



ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Supporting U-M's international students, building a more globally inclusive campus community

The English Language Institute (ELI) was established in 1941 as the first university-based English language research and teaching program in the United States. From its early days as a trailblazer in the audio-lingual approach to language learning, to its groundbreaking work in pronunciation teaching, genre analysis, and corpus linguistics, ELI has served as a model for virtually all higher ed ESL programs that have followed.

Today, the ELI delivers language, academic and intercultural instruction to students and scholars at the University of Michigan, thereby supporting a linguistically and culturally diverse campus that enriches the educational experience of domestic and international students alike. By collaborating with units across the university, ELI promotes an inclusive and welcoming climate in which all members of the U-M community experience a sense of welcome and belonging and feel confident that they have the support they need to excel in their scholarly, instructional, and professional endeavors throughout their time at Michigan and beyond.

The ELI is an independent department in the College of LSA that delivers a full range of credit-bearing academic English courses for international students in all U-M colleges and schools. The ELI also offers a comprehensive program of language and pedagogy courses for prospective and current graduate student instructors (GSIs), ESL/EFL teacher education courses for U-M students interested in teaching English in local communities or abroad, and full-time summer intensive programs for graduate students who have been accepted into degree programs at the University of Michigan. Additional ELI support services include one-on-one writing and speaking tutoring; courses for visiting scholars, researchers, faculty, staff, and postdocs; and a volunteer Conversation Circles program that provides opportunities for international members of the U-M community to practice speaking English in an informal setting and expand their knowledge of U.S. culture.

ELI CONVERSATION CIRCLES PROGRAM

For over 40 years, the English Language Institute's Conversation Circles have been bringing international students and scholars together for weekly conversations and cultural exchange led by volunteer facilitators who are all U-M students and faculty. Since 2021, we have enhanced the impact of this program through annual fall and spring gatherings that bring together up to 60 circle participants and facilitators for social networking, stress relief, and community building. ELI receives no dedicated funding for the Conversation Circles program, so we rely on grants, gifts, and support from friends and alumni to fund these engaging experiences. Funding of \$2,000 - \$4,000 annually will provide stable funding FOR two annual Conversation Circle social events and additional training and support for facilitators.

IMPACT



Conversation Circles programming makes a difference in the lives of everyone involved and benefits participants across areas of their lives.

In the words of a recent participant, "I improved my social skills by attending the circles. I no longer feel embarrassed to talk with people that I do not know. I also learned about American culture, including food, cards, and college life."

And facilitators find their time to be equally rewarding. "I had the great opportunity to meet people from all over the world and hear and learn from their experiences. It was an enriching journey getting to know about all of them and bond over our similarities. I became a more knowledgeable and open person, and they all helped make that happen. With each meeting I felt lighter. It was such a happy and fun time and has left me with six new friends."

JOHN M. SWALES GRADUATE WRITING CLINIC

ELI's Graduate Writing Clinic provides one-on-one writing support to all members of the U-M community, including international students, faculty, staff, and scholars. Writing Clinic consultants provide feedback on any type of academic and professional writing at any stage of the writing process from brainstorming, outlining, drafting, to final polishing. Their goal is to provide guided help that enables students to establish a process for lifelong development of writing skills and become more flexible, independent writers of English. In Spring 2024, ELI renamed the Graduate Writing Clinic in honor of U-M Professor Emeritus John M. Swales, in recognition of his long service to ELI as director, and his ongoing mentoring of graduate students and faculty at the ELI and beyond.

ELI seeks to build on Professor Swales' legacy by enhancing the impact of the Graduate Writing Clinic with a peer-support network of Graduate Writing Fellows from targeted disciplines in the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and engineering who have demonstrated success at writing in their fields. Funding of \$20,000 – \$30,000 will support the establishment of this program and for ELI faculty to provide Fellows with ongoing training and mentoring.



WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

for what's next ▶

Look to Michigan

LSA Advancement // College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
309 Maynard Street, Suite 200 // Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2273
P. 734.615.6333 // F. 734.647.3061 // lsa.umich.edu/eli