

**GUIDE TO
THE
ESL CENTER**

**at
Kennesaw State University**



The ESL Center: A Brief Overview

The ESL Center at Kennesaw State University is housed in University College. The Center has two locations: the Kennesaw campus (Library Room 442) and the Marietta campus (Norton Hall, Bldg. R2, Room 164). Both are inviting, comfortable spaces where international students are offered a variety of services and programs. The Kennesaw campus location also includes a small library of reading and writing texts, computers for student use, and study tables.



The following services and programs are coordinated through the ESL Center:

- > Tutoring in writing, reading, pronunciation, and public speaking
- > General education academic advisement and registration assistance
- > Mentoring
- > ESL 1105 (Grammar) & ESL 1106 (Oral Communication) courses
- > The Conversation Partners Program



GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

David Schmidt, Director
The ESL Center
Kennesaw State University
University College
385 Cobb Avenue NW (MD 1802)
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470-578-6377
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More About the ESL Center

According to Kennesaw State University Global Admissions, international undergraduate and graduate students from 120 countries have chosen KSU to further their academic studies. English language support is provided through KSU's ESL Center, established in 2002, to help make their experience at KSU a pleasant one. This support is offered at the two locations of the ESL Center: the Kennesaw campus and the Marietta campus. All ESL Center faculty and staff have graduate degrees in English disciplines. At both locations, students receive tutoring in a variety of English language skills, as well as general education academic advising and mentoring.

If you, as an international undergraduate or graduate student, have any questions about an assignment, we are here to help. Do verb tenses and commas confuse you? We can explain the rules of grammar as we review your written assignments with you. Are you not sure how to create a topic sentence or a thesis statement? We can define those phrases for you. Are APA and MLA styles confusing? We can show you the way. And we'll be glad to discuss plagiarism and any other important issues with you.

Do you have difficulty comprehending your reading assignments? We can show you how to better understand your reading material. Nervous about giving a presentation? We can help you rehearse and become a more confident presenter. Do you have trouble with English pronunciation? We can help you with those tricky English sounds. And, as already noted, advising for general education (core) requirements and assistance with registering for classes are also provided upon request.

The ESL Center—Kennesaw Campus is located in the Sturgis Library, Room 442.

The ESL Center—Marietta Campus is located in Norton Hall, Bldg. R2, Room 164.

Both locations are welcoming environments. At the Kennesaw location, international students can relax between classes and meet with friends. They can also use computers for their academic work and select from an extensive selection of reading, writing, and grammar textbooks.

Appointments are usually (but not always) necessary for tutoring and advising.

For an appointment, contact:

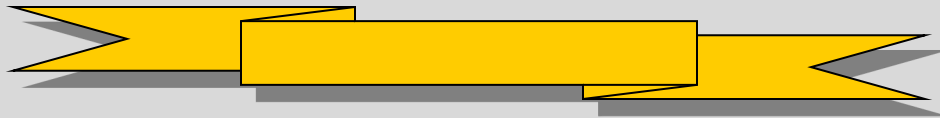
David Schmidt, Kennesaw Campus, at (470)578-6377 or dschmidt@kennesaw.edu;

Brenda Wilson, Kennesaw Campus, at (470)578-4909 or bwilso54@kennesaw.edu;

or Katherine Taylor at the Marietta Campus at 470-578-4915 or katherine@kennesaw.edu.

Writing Tutorials at the ESL Center

At the ESL Center, students are offered tutoring in writing, reading, pronunciation, and public speaking. Most students come to the ESL Center for help with writing. Please read the following information to better understand how we conduct writing tutorials.



Our most important task is to help ESL students understand the demands and requirements of writing academic documents in American English. To this end, we note and discuss with the students problems with essay focus, organization, and development. We also try to help students better understand grammar and mechanics.

