

## TESL Program Accreditation Practicum Standard

- 1.1. Each practicum student completes 30 hours of observation in at least two of the English language program types listed below and 20 hours of supervised practice teaching in one or more of the classes observed:

LINC, ESL, ELT, OSLT, EAP, ESP, standardized test preparation

Practicum students complete at least five prior hours of observation in the class they will teach to assure planning is grounded in an adequate sense of context.

- 1.2. All observation and supervised practice teaching hours are completed through TESL Ontario accredited training providers in English language programs located in Canada.

Practicum simulations in teacher training contexts (e.g., in a methodology course) do not count as PD hours.

- 1.3. No more than half of the required practicum hours (i.e., 15 hours of observation and 10 hours of supervised practice teaching) can be completed in a virtual learning environment (VLE). All virtual observation and virtual supervised practice teaching (if any) are conducted synchronously.

Based on the English language classes available to them, accredited TESL training providers will determine whether their practicum course is to include any observation or practice teaching in a VLE.

Observation and practice teaching hours completed in HyFlex English language classes count as in-person practicum. In HyFlex course design mode, the teacher is required to be physically present in the classroom, but students may choose to attend the class in-person or join online-synchronously.

In a hybrid course, some sessions are held in-person, and some sessions online-synchronously. Observation and practice teaching hours completed during the online sessions of a hybrid course count as online practicum, and the observation and practice teaching hours completed during the in-person sessions count as in-person practicum.

- 1.4. Both observation and practice teaching components of the required practicum are completed under the direction of a TESL Ontario certified practicum supervisor and a qualified mentor teacher.
- 1.5. Qualified mentor teachers meet the degree and English language proficiency requirements of TESL Ontario OCELT certification, hold valid OCELT certification and have taught English to adult learners for a minimum of 2000 hours, including at least 1400 hours in Canada.

*Accredited training providers will make every attempt to fulfill Item 1.5. However, in exceptional circumstances where no mentor teachers are available who meet the required OCELT certification and teaching experience, accredited training providers may refer practicum students to mentor teachers who either hold OCELT certification, or have TESL training and teaching experience that equate to or exceed those outlined in Item 1.5.*

- 1.6. Classes that are observed or practice taught have at least five ELLs in attendance. ELLs are 16 years old and older.
- 1.7. Throughout the 20 hours of supervised practice teaching, each practicum student individually teaches the class.

Pair/group teaching or substitute teaching by practicum students does not count as supervised practice teaching hours.