

PROJECT EXPECTATIONS FOR TESOL

The following criteria will ensure that TESOL MA projects will be of high, graduate-level quality:

1. All projects require approval in advance by the student's graduate advisory committee, consisting of a chair and two other members.
2. The project must have a practical orientation and meet a demonstrated, real-world need. A rationale for its existence must be supplied by the student.
3. The nature and purpose of the project should be congruent with the strengths, interests, activities, and/or needs of the BYU Linguistics Department and its faculty.
4. The project must clearly demonstrate a thorough, holistic understanding of current theory related to it. It should also require a synthesis of relevant concepts within that theoretical framework. In other words, the development of the project should clearly be an exercise in critical thinking.
5. The project development process must include a needs analysis, market survey, pre-testing (to establish baseline performance), and/or a review of relevant literature. The results of these processes will be submitted to the student's advisory committee in the form of a prospectus that includes a rationale, statement of methods, and proposed timeline and budget for the project.
6. The project must result in a tangible product of some sort. This product may be in whatever format the advisory committee deems most appropriate—a written report, a portfolio, a curriculum, instructional software, an assessment instrument, etc.
7. In addition to development, the project experience must also involve the evaluation of its outcomes. This evaluation will include qualitative or quantitative analysis.
8. When human subjects are involved in the piloting and assessment of the project, appropriate procedures must be followed and approvals from BYU's Human Subjects Committee must be obtained.
9. Elective courses on the student's study list will be determined in consultation with the student's graduate advisory committee and reflect the nature of that student's project.
10. Any of various technology-based or traditional media will be allowed (with the completion of corresponding coursework, e.g., IP&T 665 for a video-based project).
11. For the project to receive final approval, its development must be completed (i.e., not just partially done)
12. For the project to receive final approval, work must be finished (i.e., of publishable quality), not rough.
13. The project product must be functional and usable in the real world.
14. The project development process may include a relevant field experience, which may take place in either a domestic or international setting. Such experiences must be approved in

advance by the student's project advisory committee. A maximum of 9 hours of Ling 696R Academic Internship credit may be earned in this way and applied toward the MA in TESOL. These credits may be earned two, three, or four credits at a time; such an approach may be advisable in the case of some local experiences. Students are expected to do 45-60 hours of work for each credit hour of Ling 696R earned. Student learning in these experiences must be assessed and documented. A separate set of in-house documents provides additional details regarding the criteria and guidelines for these field experiences.

15. A final report on the project (including a demonstration of it, when appropriate) must be delivered in Ling 695.
16. When completed, the project must be presented and defended before the student's project advisory committee.

Ten Examples of Possible TESOL MA Projects

1. Designing an ESL/EFL program for use in a specific situation in Latin America, setting it up, operating it, assessing its effectiveness, and making recommendations based on that assessment.
2. Developing an ESL/EFL teacher training program and related materials, piloting them, and assessing their effectiveness.
3. Developing software for computer-assisted language learning and assessing its effectiveness and usability.
4. Creating and piloting a computer-adaptive English language examination and analyzing the items in it as well as its overall effectiveness and usability.
5. Developing the curriculum for an ESL/EFL program (including needs analysis, goals and objectives, syllabus design, methodology, materials, and both formative and summative evaluation).
6. Training and supervising undergraduate interns involved in teaching English to speakers of other languages and documenting the outcomes of this process.
7. Developing "low-tech" language-teaching materials for use by ESL/EFL learners in settings where computers and other high technology devices are not available.
8. Devising, producing, and assessing the effectiveness of diglot-weave materials for language learning.
9. Developing Web-based modules for teaching and/or testing English language skills, piloting these modules, and assessing their effectiveness and usability.
10. Conducting a thorough, in-depth, professional-quality evaluation of an existing program for teaching English to speakers of other languages and then writing and submitting an extensive written report describing the processes and outcomes of the evaluation.

Sample Course Tracks for TESOL MA Projects of Different Types

Development of a Language Examination

Ling 660 Language Testing (3 cr.)

Ling 698R TESOL Master's Project (3 cr.)

Ling 695 TESOL Seminar (1 cr.)

IP&T 563 Measurement Theory (3 cr.)

IP&T 654 Computers in Educational Measurement (3 cr.)

Additional elective courses selected by the candidate and advisory committee (6 cr.)

Development of Print-based Instructional Materials

Ling 678 Advanced Materials Development (3 cr.)

Ling 698R TESOL Master's Project (3 cr.)

Ling 695 TESOL Seminar (1 cr.)

Ling 677 Advanced Methodology (3 cr.)

IP&T 564 Instructional Design (3 cr.)

IP&T 655 Instructional Print Design and Production (2 cr.)

IP&T 662 Evaluation of Instructional Products (2 cr.)

Additional elective courses selected by the candidate and advisory committee (2 cr.)

Development of Instructional Software or Websites

Ling 678 Advanced Materials Development (3 cr.)

Ling 698R TESOL Master's Project (3 cr.)

Ling 695 TESOL Seminar (1 cr.)

IP&T 564 Instructional Design (3 cr.)

CHum 489R Humanities Computing Project *OR* IP&T 560 Microcomputer Materials Production (3 cr.)

IP&T 662 Evaluation of Instructional Products (2 cr.)

Additional elective courses selected by the candidate and advisory committee (4 cr.)

Development of Instructional Videos

Ling 678 Advanced Materials Development (3 cr.)

Ling 698R TESOL Master's Project (3 cr.)

Ling 695 TESOL Seminar (1 cr.)

IP&T 564 Instructional Design (3 cr.)

IP&T 665 Instructional Visual/Video Production (4 cr.)

IP&T 662 Evaluation of Instructional Products (2 cr.)

Additional elective courses selected by the candidate and advisory committee (3 cr.)

Development of a TESOL Curriculum

Ling 678 Advanced Materials Development (3 cr.)

Ling 698R TESOL Master's Project (3 cr.)

Ling 695 TESOL Seminar (1 cr.)

Ling 677 Advanced Methodology (3 cr.)

IP&T 564 Instructional Design (3 cr.)

Additional elective courses selected by the candidate and advisory committee (6 cr.)