Frequent and comprehensive error correction is an accepted tool (one of many) for helping ESL students understand the basic requirements of English grammar and mechanics. At the ESL Center, tutors commonly review entire documents, point out errors (using both direct and indirect feedback), explain why they are errors, and discuss with students what needs to be done to correct the errors. Most of the time, corrections are immediately made by students to the documents.

ESL students often have trouble with logic, syntax, idioms, “wordiness,” use of articles and prepositions, etc. Once again, tutors point out these problems, discuss alternatives, allow the students to make the best choices possible, and help students revise their documents. At no time do tutors offer to change the essential content of the documents for the students.

Of course, these points do not address every conceivable situation tutors encounter at the ESL Center, but they do cover the majority of situations.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FACULTY: Tutors at the ESL Center do not wish to give students a higher level of feedback than their teachers want them to have. Therefore, we offer the following recommendations:

- > If an ESL student is completing a graded assignment for you, and you do not wish that student to receive comprehensive error correction of that assignment, please notify us with the student’s name, course, and a brief description of the assignment. Also, please note the level of feedback that is acceptable.
- > If you have returned a graded assignment to a student, and it is acceptable for us to review and correct that assignment in a tutorial, please let us know.
- > Please contact us with any other restrictions or requirements you have for your ESL students.



The Conversation Partners Program

This fun, free program is coordinated through the ESL Center and is open to all international students enrolled at KSU. International students are paired with native English-speaking faculty, staff, or students. The partners meet periodically (a minimum of 6 times) each semester.

The CPP is a great way for international students to learn about academic and American cultures. Also, by strengthening English-speaking skills, vocabulary grows richer and self-confidence in speaking the English language increases. And native English-speaking partners can learn about different cultures and languages and make new friends too.

This very popular program is offered both fall and spring semesters.

Tuition waiver credit is offered through VKSU. Contact Dawn Edwards at 470-578-6700 or kde2072@kennesaw.edu.

For more information or to join the CPP, please contact:

David Schmidt

at 470-578-6377 or dschmidt@kennesaw.edu (Kennesaw Campus)

Brenda Wilson

at 470-578-4909 or bwilso54@kennesaw.edu (Kennesaw Campus)

Katherine Taylor

at 470-578-4915 or katherine@kennesaw.edu (Marietta Campus)



ESL COURSE INFORMATION

ESL 1105—Grammar Seminar for International Students (3 Credit Hours, 3 Class Hours, 0 Laboratory Hours) Prerequisites: None

Would you like to improve your English grammar skills? Every language has grammar rules, and English is no exception. Are you confused about verb tenses or what makes a sentence a complete sentence and not a fragment? Do you wonder what a pronoun is and how to use it? If so, this course is for you.

ESL 1105 is designed to help international students with their academic studies, focusing on features of the English language that are the most confusing for second language writers and speakers. The development of editing skills is also emphasized. You do not need special permission to register for this course. Just register for it as you would any regular course. You can earn 3 credits for successful completion of the course. Some students will be able to use these credits to fulfill the elective credit requirement for their undergraduate degree programs. (Graduate students are welcome to take the course, but the course will not contribute to their degree requirements.)



ESL 1106—Oral Communication for International Students (3 Credit Hours, 3 Class Hours, 0 Laboratory Hours) Prerequisites: None

Does public speaking make you nervous? Do your hands shake, or do you speak too fast just to get it over with? Do you want to improve your understanding of conversational American English? Then this course is for you!

This course will help intermediate to advanced ESL students develop conversation and public speaking skills through small group activities and class presentations. Also, pronunciation practice will play an important role throughout the course in helping students become more confident speakers of English. Improve your conversation and public speaking skills in a classroom where you will enjoy the support and encouragement of other international students. You do not need special permission to register for this course. Just register for it as you would any regular course. You can earn 3 credits for successful completion of the course. Some students will be able to use these credits to fulfill the elective credit requirement for their undergraduate degree programs. (Graduate students are welcome to take the course, but the course will not contribute to their degree requirements.)

