

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

INTENSIVE
ENGLISH
INSTITUTE

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The [Intensive English Institute](#), established in 1967, offers a 20-hour-per-week academic program designed for students who want to develop language skills they will need in undergraduate and graduate programs in

US universities and students who want to build English skills for their professional career. The IEI also offers customized programs for special groups of students with a specific focus of English study (English for business, engineering, etc.).

The IEI is housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is a member of the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP) and the University Consortium of Intensive English Programs (UCIEP). UCIEP's 2012 external evaluation of the IEI summarized its findings this way: "The IEI program is to be congratulated for continuing to exemplify the excellence that is a hallmark of UCIEP programs."

Mission

The primary mission of the IEI is to enable international students to gain proficiency in the use of the English language for academic, professional, or other purposes. In addition, the IEI advances the campus missions of teaching, research, and outreach by supporting graduate teaching assistants in their professional development, offering opportunities for faculty and graduate students to conduct research, collaborating with other campus units in their international partnerships, and implementing programs designed to connect Illinois students and community members with international students in our program.

To achieve our primary mission, the Intensive English Institute provides:

- A challenging and supportive instructional environment for all learners, with an emphasis on preparing students to succeed in an academic environment;
- Experienced faculty who have strong academic credentials and continue to pursue professional development opportunities;
- An up-to-date curriculum which reflects student needs as well as the latest developments in ESL teaching methodologies, technology, and materials development;
- Opportunities for students to experience campus and American culture and engage in communicative language practice.

The IEI fulfills its additional missions by providing:

- A robust professional development program for graduate teaching assistants, including pre-semester orientations, supervision and support for teaching, formative and summative feedback, and financial support for attending professional conferences.
- A context for faculty and graduate students to conduct (approved) research on second language learning and teaching.
- Resources for campus units to develop programs with their international partners that include English language support and/or introductions to U.S., local, and campus culture.
- Structured programs (Conversation Partners and student internships) that enable campus and community members to develop relationships with students from all over the world.

People

In Spring 2013, the IEI has 189 students in its regular program (205 in Fall 2012). Approximately half are from Saudi Arabia; other countries represented include Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Kazakhstan, and other countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and South America.

The IEI has 16 full-time instructors, as well as a number of visiting instructors and teaching assistants. Our permanent faculty members all have MA degrees in Teaching English as a Second Language, and four have PhDs in that area.

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