

ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES!

Beth Brewer - I studied Linguistics and TESOL and had a wonderful experience teaching at the ELC. I then decided that it was time for a new adventure and got my MBA. I'm so excited about applying the skills that I acquired as a linguist in a business setting! My background in linguistics has served me well and set me apart from others in the business world. My only advice is this: try something new!

Chris Rosenquist Williams - Don't ever underestimate the power of education. Going back to school is always a game-changer if you use that education to expand your world-view. Educated people use many different viewpoints to find answers to research questions, and innovation is frequently driven by inspiration received through study, thought, and discussion."

Jason Housley - I wish I could offer some reasonable advice, but there are just so many students with different goals, that I don't think I could say something to everyone. (Dr. Melby used to always ask me what I wanted to do after I graduate any time I asked him for advice, I think I know why...) Anyway, I would say: "Learn a programming language! If you don't enjoy it, then quit, but you won't know if you don't try." I had no idea that I would love programming so much until Dr. Melby told me to take a class that required it (he didn't realize that I didn't already know how to program...)

Heather's Torrie - to become involved in one of the regional TESOL affiliates to build leadership skills and networking.

Beth Firnges - My advice for current students is to enjoy getting your education, enjoy life along the way, and get all the teaching experience possible while you are a student. I did that and got a good job in this field. Many of my jobs/teaching experience as a student came through emails from the Linguistics department, so take the opportunities when they arise, it is worth it.

Sharon Tavares. - I would advise current students to not take professors for granted. By staying after class or utilizing office hours I was able to learn much more from my teachers than the limited class times would have allowed.

Meghan Aitken - My one piece of advice for any college student, but especially for a linguistics student, is to do an internship. In fact, do a bunch of them. Every summer do something different if you'd like. It will help you to figure out what you want to do with your degree and help you explore your future career options. It will also help you network, which is priceless. I wish I had done an internship every summer and explored more.

Eve Okura - join a research group as early as possible, and get a mentor--a professor who is doing things you are interested in. Ask if they have any research projects they'd like you to work on. Also, seek their feedback as you work on your projects. Their advice is invaluable. After talking with many BYU alumni who have gone on to other schools, I repeatedly hear that BYU has some of the most helpful, student-oriented faculty in the country. Benefit from their mentorship while you can.

Elena Shvidko - If you are a graduate student in the Linguistics Department, I encourage you to attend professional conferences and develop your professional network as much as you can. This will certainly help you in your future academic endeavors whether you decide to pursue your Ph.D. or work as a teacher. Best wishes to you all!

Robb McCollum - it's never too early to start applying for jobs. The experience Robb gained by applying for jobs (even those he was under-qualified and over-qualified for) helped him hone his interviewing skills and determine what type of job would best match his interests and goals.

Judy Ma – TESOL MA 2015 - Don't be afraid to ask for help; try to find out what your interests are and how they can go with your professors'; take advantages of the resources on campus. I wish I had known that I didn't have to be afraid. However, you never know until you take steps

Sara Smith – Ling MA – 2015 . I wish I had known to start slower with the coursework--I wanted to take all the classes I could fit, like I did as an undergrad, but I ended up getting burned out too early. I would tell a new grad student to do all their reading--you can't skate by without it like you did as an undergrad--and to make friends with their classmates, because they will become their greatest help and cheerleaders along the way.

Christian Wagner – Ling MA 2014 - I would not delay in selecting those professors who you feel would be the best advisers to you as you move forward with your thesis. Pick those that you know well and have good relationships with, but that also have specialties and interests in the areas of linguistics where you think your thesis might focused. Work closely with them and be in contact often on the progress of your thesis and the process will be much smoother and much faster than it would be trying to do it all on your own. They will gladly help you and guide you. I felt that my MA program went very well, even from the start, but I suppose I would have known that creating a thesis isn't really such a daunting project once you actually get going on it. It can, in all actuality, be one of the most fun things you have worked on during your entire education if you pick the right thing!

Tyler Snow – Ling MA 2015 Get as much computer experience as possible. No matter how you use your degree in the future, you'll probably be staring at a computer screen more often than you think