English Language Foundations

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Overview

We designed the English Language Foundations (ELF) program for learners whose first language isn't English. Our aim? To help you improve your English skills. Many students choose ELF as a way into SAIT career programs.

Admission

We'll place you in the program based on your current English skills. We use tests like the Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to assess your abilities.

Language foundations curriculum

We're here to give you a strong language foundation. We work on speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. There are seven levels, each with two courses - one for reading and writing, the other for listening and speaking.

Flexible class times

Six start dates a year, eight-week terms, full-time or part-time options. Please get in touch with us to learn when we're running offerings for these courses.

SAIT reserves the right to cancel a course up to two weeks before the semester starts should the course not meet the minimum number of requirements.

Skill development

Your learning experience will be customized to your abilities, so you'll progress based on your skills. We'll assess you through classroom assignments, participation, and exams. If you get at least a 50% (D) in all subjects, you can move up to the next level.

Completing ELF Level 5 courses meets the English proficiency pre-requisite for admission into most SAIT academic programs, saving you time and effort.

Remember, SAIT career programs require strong English skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. ELF is a fast-paced program, so be ready to study and use English outside of class.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

To succeed in the English Language Foundations program, you need some key qualities and abilities, including:

- motivation and a strong desire to improve your academic skills and achieve your educational goals
- time management skills to balance coursework and other responsibilities
- self-discipline so you can stay focused while studying and completing assignments
- computer literacy
- study skills, how to take notes and prepare for exams.

Accreditations, designations and certifications

The ELF program is accredited through Languages Canada.

Specialized Intakes

This program is available to international applicants as a stand-alone program or as part of a program bundle - two programs delivered consecutively.

For details on available bundles including this program, see international bundle programs.

Admission requirements

To register for the English Language Foundations program, you must complete one of the following:

- A Canadian Language Benchmark Placement Assessment (CLBPA), or
- An ELF Proficiency Placement Test (ELF PPT), or
- An Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) assessment

Placement tests must be completed by four weeks before the beginning of a term.

English Language Foundations Placement:

Applicants' ELF placement is based on their CLBPA, ELF PPT or academic IELTS score.

Courses and Levels	CLBPA	ELF PPT	IELTS
Communication Foundations and Speech Foundations	2	2	2
Communication Fundamentals and Speech Fundamentals	3	3	3
ELF Level 1	4	4	3.5
ELF Level 2	5	5	4.0
ELF Level 3	6	6	4.5
ELF Level 4	7	7	5.0
ELF Level 5	8	8	5.5

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

The ELF program collaborates with LINC providers. Learners with a LINC Certificate of Completion and Learner Progress Report showing CLB 2-7 can be accepted into the ELF program as follows:

- CLB 2: Communication & Speech Foundations
- CLB 3: Communication & Speech Fundamentals
- CLB 4-7: Communications & Speech Levels 1-4

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

The estimated cost of tuition and fees is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

Domestic Students

Number of courses	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per semester
1	$714	$224.52	$938.52
2	$1,428	$276.54	$1,704.54

The estimated cost of tuition and fees for domestic students is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

International Students

Number of courses	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per semester
1	$1,503	$425.52	$1,928.52

Number of courses	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total per semester
2	$3,006	$477.52	$3,483.54

The estimated cost of tuition and fees for international students is based on the number of courses taken in a semester.

Books and Supplies

This is a bring-your-own-device program with a standard computer hardware and software requirement. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.

No textbooks are required for this program.