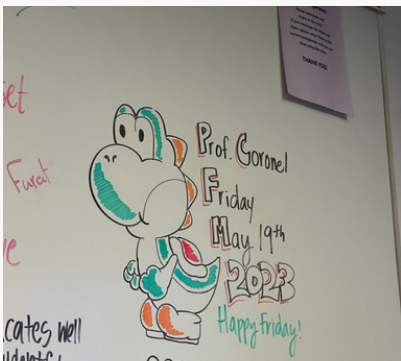
🎓🎉 PROUDLY CROSSING THE FINISH LINE! 🎓🎉





BEAMING WITH JOY!

OUR TESOL FACULTY (DR. WONG, DR. CHEN, PROFESSOR KIM & PROFESSOR LU) ARE HONORED TO BE FEATURED SPEAKERS FOR THE PANEL ON ELEVATING AAPI VOICES #AAPIHERITAGEMONTH! 🌟



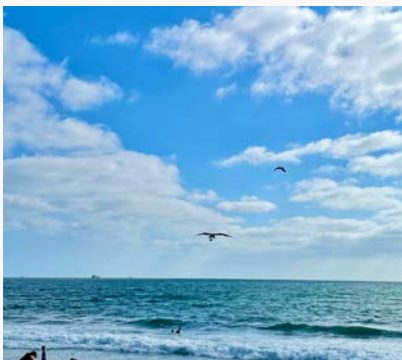
PROF. CORONEL KICKS OFF THE "ALL-AROUND TEACHER" MODE AND INJECTS SOME MAGIC INTO THE CLASSROOM!

RADIANT JOY FILLS THE AIR



AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE AT DR. L. ERIKA SAITO'S CAPTIVATING PRESENTATION ON THE "THE ASIAN AMERICAN EDUCATION PROJECT" WITH SOME #TESOL CLASSMATES





PERFECT PLACE TO UNWIND AND RECHARGE AFTER CLASS!

NOTHING BEATS THE SERENE MOMENTS OF ENJOYING  
MEALS BETWEEN CLASSES WITH A BREATHTAKING VIEW OF  
THE SEA!



EMBRACING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE AT  
GYEONGBOKGUNG PALACE! (SHARING BY TESOL ALUMNI)

AN ENCHANTING NIGHT IN BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA! 🌙



UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE #AERA  
CONFERENCE SURROUNDED BY THE AMAZING  
PEPPERDINE COMMUNITY!

## BEACH BONFIRE DAY



EMBRACING THE WARMTH OF BEACH BONFIRES WITH GREAT COMPANY!

TOTALLY HOOKED ON THE MESMERIZING WORLD OF FRISBEE GAMES! 🥏😍



MEET DR. WONG AND THIS DELECTABLE CHOCOLATE DELIGHT! 🍫 IT'S NOT JUST BIG, IT'S GIANT!

IGNITING THE NIGHT WITH A CACKLING BONFIRE!



📸 CAPTURED A FUN MOMENT WITH DR. WONG AND DR. CHEN AT THE END OF THE BEACH BONFIRE!

# TEACHING TIP

## 10 Teaching Tips for the ESL/EFL teacher:



### Student-centered learning

Develop a community of active learners where the teacher guides but is not the focus.



### Reduce T-T-T

Student talking time should outweigh that of the teacher's talking time.



### Scaffolding

Provide enough practice and activities to guide and enable students to master the tasks on their own.



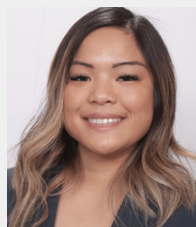
### Say no to "rows"

Arrange desks in a way that allows students to face each other to practice conversations.



### Simplify instructions

Give simple, direct and clear directions. Eliminate wordy and unnecessary filler words.



Kristle V. Domondon (MATESOL '20)  
Adjunct Faculty | Santa Barbara  
City College

Would you be interested in incorporating new teaching strategies? Kristle Domondon, TESOL alumni from 2020, is currently an ESL teacher at Santa Barbara City College. Her expertise in this field could provide valuable insights to enhance the effectiveness of your teaching.



### "Share & Tell"

Give ample space to listen and allow students to share their lived experiences.



### Embrace technology

Zoom, ChatGPT, AI, Google - it can all be scary but it can also make life a lot easier. Use tech to your advantage.



### Expect for the Unexpected

Don't worry if things don't go as you had planned. Have "go-to" activities just in case.



### Be open to feedback

Teaching is a profession that is always changing and evolving. Never stop learning.



### Have fun!

Incorporate engaging activities. This helps to lower affective filters and creates a comfortable classroom environment conducive for learning.



# ALUMNI PROFILE

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Yong Xin

Yong Xin is a **Chinese language teacher** specializing in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language at the **International Education School of Southwest University of Finance and Economics**. Currently, she is **pursuing a Ph.D. in Education at the Macau Polytechnic Institute**. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Broadcasting and Hosting Art from the Communication University of China, as well as dual Master's degrees in TESOL from Pepperdine University in the United States.

