

# English as a Second Language

## CERTIFICATE

### Why study English as a Second Language?

Is English not your first language?

Do you have trouble communicating in English?

Do you have difficulty understanding or speaking?

Do you need to meet prerequisites for another program?

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Whatever your situation, there are many reasons why you might take UFV's English as a Second Language certificate program. You may be new to Canada or not. You may be coming back to school later in life. UFV's certificate in English as a Second Language is the perfect opportunity for you to expand your personal network and give yourself an excellent immersion into Canadian culture.

While studying in the program, you will have the opportunity to increase your confidence interacting with native English speakers (socially or in the work environment). You may be well educated in your mother tongue: let your knowledge shine in English too.

You may have completed the ELSA program and want to continue to advance your English and earn a certificate for your studies.

This is also a perfect opportunity for you to meet people from all over the world, make new friends, and avoid social isolation.



*“If English is not your first language and you are interested in studying at UFV, come and see us. We’ll advise you on the best way to get to where you want to go.”*

— MARIA BOS-CHAN  
ESL department head.

# ESL certificate



*“I was a French teacher in Haiti but I always wanted to be a nurse. After taking all four levels of ESL at UFV, I am now applying to nursing school — in English! If I can do it, so can you!”*

—GERDA FEVRIUS, ESL graduate, 2007.

## WHY STUDY ESL AT UFV?

UFV offers the region’s only comprehensive, academic ESL program. UFV is an accredited, public university, founded in 1974. We have your interests in mind. There are many levels of ESL to choose from: two intensive levels and six multi-skill levels.

## WHAT UFV CAN OFFER YOU

Our program provides instruction in all skills and all levels of English language training. You can pick and choose the courses to take so they will match perfectly with your individual skills.

Meanwhile, because we know that you have a life outside of school, we offer part-time, flexible programming with classes year-round, daytime and evening. We do our best to fit your education into your busy schedule. And our student base is large enough so that we can offer specialized programming to suit everyone’s proficiency level.

Once you enter the program, you’ll quickly discover that you won’t be just with people who speak your native language: we build diverse classes so that everyone learns. Our instructors offer continuous, free, in-depth assessment (using a nationally recognized system) and will recommend a personalized, customized program just for you. We do not believe in “one size fits all” programming.

Our university also offers a fast-track program for advanced learners and there are opportunities for practicum experience for learners, including the chance to visit academic classes where you can practise taking notes.

If you can’t decide on a place to learn English, then you should ask yourself (and the school) these questions:

- Is this a “separate skill” program?
- Can I target my specific weaknesses (e.g. speaking, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, pronunciation, writing, listening?)
- Is this school accredited?
- Does the school offer specialized electives for ESL students (e.g., music, film, drama, TOEFL, business, accent reduction)
- Does the school have a lab?

UFV offers a 24-station language lab dedicated to ESL learners and staffed by a specialist in educational technology. It has special software to help you practise all skills. Classes have lab components.

One final note: UFV’s ESL departmental staff is multi-lingual. We can help students in the following languages: Dutch, German, Italian, French, Korean, Punjabi, Hindi, Spanish, Arabic, and Czech.

## WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

### UFV OFFERS SIX LEVELS OF ESL CLASSES:

Pre-Intermediate (Level 30)	You will learn all aspects of basic English. You will read, write, speak and listen.
Intermediate (Levels 40 and 50)	You will improve your spoken and written English. You will increase your vocabulary.  You may want to take the phonics course or one of the pronunciation courses at this level.
Advanced (Levels 60 and 70)	You will further improve your reading and writing. You will develop a better knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. You will continue to improve your listening and speaking.
Bridge/Academic (Level 80)	After completing this level, you will have the same level of English as students who finished Grade 12 in high schools in Canada.  Students who plan to take university courses or enter diploma programs should complete Bridge level 80 ESL courses. These courses are a prerequisite for entry into some UFV programs. Our transition program allows students to take this level at the same time as some mainstream academic courses at UFV.

**If you choose to study full-time, you can complete one level per semester.**

ESL grads at UFV often carry on to the following programs, choosing to continue their education with us: Nursing (BScN, LPN), Business, Criminology, Communications, Computer Information Systems, Engineering Transfer, Early Childhood Education, Fine Arts, Resident Care Attendant, Dental Hygiene, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Office Assistant, and Teacher Education.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

You must be 19 years old and a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, or possess a valid working or student visa. You will be given an appointment for an assessment of your English to determine which classes would best suit you. After you have completed the application and assessment process, you will be given permission to register. At this time, you will be given an appointment to register.

