English as a Second Language
Morgan State University
OVERVIEW REPORT

Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, ESL Program Director, Academic Outreach & Engagement
(443) 885-1980 • ELIZABETH.GUNN@MORGAN.EDU
“Learning a language is much more than a set of rules – it is a dynamic, vibrant experience interdependent upon the culture and people who speak it.” - Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, ESL Program Director
The English as a Second Language (ESL) Program inaugurated its course offerings in the summer of 2013. Since then, the Program has offered several courses to students from around the world. The ESL Program is committed to providing intensive language instruction and rich local and regional cultural experiences that empower our students to become successful students in the mainstream classroom and productive members of our community at home and beyond. Language learning certainly occurs in a traditional classroom setting, but is greatly enhanced by interpersonal and cultural experiences. This is why we take our students from the classroom to the community. The ESL Program works closely with the Morgan State University (MSU) iPal Program, a program that pairs international students with Morgan mentors for the purpose of friendship, camaraderie, academic guidance and social assimilation. The ESL Program is intensive in nature: our students spend five hours a day, five days a week in the classroom, one of which is in a multimedia laboratory. This intensive learning environment, coupled with local and regional excursions organized in conjunction with the iPal Program, ensures that our students become proficient not only in the English language, but also in cultural competency.

The ESL Program fosters an environment of dynamic learning through traditional coursework and laboratory sessions as well as through off campus activities.

The English as a Second Language Program offers seven levels of English language: ESL Beginning Literacy (Level 1), ESL Beginning Low (Level 2), ESL Beginning High (Level 3), ESL Intermediate Low (Level 4), ESL Intermediate High (Level 5), ESL Advanced Low (Level 6), ESL Advanced High (Level 7).

Courses offered by term/cohort:

Summer 2013:
• ESL Intermediate High (Level 5): 6 participants

Fall 2013:
• ESL Intermediate Low (Level 4): 11 participants
• ESL Intermediate High (Level 5): 15 participants
• Individualized Advanced Reading and Composition: 1 participant

Spring 2014
• March-August: ESL Intermediate Low (Level 4): 8 participants
• January-May: ESL Intermediate High (Level 5): 11 participants
The English as a Second Language Program is housed in the Division of Academic Outreach and Engagement under the following leadership:

- Dr. Maurice Taylor, Vice President for Academic Outreach and Engagement
- Ms. Agnès Moon, Director of Summer Session and Special Programs
- Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, ESL Program Director

Our distinctive faculty members bring a variety of pedagogical experiences to the Program. Two have taught English oversees, two hold a master’s degree from a prestigious universities, three have credentials in English language acquisition and another holds a Ph.D.

Faculty in the Program in ESL with the courses and semesters in which they have taught include:

- Dr. Natanya Duncan: ESL Intermediate High (Level 5), Summer 2013
- Mr. Alexander Lokey: ESL Intermediate High (Level 5) and Individualized Advanced Reading and Composition, Fall 2013
- Ms. Qimmah Najeeullah: ESL Intermediate Low (Level 4), Fall 2013
- Ms. Lauren Bostic: ESL Intermediate Low (Level 4), Spring 2014
- Ms. Anna Shin: ESL Intermediate High (Level 5), Summer 2015

Additionally, since the Program’s inception, we have hosted students from the following countries, and we expect the list to keep growing:

- Equatorial Guinea = 1
- Brazil = 53
- Italy = 2
- Saudi Arabia = 6
- Total = 62
The Program in English as a Second Language, in coordination with the iPal Program, has led students on several exciting, educational and conversation-starting excursions. Morgan students are paired with international students for the purpose of mentoring and friendship. The excursions are a favorite among the ESL students, and they provide an opportunity for our international cohort to learn about the history and culture of the city, state and region. iPal mentors commit to making contact with their “buddy” at least once a week for an hour throughout each semester. Group activities are planned for participants throughout the semester. Mentor participants in the iPal Program are responsible for the following:

- sharing cultural experiences and activities with their international buddy
- focusing on furthering their buddy’s language skills in English
- connecting to student life outside of the classroom
- creating cross cultural friendships

The iPal mentors submit weekly reports to the ESL Program Director detailing their interactions with their international counterparts. Additionally, the international students submit weekly reports to their ESL instructor. Thus, there is accountability for each member of the iPal student team. iPal mentors submit a report every Sunday with a detailed explanation of the location, activity and content of their connection with their international buddy. Some of the more popular activities included shopping at the local mall, bowling, movies, dining out, and studying.