**Yong Xin has published over ten academic papers in key journals** focusing on Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. **She has also participated in the production of hundreds of online courses related to Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.** Furthermore, she has been involved in organizing six events, including the 2nd China-Greece Civilization Exchange Dialogue and the "Greek Student" Online Summer Camp.

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

MA in TESOL has been invaluable in shaping my career trajectory. **It has provided me with a solid foundation in language teaching theories and methodologies, allowing me to critically analyze and adapt teaching practices.**

Through practical teaching experiences, I honed my skills in lesson planning, classroom management, and effective communication.

The program **exposed me to cutting-edge research in language education, keeping me abreast of innovative teaching methods and technology.** Moreover, it **facilitated networking opportunities, enabling me to connect with experienced educators and industry professionals.**

Overall, the MA in TESOL has equipped me with the knowledge, practical skills, research expertise, and professional connections necessary for success in my field and to make meaningful contributions to language education.





# COMMUNITY SHOUTOUTS

Let us take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Pepperdine TESOL community. Our members have reached new heights and are making significant contributions to the field of language teaching. As we come together, we become stronger, exemplifying the spirit of #GoWaves in our Summer successes!

## Publications:

Leveraging Flip, a Video Discussion Platform, to Support the Needs of International ESL Pre-Service Teachers

Author: Dr. Weina L. Chen (Faculty); Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)



Promoting Interaction for Language Learners in Blended Learning Environments Through OEIP (pages 250-270)

Authors: Professor Yi Lucy Lu (Ph.D. student, Pepperdine staff, faculty); Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty); Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)



"Chinese characters are so beautiful": Empowerment and transformation through (international) student teaching in a Mandarin elective program

Presenters: Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty); Ziyao Guo (TESOL Student)



Implementing an Innovative Partnership between University TESOL Educators & Middle-Grade Chinese Language Learners  
Presenters: Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty); Dr. Weina L. Chen (Faculty); Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty)



Digital Media as a Resource for Dynamic Language Learning  
Presenter: Feidana Yalikun (Ph.D. student, MATESOL '22)

### Language Negotiation During Interactive Read-Aloud Activities in Preschool Chinese Immersion Classrooms

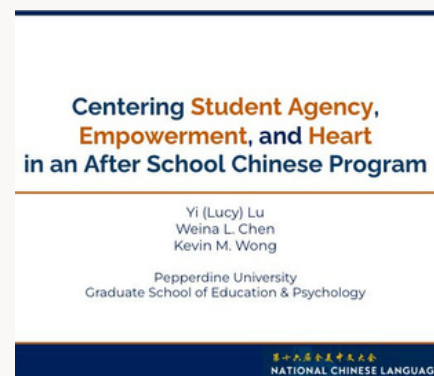
Presenters: Dr. Robin E. Harvey; Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)



Virtual International Trips: Promoting Cross-Cultural Learning and Global Citizenship at Home  
Presenters: Linda Lee (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff); Elias Saade (Pepperdine Ed.D. student, staff); Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp (Faculty)

### Centering Student Agency, Empowerment, and Heart in an After-School Chinese Program

Presenters: Professor Yi Lucy Lu (Ph.D. student, Pepperdine staff, faculty); Dr. Weina L. Chen (Faculty); Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)



### Using the Visual Arts to Enhance Critical Thinking & Language Production in Multicultural Classrooms

Presenters: Ana Guzman (Ed.D. student, MATESOL '21)

### Family Academy: Preliminary Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial on a Dual-Generation ECE Coaching Program in the Philippines

Presenter: Dr. Kevin Wong (Faculty)







In the May 2023 issue of TESOL Quarterly, Suresh Canagarajah (Pennsylvania State University) published an article entitled “[Decolonizing Academic Writing Pedagogies for Multilingual Students.](#)”

Drawing from her personal experience, Suresh explores the application of decolonizing constructs and indigenous epistemologies to the teaching of multilingual writing, challenging traditional academic writing pedagogies in North America. Comparing decolonizing orientations to related theoretical frameworks such as ethnolinguistics, posthumanism, and multiliteracies, Suresh highlights the distinctive contributions of decolonizing scholarship in terms of materiality, ethics, spirituality, and relationality.

Suresh acknowledges the importance of different critical theories based on academic identities and perspectives while emphasizing the continuing relevance and historical importance of language decolonization for global communities.