## WHO WILL BE TEACHING ME?

The instructors in UFV's ESL department are qualified, experienced, and committed teachers. All are trained in ESL, and some have specialized in linguistics, teaching English as a Second Language, educational technology, and language. Faculty members are also very familiar with and respectful of cultural adjustment issues, accommodating special circumstances where required. Most also have broad international experiences: for example, faculty members have taught in Vietnam, Japan, India, China, Guatemala, Sudan, and Burkina Faso.

They live in the Fraser Valley and can give advice on navigating our local communities. Many are from immigrant families themselves and can share their connections with different community groups.

## CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit. Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at [www.ufv.ca/plar](http://www.ufv.ca/plar) or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or [susan.brown@ufv.ca](mailto:susan.brown@ufv.ca).

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

You need to budget about \$170 for each three-credit course. You will need to complete five courses to earn one certificate; usually that takes one semester. You also need to consider the \$45 application fee and some ancillary fees. There are no fees to use the language lab. Books will cost about \$75 a course but most can be sold back to the campus bookstore once you've completed your studies. Many courses have no required textbooks.

Students can apply for ABESAP funding, which is based on financial need and covers tuition and supplies. There are some scholarships and bursaries available for ESL students — you can find out more information at UFV's student services offices.

## WHEN SHOULD I APPLY AND WHEN CAN I START?

Apply anytime, year-round. Classes start in September, January, and May. We can help you complete your application form if you come in for a visit.

## SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Visit [www.ufv.ca/esl](http://www.ufv.ca/esl) to learn more. Call us at 604-854-4581 or toll-free at 1-888-504-7441 local 4581 and ask to speak with Dorine or Balraj. You can also email us at [Dorine.Garibay@ufv.ca](mailto:Dorine.Garibay@ufv.ca) or [Balraj.Sumra@ufv.ca](mailto:Balraj.Sumra@ufv.ca).

## CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

We want to hear from you! If you're unsure of your direction, visit [www.ufv.ca/MarCom/Campus\\_Tours](http://www.ufv.ca/MarCom/Campus_Tours) or email [recruiter@ufv.ca](mailto:recruiter@ufv.ca) to arrange a tour. You can also contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to attend a Becoming a Student info session, connect with an Educational Advisor, or arrange for career counselling.

## WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL I HAVE?

At UFV, you will get support in and outside the classroom. We have a large International Education department at UFV and you'll be welcome to take advantage of what it has to offer.

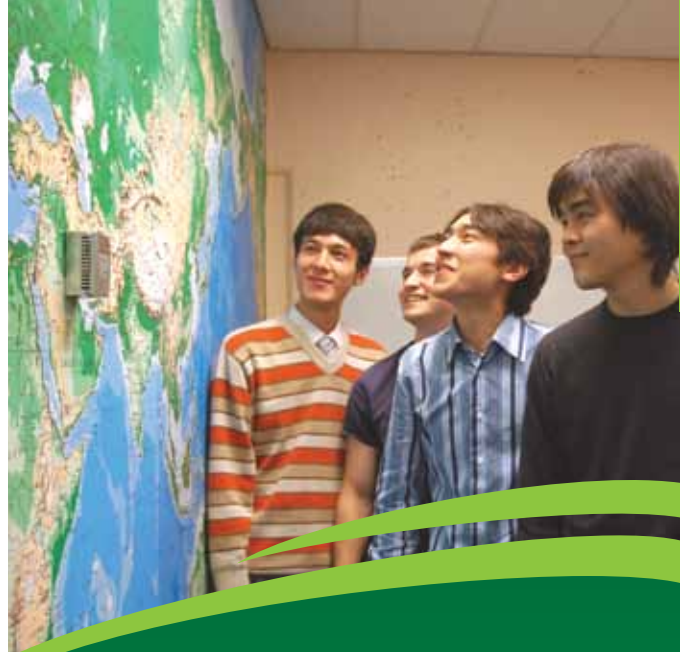
At UFV we can also offer you;

- Student Services
- Disability Services
- Writing Centre
- Library
- we offer ESL-specific counselling services and can offer referrals to different agencies in the region.
- we also try to accommodate local school schedules if you have to drop off or pick up children.

For more information about support and student services at UFV, you can also visit [www.ufv.ca/student-services](http://www.ufv.ca/student-services) to find out more about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to [www.ufv.ca/esl](http://www.ufv.ca/esl) for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



## About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at [www.ufv.ca](http://www.ufv.ca).

