ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Help students keep up with today’s polylingual, multicultural society

In 21st century Australia many of our school students live in families where English is not the main or only language spoken. Often, these students will need extra support to help them get the best from their education.

In NSW public schools, teachers with special training work closely with such students to help them improve their English and literacy skills and their learning in all subjects.

As an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher you will provide targeted English language instruction to assist students from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds in developing English language and literacy skills throughout the curriculum. You will also support teachers in planning programs and teaching practices best suited to ESL students.

An ESL teacher may be expected to support students in a number of subject areas across the curriculum.

You should also use your special interests and talents to contribute to a wide range of school activities.

Getting there

To qualify as an ESL teacher you must be qualified as either a primary or secondary teacher and have completed an approved course of study in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). This may be undertaken through either undergraduate studies or a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

A number of higher education institutions offer approved postgraduate TESOL programs for qualified teachers, such as a Graduate Certificate in TESOL or Postgraduate Diploma in TESOL.

Further information about the requirements to become a teacher in NSW, including approved initial teacher education programs, can be found on the NSW Institute of Teachers website at www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au.