



# English Language Foundations

The English Language Foundations (ELF) program provides English language upgrading for learners whose first language is not English.

Students are placed into the program based on demonstrated proficiency in English, using the Canadian Language Benchmarks Assessment (CLBA) or the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#) examination. Most students use the ELF program as entry into SAIT career programs.

The ELF curriculum encourages development in all language areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

- Five-level program
- Six start dates per year (eight-week terms)
- Full and part-time studies; evening/weekend courses available
- Intensive, skills-focused approach
- Proficiency-based placement and advancement
- Completion of ELF 5 is accepted in lieu of English 30 for most programs at SAIT

ELF is a five-level program and each level has two courses: one in reading and writing (COMN), and the other in listening and speaking (SPCH).

## Full-time day language instruction:

- Two courses per week for eight weeks
- 22 hours per week in class, Monday - Friday, plus 15-20 hours of homework
- Courses available in the morning (8 am, 10 am) or afternoon (12 pm, 2 pm)

## Part-time instruction:

Day:

- One course per week for eight weeks
- 11 hours per week in class, plus 7-10 hours of homework
- Morning or afternoon courses available

Evening:

- One or two courses per week for 16 weeks
- Five hours and two evenings per week (2.5 hours each evening)
- Online registration available

## Program start and end dates\*

Full and part-time language instruction:

- Jan. 10 - March 4, 2022
- March 7 - April 29, 2022
- May 9 - July 1, 2022
- July 4 - Aug. 26, 2022

Part-time (evening) language instruction:

- May 10 - Aug. 27, 2021
  - SPCH course (Mon/Wed): May 10 - Aug. 25, 2021
  - COMN course (Tues/Thurs): May 11 - Aug. 26, 2021

\*Dates are subject to change

## International students

The [International Centre](#) provides assistance to international students interested in studying at SAIT. International students can take the English Language Foundations program in preparation for SAIT career programs.

## Is this the right fit for me?

Progress in the ELF program depends on the student's demonstration of proficiency. Instructors regularly assess student progress through classroom assignments, participation and examinations. Students who achieve a rating of 50% (D) in all subjects can be recommended for promotion to the next level.

ELF is a fast-track program. Students should be prepared to dedicate considerable time to study and actively use their English outside of class time. SAIT career programs require academic-appropriate English skills in all areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

## Admission requirements

### Application dates

Applications are accepted until the program start date but are subject to change.

- **Spring 2022 intake:** applications open June 14, 2021.
- **Summer and fall 2022 intake:** applications open Oct. 6, 2021.

### Admission requirements

To register for the English Language Foundations program, you must complete either a [Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment](#) (CLBA) and obtain a minimum score of 4 in all categories, or complete an [International English Language Testing System](#) (IELTS) and obtain a minimum band score of 3.5 in all categories. CLBA or IELTS tests must be completed at least one week before the course start date.

Testing information	
Course equivalents	

### Bridging pathways

Based on the English Language Foundations (ELF) equivalency policy, students who have successfully completed some level at either one of the SAIT pathway programs partners or other post-secondary academics English as a Second Language (ESL) programs may also be accepted. For more information, please contact the ELF office 403.210.4045 or [english.language@sait.ca](mailto:english.language@sait.ca).

### Are you interested in applying for the Business Administration program?

[English Language Foundations and Business Administration Plus](#) is a new admission option that allows **international applicants** who meet the academic requirements of the Business Administration diploma but do not meet the minimum English language

proficiency requirements.

## Direct entry: four step process (International students)

**Step 1:** Read the program information.

**Step 2:** [Apply](#) to English Language Foundations through Apply Alberta and select a start date.

- Admission will be extended on a first-qualified, first-offered basis until the program is full.

**Step 3:** Find out how to monitor your application status [after you apply](#).

**Step 4:** Once you receive your SAIT student ID number, schedule a CLBA by calling 403.210.4045 or email [english.language@sait.ca](mailto:english.language@sait.ca).

Please note: We recommend that you arrive in Calgary at least one week before classes start so you can complete the CLBA and receive your scores to register for courses.

## Domestic students

You can register for courses by emailing [english.language@sait.ca](mailto:english.language@sait.ca) directly without submitting an application.

## Costs 2022/23

### Domestic tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$228

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$6,840	\$916	\$553	\$8,047

### Domestic cost per course

Course credits	Course cost
3.0	\$684

### International tuition and fees

Cost per credit: \$491.17

Year	Number of semesters	Tuition fees	SAIT fees	Saitsa fees*	Total
1	2	\$14,735.10	\$916	\$553	\$16,204.10

### International cost per course

Course credits	Course cost
3.0	\$1,473.51

\*Maximum fee. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits a student takes per semester and whether they opt-out of health and dental benefits.

## SAIT fees

- Campus athletic and recreation fee: \$196
- Universal transit pass (Upass): \$320
- Student support fee: \$200
- Student technology fee: \$200

The above fees are based on a course load of nine (9) or more credits per semester. Students taking less than nine (9) credits per semester do not qualify for the UPass. Other fees will be adjusted based on reduced credit load.

## Saitsa fees

### Student Association fee

- Maximum: \$291

This is the maximum amount the student will pay. Actual fees may be less and are based on the number of credits the students take per semester.

### Health and dental fees

- Health plan: \$127
- Dental plan: \$135

Students with existing health and/or dental plans can opt-out. Please refer to [Saitsa's website](#) for information.

Students taking less than nine (9) credits per semester do not qualify for health and dental benefits.

For more information on health and dental benefits for international students, please contact the [International Centre](#).

### Books and supplies\*

For an estimate of the costs associated with purchasing a computer that meets the program's hardware and software requirements, see our [computers and laptops page](#).

Learn more about [tuition and financial aid](#).

\*Tuition, fees, books and supply costs are subject to change.