

A Guide to OCELT

The Professional Designation of
TESL Ontario Certified Members



OCELT

Ontario Certified English Language Teacher



OCELT: YOUR PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

Recognizing the professionalism and integrity of TESL Ontario certified teachers

TESL Ontario started the Standards and Certification Project in 1994 and completed it on March 31, 2001. The mandate of this project was to ensure that the TESL profession in Ontario maintained a high quality of instruction and adult ESL teachers were provided with ample professional development opportunities on a regular basis.

TESL Ontario certification has now become the industry norm in Ontario, and TESL Ontario certified teachers are being hired by both government-funded programs and private schools in Canada, and by international employers.

To enhance the recognition of TESL Ontario certification, in 2016, TESL Ontario began the registration process of OCELT (Ontario Certified English Language Teacher) as a professional designation and a certificate trademark, which was granted in early 2017.

OCELT PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION AND ITS PURPOSE

OCELT is an officially registered professional designation for TESL Ontario certified members in good standing

OCELT recognizes the professionalism and integrity of TESL Ontario certified teachers, and their commitment to the TESL Ontario Code of Ethics and high quality instruction. OCELT helps enhance respect for TESL profession and signifies that TESL Ontario certified members:

- have met TESL Ontario certification standards;
- have distinct knowledge and skills specific to teaching adult ESL;
- are qualified to teach in both government-funded and private programs in Canada, and in international settings;
- strive for excellence through academic inquiry, self-reflection, openness to new ideas and ongoing professional development; and
- belong to a community of highly educated, responsible and dedicated professionals who seek to further the best interests of the learners.

ABOUT TESL ONTARIO

TESL Ontario is a non-profit organization serving the needs of English language training professionals in Ontario.

Vision & Mission Statements

Vision Statement

To inspire professionals and learners through our role as a leading authority on English language education

Mission Statement

To provide support and direction to professionals, government bodies, and industry stakeholders involved in English language education

USING YOUR PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

You are an OCELT

Now that the TESL Ontario OCELT certification has become the industry norm in Ontario, we need to continue promoting OCELT as a symbol of professionalism in adult ESL teaching both in Canada and in international settings.

OCELT appears on TESL Ontario certificates and certified members' membership cards. TESL Ontario also uses OCELT in all references to its certified members on its website; in its paper and electronic correspondence with members, TESL training programs, ministries, and the public; and in its publications, conference name tags, and promotional material.

If you are a certified member of TESL Ontario in good standing, you are an OCELT. You are encouraged to use OCELT, your officially registered professional designation, consistently:

- on your business card;
- in your handwritten, typed, and email signatures;
- on PowerPoint presentations;



- on any books or research papers you author (e.g. Kevin O'Brien, OCELT or Kevin O'Brien, OCELT, MA TESL, B.Ed.);
- on application forms;
- at conferences, workshops, webinars, and social media; and
- when you introduce yourself to your students, colleagues and employers.

Use your professional designation as often as you can and let it become a common term in TESL profession both in Canada and in international settings.

*OCELT: A symbol of
professionalism in adult
language education*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is OCELT a permanent designation?

No, OCELT is not a permanent designation. You can use OCELT as your professional designation as long as your TESL Ontario certified membership is in good standing. If your certified membership lapses, you will not be eligible to use the designation. To regain your certified status, you can apply for certified membership reinstatement at any time.

Can OCELT be used by ESL teachers who work for private schools, ESL/TESL program administrators, or those who teach in foreign countries?

Yes. All individuals who maintain their TESL Ontario certified membership are eligible and are encouraged to use OCELT consistently.

Is OCELT officially registered?

Yes, OCELT is officially registered as a certificate trademark with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. This professional designation can be used only by TESL Ontario certified members in good standing.

Why do I need a professional designation?

OCELT distinguishes TESL Ontario certified teachers as highly educated and qualified practitioners who strive for excellence through academic inquiry, self-reflection, openness to new ideas and ongoing professional development. OCELT also enhances the recognition of, and the respect for, the adult ESL teaching profession and the crucial role it plays in the

success of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, refugees, and international students in Canada, as well as millions of students and professionals around the world.

Should my academic degree precede or follow OCELT on my business card?

Academic degrees should follow your professional designation. Here's an example:

Kevin O'Brien, OCELT, MA TESL, B.Ed.

Where do I use OCELT?

You are encouraged to put OCELT designation immediately after your name. Use it consistently on your business card; in your handwritten, typed, and email signatures; and on PowerPoint presentations, application forms, and any books or research papers you author. Introduce yourself as an OCELT to your students, colleagues and employers. Use OCELT at conferences, workshops, webinars, and social media. Use your professional designation as often as you can, and let it become a common term in TESL profession both in Canada and in international settings.

Can I still use OCELT as my professional designation if I have retired?

Yes, you can if you maintain your TESL Ontario certified membership.

If you have any questions, contact TESL Ontario at:

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or at **416-593-4243, ext. 205**

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