1. What can I do with an MA-TESL degree after graduation?

2. Do I need teaching experience?

3. Do I need to speak a language other than English to teach ESL/EFL?

4. Can I teach ESL/EFL if English is not my first language?

5. Do I need an education degree to major in TESL?

6. Does the MA-TESL also provide teacher certification?

7. What kind of study abroad programs do you offer?

1. What can I do with an MA-TESL degree after graduation?

Commonly MA-TESL students will gravitate toward the field of education. If you are interested in working in education, it's important to decide what age group you are interested in working with. Some of our students are currently full-time teachers in grades PRE-K-12. They are always willing to share information with those who may not be familiar with the world of education. For more information about teaching PRE-K-12 here in San Antonio visit the Region 20 website.

We also have students in our program who have taught abroad in places like Mexico, Thailand, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, and Cambodia. Those who are interested in teaching abroad will find this MA program especially well suited to their needs.

In general, a Master's degree will allow you to teach in community colleges in the US, and a variety of schools and colleges overseas; it will also provide you with training considered useful for various government jobs or jobs such as technical writing. For more information about teaching English in the US or abroad visit the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) website.

Here are some other websites you can go to for more information on overseas ESL jobs:

- http://www.state.gov/
- http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/index.htm
- http://www.overseasjobs.com/
- http://www.tefl.com/
- http://www.eslcafe.com/

Other teaching opportunities worth exploring include the English Language Fellow Program, Peace Corps, and Teach for America. Students have also gone on to work with curriculum development, professional development, assessment development, and materials (textbooks) development.

There are currently job opportunities available to MA-TESL grads that involve working for the government. The Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC), located here in San Antonio is part of the US Air Force division, and the Department of Defense. Teachers
working here usually have an MA-TESL or some other teaching experience. For more information about working for the DLIELC or the Department of Defense (DoD) visit their website.

The University of Texas at San Antonio also offers career services at the UTSA Career Center. This office provides job search information, counseling and many resources on how to identify what area(s) you're interested in pursuing. They also assist in resume/cover letter/ CV preparation, interview preparation, job fairs, and an online job search. The Career Center also provides a series of invaluable workshops on interviewing skills, resume, writing, researching jobs and so forth.

Another option for MA-TESL grads is doctoral studies. MA-TESL graduates who decide to pursue a PhD, have applied for positions in the areas of

- Anthropology
- Applied Linguistics
- Culture, Literacy, and Language
- English Literature
- Foreign Language specializations
- Law
- Library Science
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Speech & Hearing
- TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

This is not a complete list! Feel free to talk to an advisor or any professor in the department about other areas you're interested in.

2. Do I need teaching experience?

No prior teaching experience is required to begin the MA-TESL degree. Students who have no previous teaching experience will take Internship in English as a Second Language (ESL 6943). The courses you take as part of your program of study will provide you with the teaching skills you need to work effectively with learners of English.

3. Do I need to speak a language other than English to teach ESL/EFL?

Speaking a second language is not necessarily required to enter the field of TESOL, but it is beneficial, in general, to have learned another language and to know another culture. If you are living and working in a non-English-speaking country, you may not be required to speak the host
country’s language, but you will likely find your stay more comfortable and rewarding if you learn the local language.

4. Can I teach ESL/EFL if English is not my first language?
Certainly! Some ESL/EFL employers may prefer someone who is proficient in both the students' native language and in English or someone who has had the experience of learning English as a second language. The Tomas Rivera Center for Students Success offers a wide array of academic support that includes additional help with writing composition, study skills development, time management, etc. They also offer a variety of workshops that cover everything from effective study habits to writing skills. The Writing Center also offers tutoring services for those seeking additional help with writing. You can also visit the ESL services.

5. Do I need an education degree to major in TESL?
No, we accept many degrees from different backgrounds. In fact, we encourage diversity in our student population since it allows for more holistic learning experience.

6. Does the MA-TESL also provide teacher certification?
The MA-TESL is usually the only certification one needs to teach in adult university and community-based ESL programs in the US and international ESL/EFL programs. As another option, the MA-TESL-C track provides initial EC-6 teacher certification for teaching in Texas public schools.
The TESL-C degree program provides candidates with the opportunity to acquire a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Teaching English as a Second Language and initial certification in early childhood through 6th grade general education.

UTSA also offers Post-Baccalaureate Certification Plans for ESL and bilingual, and other certification areas. Information about Teacher Certification Programs is available here.
And information about Post-Baccalaureate Certification Plans is available here.
There are also a number of non-university alternative teacher certification programs in San Antonio. Note, these programs are only valid for Texas K-12 teacher certification. Each state has its own teacher certification regulations and programs.

7. What kind of study abroad programs do you offer?
The College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) currently offers four study abroad opportunities to the following countries: Mexico, Thailand, and Costa Rica. These are programs that take place during the summer semester and count as credit for elective or another approved
course. For more information about this and other study abroad opportunities visit the COEHD website and the UTSA Office of International Programs.