MEET THE ESL CENTER TEAM

David Schmidt, ESL Center Director & Senior Lecturer of English



David has worked in the ESL Program at Kennesaw State University since 2000. David is the Director of the ESL Center (both locations) and a Senior Lecturer of English responsible for coordinating all the activities of the ESL Center as well as the Conversation Partners Program. He also schedules and teaches ESL courses, teaches first-year composition courses for the Department of English, and serves as an English tutor, academic advisor, and mentor for international students. David earned both his B.A. in English and M.A. in Professional Writing (with a concentration in composition and rhetoric) at KSU.

David began his journey helping ESL students while attending KSU. “As an undergraduate student, I wanted to become an English teacher, so as a first step, I accepted a position as a tutor at KSU and learned I very much enjoyed working with international students.”

Helping and observing ESL students has given David insights into their strengths and determination. “International students constantly remind me that despite linguistic or cultural differences, people are essentially the same all over the world and want the same things for themselves and their families. I am always impressed how international students often face daunting challenges, and yet they persevere to become successful in their academic careers.”

David comes from a family of relatively recent immigrants to America. “My mother’s parents immigrated to the United States from Sicily as young adults. My grandparents had difficulties mastering the English language, so at an early age I was familiar with many of the challenges ESL students face.”

MEET THE ESL CENTER TEAM

Katherine Taylor, Lecturer of TESL



Katherine received her M.A. in TESOL from St. Mary's University and her CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Cambridge University, Cambridge, England. She has a B.A. in Education from Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada and a B.A. in French and Psychology from St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. She also has IBM AIX Certification and has worked in systems support and administration.

Katherine has had a variety of teaching experiences in different parts of the world. "My first paying job was teaching Micmac students, who are members of a Canadian aboriginal group, at the University College of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. That was in 1988. I then worked as a TA for ESL during my undergraduate studies and as a volunteer for Chinese students, and my first overseas job was in Japan."

Katherine settled in the United States and has worked for Southern Polytechnic State University/ Kennesaw State University since 2003. "Around 2005, I worked with mostly Chinese students in courses specially designed to support their language skills. I also taught international versions of English 1101: Composition."

Katherine isn't too far from her hometown. It's in Nova Scotia, Canada. She enjoys running, camping, and reading everything but science fiction. She loves to travel, and has visited France, Germany, Scotland, England, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Nepal, and Thailand.

She became interested in pursuing a teaching career in ESL when she visited France during her studies of the French language and realized very soon that "no one understood me." Katherine wanted to explore "how we learn and express ourselves linguistically." She learned how challenging navigating life in another language could be and finds international students passionate about their studies. "I learn as much from them as they learn from me." As she helps students with their essays and presentations, she learns about many subjects, from architecture to the sciences. "It's never boring." One of Katherine's students has been selected for Macmillan's Everyday Writer Comic Project.

Wanhua He will be immortalized in animated form in a new text focused on university writers.

MEET THE ESL CENTER TEAM

Brenda Wilson, English Tutor and Director's Assistant



Brenda has worked at the ESL Center since 2013 and serves as an English tutor, academic advisor, and mentor for international students. She earned her M.A. in Professional Writing (with a concentration in creative writing) at KSU and B.A. in English at the University of Louisville. She obtained her ESL Endorsement through Cobb County Schools and has taught English and ESL in local school systems.

ESL students have taught Brenda what can be accomplished through perseverance. “International students are so inspiring and strive to overcome the difficulties associated with learning a new culture and studying in a different language.” She hopes the students find the ESL Center a pleasant retreat from the stresses of university life. “Many students have told me how friendly and welcoming they find the people of KSU and Georgia. I hope the ESL Center provides the same friendly and welcoming atmosphere that makes learning enjoyable.”

Brenda has traveled extensively in the United States and Europe and enjoys reading a wide variety of subjects and genres, writing fiction, and horseback riding and jumping.

THE ESL CENTER
Complete Contact Information

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