

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THAILAND

STUDY ABROAD SUMMER 2027



Teach English to college students while surrounded by an amazing culture, breathtaking scenery, and incredible food. Students will be visiting instructors at Ubon Ratchathani University (UBU). You will work in small groups to prepare English lesson plans, activities, and assessments for two hours of ESL instruction a day Monday-Thursday for motivated university students and will observe additional classmate instruction. BYU students will receive direct support in all teaching endeavors and will emerge as competent English language instructors capable of creating lesson plans on nearly any topic (not just English) which will serve them in any career or life situation involving teaching, whether that's a classroom, a boardroom, a living room or a C suite. Students will complete six credit hours of TESOL courses, which make up one third of all coursework needed for a professional TESOL certificate (offered through BYU) that qualifies individuals to teach English all over the world.

Throughout the experience, we will visit regional and national areas of interest to better understand cultural perspectives on learning and knowledge. This includes a trip to Chiang Mai for a jungle hike, an elephant preserve, cooking classes, and sticky waterfalls. We'll also visit a forest monastery, a unique glow-in-the-dark temple, and the world's largest Buddhist candle celebration. We will tour other English language programs in the area, visit famous night markets, and feed giant turtles and hippos in the Ubon Ratchathani zoo. Students will also have opportunities for additional local exploration on many weeknights and some weekends. Undergraduates (and graduates) from any department are encouraged to apply. Previous experience teaching English as a second language is a plus but not necessary. No knowledge of the Thai language is necessary. More information can be found at <https://ling.byu.edu/tesol-in-thailand>

DATES

22 June – 6 August 2027 (approximately)

HOUSING

Student housing will be provided at hotels or hostels within walking distance of the host university.

COURSES

Students must register for 6 credit hours during summer term. Possible courses include (others including internship credit are also possible based on student interest and consultation with the directors):

Eling 375—TESOL Listening, Speaking (3 credit hours)

Eling 376—TESOL Reading, Writing, & Vocabulary (3 credit hours)

Eling 399R—Academic Internship: Linguistics (3 credit hours)

Ling 670—TESOL Reading, Writing, & Vocabulary (3 credit hours)

Ling 671—TESOL Listening, Speaking, & Pronunciation (3 credit hours)

Ling 688R—Academic Internship: TESOL (3 credit hours)

Students may not take any other courses on this program, including BYU Online courses, without approval by the program director and ISP. If you would like to take other related courses, please contact the faculty director about possibilities.

COST

\$4,900–5,400

Includes Latter-day Saint undergraduate full tuition (increased cost for graduate and non-Latter-day Saint students), housing, lodging and group transportation on field trips, admissions and entrance fees, some meals, and international health insurance. Does not include airfare, prep course tuition, most meals, or personal expenses.

TRAVEL

Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the program sites. Airfare reservations must be made through BYU Travel. Students should contact a BYU Travel agent. BYU Travel | 280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu

PREPARATION

Accepted students are required to participate in an international, cross-cultural preparation course (IAS 201R, 1 credit hour). This class will be held during the second block of the Winter 2027 semester. Part-time BYU students and non-BYU students will need to pay an additional tuition fee. Accompanying spouses need to be credit-bearing participants on the program. Spouses will also need to apply online and take the preparation course.

International study programs are physically, emotionally, and mentally taxing and you must be in good health to participate. These programs often take place in international locations that do not have the same level of safety and services in terms of transportation, living conditions, residential accommodations, food, public behavior, and policing that you may be used to on campus. If you have further questions or concerns on this, please see <https://kennedy.byu.edu/isp-travel-policy>

FUNDING SOURCES

Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to study abroad programs. Students who submit the financial aid section of the ISP application and who have a current FAFSA form on file at the Financial Aid Office (A-41 ASB) will be considered for a Study Abroad scholarship. Academic departments and colleges may assist with scholarships and grants. For instance, students majoring or minoring in the College of Humanities are eligible for study abroad funding (see https://byu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3vJXhwjMOnuCgzY). Juniors or seniors majoring or minoring in any program in Linguistics can apply for Linguistics Experiential Learning Grants (<https://ling.byu.edu/linguistics-experiential-learning-grant>). Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/isp-apply. A nonrefundable \$35 application fee is required; applicants will be interviewed once the application is complete. Students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program. The first payment is due upon acceptance.

Application Deadline: 30 November 2026

FACULTY

Grant Eckstein coordinates the TESOL program at BYU and is the faculty director of the English Language Center (ELC). (801) 422-5946 | grant_eckstein@byu.edu

Mark Wolfersberger teaches in the Linguistics department and taught English as a second language for 19 years at BYU-Hawaii (801) 422-1000 | mark.wolfersberger@byu.edu

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT

Students should refrain from arriving late or departing early.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT

International Study Programs | 101 HRCB | (801) 422-3686 | isp@byu.edu | kennedy.byu.edu/isp

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

International Study Programs (ISP) reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student's BYU financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.