Intensive Language and Culture and
TEFL Methodology Certificate
Program

Narrative

University of Missouri-Kansas City
Applied Language Institute
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
The Applied Language Institute (ALI)

The University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC)

UMKC, one of the four campuses of the University of Missouri System, is a public, state, comprehensive university that offers over 125 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels. Some 16,000 students including more than 1,000 international students attend UMKC. UMKC is a research intensive institution, and the Princeton Review named UMKC one of the Top 75 "Best Value" public universities in the U.S. UMKC was ranked number one in the world for innovation management research by the *Journal of Product Innovation Management*. Located in the heart of Kansas City, UMKC is one of the country’s top 100 Green Campuses.

The Applied Language Institute (ALI)

The ALI is a department of UMKC’s College of Arts and Sciences, and as such it is fully accredited by the North Central Accreditation of Colleges and Schools. Every year, the ALI serves approximately 800 students from over 70 countries. In addition to providing comprehensive English as a Second Language programs, the Institute offers courses and workshops in Language Acquisition, Cross-Cultural Interaction and Experience, ESL/EFL Teacher Education Certificate, and Short-term ESL and Professional Development programs.
Intensive Language and Culture  
Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)  
Certificate Program

This program is designed for a 6-week intensive English language, United States (U.S.) culture, and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) methodology Teacher Education Course. In order to qualify for this program, participants must have a high-intermediate/low-advanced level of English proficiency.

Teachers will receive two hours of language and culture instruction daily in the morning, and two hours of teaching methodology, and applied theory and practice per day in the afternoon. In addition, a practicum experience consisting of ESL classroom observation and lesson presentation will be included, bringing instruction to a total of 6 hours per day. Social and cultural activities will be incorporated into their academic program as part of the United States Culture class.

Course Objectives:

- Improve overall knowledge of the English language, including the development of a deeper understanding of English usage and meaning in context
- Gain basic insights into U.S. culture.
- Understand and discuss key concepts in the study of culture and language and their implications for communicating, teaching and learning second language in and out of the classroom.
- Examine and identify key issues relative to cross-cultural, linguistic, and academic diversity in U.S. education.
• Identify, describe and compare multiple approaches to second/additional language instruction.
• Identify, describe and compare the major theories of second language acquisition.
• Connect concepts concerning second language acquisition to second language teaching.
• Identify and use pragmatic, alternative modes of language assessment that focus on active production of language.
• Use classroom management systems and tools such as Engrave and Blackboard.

Brief Description of the Teacher Education Course

Language and Culture

United States Culture – EFL teachers will be instructed about current United States culture through thematic units that address major cultural issues in the U.S.A. today. Through readings and group discussions, students will form their own opinions concerning the different topics being discussed, and will express their ideas both in writing and through oral presentations. Some of the topics to be addressed in the language and culture portion of the course include but are not limited to:

Arts and Leisure, Intercultural Interactional Styles, Collectivism and Individualism
Behavior- verbal and non-verbal, Marginalization & Privileges Minority Identity Model, Civil Rights, Education, Family, Myths and Folklore, Parties and Festivals, Recreation, Religion and Superstitions, Social Order & Politics, and Sports.

Methodology and Applied Theory:

Teachers will become acquainted with the latest teaching and assessment methodologies used by English as a Second/Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) and bilingual education programs in the
United States. Workshops will include student-centered, cooperative language learning methods, internet and technology in language teaching, reading and writing skills, maximization of students’ oral output and proficiency, and computer assisted language teaching.

Participating teachers will have the chance to observe Applied Language Institute instructors working with a multilingual and multicultural student population, and to do their practicum in the ALI. The ALI is a two-site program housed both at a university and a community college. As such, EFL teachers will be able to observe experienced instructors working with very different student populations with varying degrees of language, educational and cultural backgrounds.

In addition to their practicum experience at the ALI, visits to other local secondary and post-secondary Intensive English programs will be included. Social and cultural activities are normally included in all ALI programs, and they are an integral part of the U.S. culture instruction.

**Topics to be addressed in workshops include:**

**Advanced Grammar** - Participants will interpret and synthesize the most commonly used grammatical structures in the English language and will explore possibilities and ideas for pragmatic and communicative presentation of grammatical points to the students of English as a foreign language. The focus is to teach participants how to present new grammar points while making sure that students immediately apply the new concepts in communicative, interactional modes at all times.

**Oral Proficiency Workshop** – Aims at instructing teachers on how to elicit from students language samples that are needed for communication in multiple settings and social situations, and that require students to use certain grammatical structures, and vocabulary components.
Cooperative and Collaborative Learning - focuses on presenting participants to ideas and techniques that guide students on how to capitalize on one another’s resources and skills and actively interact both in face-to-face conversation and in computer discussions (online forums, chat rooms, etc.).

Computer Assisted Language Learning Workshop – aims at introducing teachers to some of the most effective computerized language learning programs and techniques. Further the workshop is designed to provide teachers with ideas and insights on using these programs in their language classroom. Participants will be encouraged to set up communication systems through e-mail and chat rooms between Applied Language Institute students and their students in Brazil.

Writing Skills Workshop – teachers will be instructed on the use of various instruments designed to produce written work from English language learners, and on the evaluation of students’ writing skills. The workshop will focus on the western style of academic writing.

Pragmatic Assessment and Evaluation - participants will be exposed to ways to assess students’ ability to produce language both in speech and in writing. Traditional forms of assessment will be challenged and pragmatic, alternative assessment modes and theories explored.

Practicum Experience at the ALI and local public schools – teachers will be able to see teaching methodologies in action, and then have a classroom session to evaluate and discuss their observations. Participants are expected to design and present a lesson applying the newly acquired classroom theories.

At the end of the program, a dinner and jazz celebration will be organized and participants will be awarded Certificates of Completion.
Program Logistical Details:

**University Facilities:** Participants will be matriculated UMKC students. As such, they will have access to all university facilities that include a large Gym with a heated year-round swimming pool, cafeterias, computer labs, and libraries.

**Transportation:** Transportation to and from the airport, and to organized social and cultural activities will be arranged. UMKC is centrally located and participants will be able to walk to a nearby shopping and dining area that include a multiplex cinema and many other activities. In addition, Teachers can ride city buses to a number of places of interest in the city. The ALI will provide all participants with a complete list of local places of interests and bus routes and schedules.

**Housing:** Two alternative housing options will be available for this six-week program: hotel and homestay.

**Hotel:** The hotel selected for this program is located within walking distance from campus. In addition, the hotel will provide a shuttle for participants to and from campus. Two teachers of the same sex will share a room. Every room includes a small refrigerator, and free wireless internet connection.

**Homestay:** The Applied Language Institute has had its own homestay for the past 16 years, and students truly appreciate the experience of living with a U.S. family, and having to practice their English skills, in and out of the classroom, 24 hours per day. Students in homestays will have a private room, comfortably furnished, and they will eat breakfast and dinner at home. Lunch can be bought at the UMKC cafeteria. All of the ALI homestays are within walking distance from campus, or no more than a 20 minutes bus ride from campus. If the homestay is far from campus, the host is responsible for providing transportation to and from UMKC.
Meals: all meals will be provided and are included in the budget.