Baltimore Orioles vs. NY Yankees; Artscape
The English as a Second Language Program excursions are an integral part of the ESL learning experience and include the following events:

**Summer and Fall 2013**

- Saturday, July 20: Artscape, the country’s largest free art festival
- Saturday, August 3: Washington, D.C., including a guided bus tour of the city
- Saturday, August 24: Inner Harbor, including a lunch boat tour of the historical sites
- Wednesday, August 28: Nuclear Clean Energy IndyCar Event with CEO John Herron, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, MSU President Dr. David Wilson and Indy race car driver Simona de Silvestro, hosted by Morgan State University
- Monday, September 9: Baltimore Orioles versus New York Yankees baseball game at Camden Yards
- Saturday, September 21: Washington, D.C., including a tour of the U.S. Capitol
- Saturday, October 12: Lancaster County, P.A., including a tour of the Amish Village and a bus tour of the region
- Friday, October 25: Autumn Corn Maze in Baltimore County
- Saturday, November 9: Philadelphia, P.A., including a guided tour of the National Constitution Center

**Spring 2014**

- Thursday, March 13: Walters Art Museum
- Thursday March 20: Baltimore Museum of Art
- Thursday, April 3: Baltimore Orioles versus Boston Red Sox baseball at Camden Yards
- Saturday, April 26: Ft. McHenry, including Flag & Artillery Programs
- Thursday, May 1: Ft. McHenry, including Flag & Artillery Programs
- Thursday, May 1: National Aquarium, including special small animal programming

**Summer and Fall 2014**

- Friday, June 27: Washington, D.C.
- Wednesday, July 9: Visionary Art Museum
- Friday, July 18: Artscape
- Friday, August 1: Spirit Cruise Inner Harbor Historic Tour
- Tuesday, September 23: Ft. McHenry
- Friday, October 3: Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA)
- Thursday, October 9: Walters Art Museum
- Tuesday, October 14: Washington, D.C.
- Thursday, October 30: Autumn Experience at Rodgers Farms
Summer 2015

- Friday, June 10: Ft. McHenry
- Wednesday, July 22: Reginald F. Lewis Museum and Inner Harbor
- Wednesday, August 5: American Visionary Art Museum and Cross Street Market
The ESL Program tests students’ level of English prior to beginning the program and upon program completion. We use the iTEP (International Test of English Proficiency) instrument, a computer based assessment tool that allows us to track our students’ improvement. The iTEP is the testing software of choice of about 65 English language institutes and institutions of higher education, such as Cal Poly and Rice University, throughout the United States and Canada.

We’ve tracked each cohort’s overall scores and individual scores on reading, listening and grammar from the beginning to the end of their terms. iTEP Proficiency Levels are as such:

Level 0 Beginning; Level 1 Elementary; Level 2 Low Intermediate; Level 3 Intermediate; Level 4 High Intermediate; Level 5 Low Advanced; Level 6 Advanced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Listening</th>
<th>Grammar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2013</td>
<td>2.5167</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>4.24583</td>
<td>4.64833</td>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>3.84167</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Improvement</td>
<td>68.71%</td>
<td>84.60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</tbody>
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Rates of Improvement for an ESL Cohort

- Reading
- Listening
- Grammar
- Overall
ESL Satisfaction Survey

The Program in English as a Second Language administers a satisfaction survey for each term. The survey results below are typical of each term.

**Question 1: How satisfied are you with the organization/structure of the program?**

- Very Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
Question 2: How would you rate your English proficiency?

- June
- August

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Advanced
Question 3: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:
“I feel supported through the ESL Program.”
Question 4: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:
“The ESL Program has offered opportunities to speak English outside of the classroom.”
The Program in English as a Second Language has compiled media through several outlets: a website, photographs, an ESL Facebook page, an iPal Program website, an iPal Program Facebook page, an ESL Blog and an ESL video.

- Program in ESL website: www.morgan.edu/esl
- ESL Facebook page: www.facebook.com/msuesl
- iPal Program: www.morgan.edu/ipal
- iPal Program Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/556579661078429/

The ESL Program at Morgan State University consists of three interrelated components: language instruction, cultural immersion and educational field experiences. The program’s foundational aim is to increase students’ oral and written proficiency in standard American English. This is accomplished through classroom and laboratory-based education in spaces designated for ESL instruction. However, our programs extend beyond the conventional classroom. We immerse our students in the English language through intensive course work with outstanding faculty, through the iPal mentoring Program and through cultural excursions.

The ESL Program has been deeply meaningful and successful. Students have improved upon their language and culture skills and have reported overwhelming satisfaction with the program and campus resources. We continue to lay foundation for a vibrant and dynamic program for future students from around the world!