Overview of the English Language Programs Office (Fall 2016)

Staff
English Language Programs currently employs three full-time staff members and several course instructors. Vinodini Murugesan: Director vino@brandeis.edu; 781-736-8398
Amy Rinaldo: Assistant Director arinaldo@brandeis.edu; 781-736-3991
Rachel Newman: Program Administrator rknewman@brandeis.edu; 781-736-3992 →First point of contact
Scott Moore: Analytical Writing Specialist semoore@brandeis.edu; 781-736-2628

Tutorial Program
There are currently approximately 160 tutees in our tutorial program. Tutees consist of Gateway Scholars, regular-intake international undergraduate students, and international graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the International Business School. Tutorials are predominantly writing tutorials, although we occasionally provide oral communications tutorials on a case-by-case basis. Tutorials are conducted in one of nine offices provided by our programs, or in offices that are already assigned to tutors for another purpose. Other than for first-year and second-year Gateway scholars in writing-intensive classes, the tutorial program is voluntary. All tutorial costs are university-sponsored. Outreach efforts are conducted at the start of each semester to encourage high-need students to request a tutor. Course instructors are encouraged to ask high-need students to sign up for the tutorial program if they have not already done so, especially for writing-intensive courses. Students are also encouraged to use the Writing Center if they need help on a paper but do not necessarily require weekly writing tutorials.

The Gateway Scholars Program
The Gateway Scholars Program consists of an intensive seven-week summer program to prepare students for the rigorous Brandeis academic curriculum as well as life at a liberal arts university in the US. The Gateway Summer curriculum is mandatory, not credit-bearing, and consists of three components: Critical Reading in the Social Sciences and the Humanities, Analytical Writing, and Academic Oral Communications. During the Fall, some Gateway Scholars go on to take Composition, and then they take the University Writing Seminar in the Spring. Other Gateway Scholars who need more preparation before COMP take two four-credit-equivalent courses (noted on their transcript but not credit-bearing) in order to further improve their language proficiency: ESL 1a: Critical Reading & Analytical Writing, and ESL 2a: Oral Communications. Only then do they move on to take COMP in the Spring, and then the UWS in the following Fall. Weekly tutorials are provided for Gateway Scholars during both the Fall and Spring semesters of their first year, the Fall of their second year, and are optional afterwards.

English Language Programs: Graduate Support
GSAS: English Language Programs conducts diagnostic tests for international graduate students for GSAS to identify areas in which students need language support in order to better serve their needs. ELP runs six one-credit GSAS classes per year for graduate students:
Fall Term:
ESL 201G: Academic Interactions (focused on oral communication skills)
ESL 202G: Writing Academic English
ESL 205G: Writing for Science I
Spring Term:
ESL 203G: Teaching & Presenting in English
ESL 204G: Graduate Writing
ESL 206G: Writing for Science II
IBS: English Language Programs runs workshops in writing and speaking for IBS graduate students throughout the Fall and Spring, in addition to holding on-site office hours. We also offer a limited number of weekly tutorials for high-need IBS students.
Heller: Currently in the second semester of a pilot project which places a language specialist on-site for two half-days a week to provide students with immediate academic writing and oral communications help.