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



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## Decolonizing Academic Writing Pedagogies for Multilingual Students

Suresh Canagarajah

First published: 21 May 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/tesq.13231>

SECTIONS

PDF TOOLS SHARE

### Abstract

This article discusses how academic writing pedagogies for multilingual students can be transformed by the literacy traditions that these students bring to North American classrooms. This is an embodied and personal rendition, situated in the author's South Asian literacies as illustrative of Global South traditions, and draws from his own empirical research and teaching practices for writing instructors in TESOL. Informed by developments in decolonization, the article highlights the principles of embodiment and relationality as significant for Indigenous and Southern communities, and contrasts them with texts being treated as autonomous and instrumental in the European tradition. It reviews the different pedagogical models in the disciplinary field of “L1 composition,” which also influence academic programs labeled as “L2 composition,” to demonstrate how recent revisions to accommodate social and material influences are still influenced by Eurocentric epistemological values of logocentrism, cognitivism, and individualism. After reporting from the author's study of scientific research writing to illustrate how its contextualization demonstrates the distributed practice of diverse social networks, material resources, and semiotic repertoires across expansive space and time, the article recommends an ecological writing pedagogy that draws from situated learning and embodied apprenticeship as practiced by Southern communities. (Translations of abstract in <https://www.iris-database.org/details/rV5zj-95Z8L>).

# CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

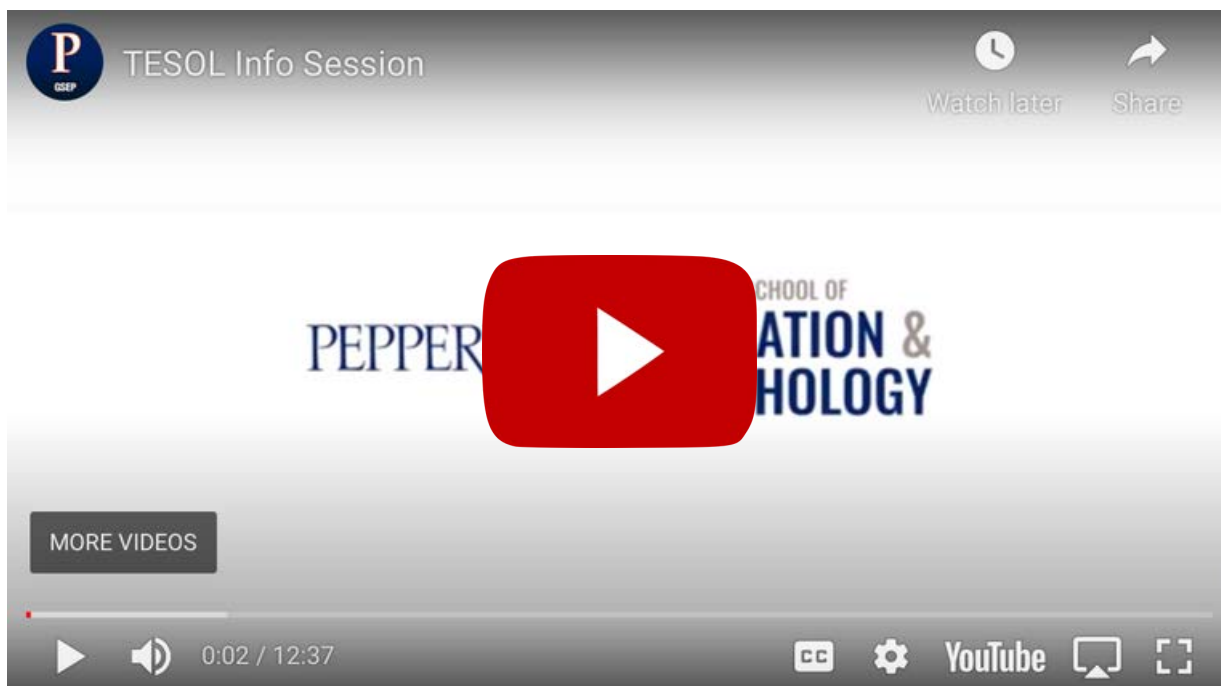
Below is a list of job opportunities curated for our TESOL alumni. This list is representative of jobs that TESOL graduates can apply for and is not meant to be exhaustive. For ongoing TESOL updates and job opportunities, please join our [Pepperdine TESOL LinkedIn Group](#).

Job Title	Location	Full/Part Time	Application Deadline	Source
Content Writer	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">OMC, Inc.</a>
Proofreader	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">Cella</a>
English Adjunct Instructor	Glendale, CA	Part-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">Glendale Community College</a>
Social Media Copywriter	Remote	Full-Time/Contract	Until Filled	<a href="#">Capital Staffing Solutions</a>
Studio Assistant	Los Angeles, CA Hybrid remote	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">Kovac Design Studio</a>
Specialist, Podcast Formats	Los Angeles, CA	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">Netflix</a>
英文编辑（产品运营方向）	Beijing, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">北京嘀果</a>
英语翻译 亚马逊	Zhejiang, China	Full-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">拜威贸易</a>
Library Assistant	Rockingham, Western Australia	Part-Time	Until Filled	<a href="#">City of Rockingham</a>



# 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](#)

