

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN****TESL****OVERVIEW OF MAJOR**

The department of Education at Concordia University offers at the undergraduate level a B.Ed. Specialization in Teaching English as a Second Language and a Certificate in Teaching of English as a Second Language. For the latest information on programs, go to the undergraduate section of the Department of Education's Internet site at: <http://doe.concordia.ca>. Though a career in education can be demanding, many who are attracted to the profession find it to be challenging, inspiring and rewarding. It is a field that offers a wide range of careers including teaching as well as non-teaching opportunities. Those wishing to teach at either the elementary or secondary school level in Quebec must obtain authorization (brevet d'enseignement) from the Québec Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport ([www.mels.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca)). Graduate school will be required for those aspiring to teach at the college or university level.

**CELEBRATED TESL MAJORS**

**Susan Bell**. Founding Partner of ELAM Language School. Concordian

**Domini Blythe**. Stratford Shakespeare Festival Actress. Concordian

**Raymonde Johnson-Folco**. Quebec Politician. Concordian

**J.K. Rowling**. Author of the Harry Potter series. Worked as an EFL teacher in a private language school in Portugal while writing the first Harry Potter book.

**Nick Hornby**. Author of High Fidelity, About a Boy, and Fever Pitch. Worked as an EFL teacher in London.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY  
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>

- College Teacher (4131)
- Communications Specialist (5124)
- Conversation Instructor
- Editorial Assistant (1452)
- English Teacher (4131, 4141, 4142)
- ESL(English As a Second Language) Consultant (4166)
- ESL (English As a Second Language) Instructor (Abroad) (4131, 4141, 4142)
- ESL (English As a Second Language) Teacher (4131, 4141, 4142)
- High School Teacher (4141)
- Language Counselor
- Language School Instructor (4131)
- Literacy Facilitator
- Office Assistant (1411)
- Proofreader (1452)
- Secondary School English Teacher (4141)
- Translator (5125)
- Tutor (4122, 4131, 4142, 4216)
- University Professor (4121)
- Writer (5121)

## MORE JOB TITLES

Graduates of Teaching English as a Second Language programs develop a broad range of skills that are useful for success in a variety of fields. Teaching and writing are the most obvious choices but there are a wide variety of other career options. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which Teaching English as a Second Language Majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Bilingual Services Coordinator (1221)
- CEGEP Teacher (4131)
- Editor (5122)
- English Proficiency Test
- Preparation Instructor
- ESL (English as a Second Language) Textbook Publisher (0016)
- ESL (English as a Second Language) Materials Writer (5121)
- Exchange Program Coordinator (4166)
- Foreign Exchange Trader (1113)
- Foreign News Translator (5125)
- Immigration Officer (1228)
- International Student Advisor (4143)
- International Teaching Assistant (4122)
- Interpreter (5125)
- Language Assessor (4166)
- Language Laboratory Instructor (4131)
- Language Training Director (0112)
- Life Skills Instructor (4212)
- Literacy Program Coordinator (4166)
- Literary Agent (5124)
- Literary Researcher
- Media Relations Officer (5124)
- Private Trainer
- Public Speaking Consultant (6481)
- Publisher (0016)
- Publicity Agent (5124)
- Tourism Development Officer (4163)
- Vocational Instructor (4131)
- University Research Assistant (4122)
- Youth Outreach Worker (4212)

## POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

As educators, TESL graduates work primarily in public and private schools, however some may do one-on-one tutoring in homes or conduct in-house teaching programs for private companies. Many ESL programs are designed to develop the second language skills of new immigrants as well as to help them adapt to a new culture. As such, ESL teachers often work for agencies and organizations that serve immigrants. Many of those with ESL training travel overseas to teach. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Adult Education Centers
- Advertising Firms
- Colleges and Universities
- Community Services
- Continuing Education Schools
- Day Care Centres and Preschools
- Distant Education Schools
- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Foreign Private Enterprises
- Government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal)
- International Agencies
- Job Training Centres
- Language Training Centres
- Military
- Overseas Mission Organizations
- Refugee Assistance Programs
- Religious Institutions
- Tourism Development Offices
- Tutoring Programs/Centres
- Vocational Institutes
- YMCAs/YWCAs

## SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Good teachers of English as a Second Language are deeply engaged with their students and the subject matter that they teach. They are dedicated, patient people with excellent communication and presentation skills. They also have a thorough knowledge of English, different teaching methods and learning styles. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Analyze Language
- Capabilities and Assess Needs
- Ability to Clarify Ideas
- Ability to Motivate Others
- Ability to Work in Multicultural Environments
- Adapt and Manage Change
- Classroom Management Skills
- Clear, Precise Written Expression
- Creativity
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm
- Excellent Hearing
- Good Oral Communication
- Imagination
- Independent Thinking Skills
- Knowledge of the Structure & Function of Language
- Leadership Skills
- Maturity
- Non-judgmental Manner
- Organizational Skills
- Positive Attitude
- Prepare and Present Lessons
- Self-confidence
- Sense of Humor
- Sensitivity to Cultures
- Team Worker
- Tolerance

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

### CANADIAN

#### **Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)**

<http://www.accute.ca>

This association represents faculty teaching English in Canadian universities and colleges and students studying English at the graduate level. ACCUTE's newsletter, journal and online discussion groups allow one to keep up with current issues in the field and with scholarly/professional concerns. Click on Jobs for employment vacancies and Resources for career information.

#### **Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers**

<http://caslt.org>

Offers professional development opportunities for its members through workshops, symposia and conferences. Its website and online newsletter keep one current with what is happening in the field. Click on Become a Second Language Teacher for a wealth of information.

#### **Canadian Education Association (CEA)**

<http://www.cea-ace.ca/>

The association works to build public education and learning systems across the country as well as outside Canada. Through its Blog, publications and events one can keep abreast with the latest issues in the education sector. Offers student memberships. Canadian Teachers' Federation <http://www.ctf-fce.ca> National voice for Canadian teachers. Click on Teaching in Canada for information on becoming a teacher, certification, finding a job, teacher exchange programs and more!

#### **Education Canada Network**

<http://www.EducationCanada.com>

A major educational e-recruitment resource network. Includes information on certification and teacher salaries as well as job listings nationwide. Jobs in Education <http://www.jobsineducation.com> A commercial site that provides a job board and an e-newsletter.

#### **Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ)**

<http://www.ottiaq.org>

Membership affords networking opportunities with professionals in the fields of translation, terminology and interpretation and provides, among other things, certification, access to salary surveys and job postings.

## **Society for the Promotion of the Teaching of English as a Second Language in Quebec (SPEAQ)**

[www.speaq.qc.ca](http://www.speaq.qc.ca).

Represents professionals concerned with the teaching of English as a second language in Quebec. Includes many helpful resources for both teachers and students. Conducts an annual convention and workshops/events. TESL Canada Federation [www.tesl.ca](http://www.tesl.ca) Provides a forum for the sharing of interests and knowledge concerning English as a second language and English skills development. Includes information on professional development and teacher training programs. Click Jobs for recent job postings.

## **INTERNATIONAL Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Inc. (TESOL)**

<http://www.tesol.org/>

Much of interest for those in the TESOL field. Click on Enhance Your Career for job listings, information on career development, TESOL degree and certificate programs, and funding. Student memberships available.

## **CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES**

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Great Jobs for English Majors
  - Great Jobs for Foreign Language Majors
  - I'm an English Major - Now What?
  - Inside Track: Getting Hired to Teach in a Canadian School
  - Jump Start Your Career in Library Science
  - MLA Guide to the Job Search: A Handbook for Departments and for PhDs and
  - PhD Candidates in English and Foreign Languages
  - On the Market: Strategies for a Successful Academic Job Search
  - 101 Career Alternatives for Teachers
  - Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
  - Opportunities in Technical Writing Careers
  - Screenwriting Life: The Dreams, the Job and the Reality
  - Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads: Finding a Path to your Perfect Career
  - Teaching English Abroad
  - What Can You Do with a Major in English?
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- Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas
  - Career Opportunities in Education
  - Career Opportunities in the Publishing Industry
  - Career Opportunities in the Travel Industry
  - Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types
  - Careers for English Majors Panel Discussion – DVD Format
  - Careers in International Affairs
  - Careers in Languages Panel Discussion – DVD Format
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- Careers in Writing
  - Directory of Canadian Schools
  - Expert Resumes for Teachers and Educators
  - Getting Started: A Newcomer's Guide to Translation and Interpretation