

BENEFITS TO TUTORS WORKING WITH THE LANGUAGE COMPANION COURSE

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Overview of Program

- Winter 2008—Pilot Program
 - TESOL Internship course
 - Tutor groups
- Fall 2008
 - Coordinator (TESOL graduate student)
 - 8 Individual tutors
 - TESOL graduate and undergraduate students

Overview of Program

- Winter 2009
 - TESOL graduate student coordinator
 - 15 tutors (4 from Fall 2008) studying
 - TESOL
 - English
 - English Language
 - Linguistics
 - Editing

Overview of training, feedback, & Monitoring

- Training—Students met for a 2-hour training session in a computer lab. Then students practiced on their own, with feedback from the tutor coordinator.
- Monitoring—The tutor coordinator answered questions and monitored the tutors' work throughout the semester.

Survey

1. How has being a tutor for the Language Companion Course enhanced your education for your major and/or minor?
2. What are the most important things you have learned from working as a LCC tutor?
3. Would you recommend that we continue this program so other BYU students can get this experience?

Increased Language Teaching Skills

- Teaching grammar
- Teaching writing
- Using technology
- Encouraging students to find answers themselves

Teaching grammar

- “ I have learned so much more about grammar since becoming a tutor. I have learned to give names to consistent errors that I see in student's writing.”
- “ Knowing which errors are more salient helps me be aware of areas I will need to target in my own ESL classroom. ”

Teaching writing

“I learned how to diagnose very specifically what the problems were in the writing--I had to be able to not just notice that it sounded wrong, but also had to figure out why and categorize it, and that taught me a lot.”

Using technology

“I have personally found [it] very interesting to have my work done online; this is the first time that I have [had] this kind of experience. I am not very computer savvy, but this Internship has definitely helped me to acquire and develop some computer skills that I probably didn't have before.”

Encouraging students to find answers themselves

“The most important thing that I learned as a tutor is how to lead students to the right answer without giving the answer away to them. While it would have been easier to simply tell them the right answer, it is much better for their learning experience to have to figure that out for themselves with a little guidance.”

Applied what they learned in a class to the real world

“When I first started this Internship, I was concurrently taking [a grammar class—English Language 325]. During these two semesters that I have been working as a language tutor, the LCC has helped me to actually apply the knowledge that I have acquired and reinforced through my linguistics classes.”

Applied what they learned in a class to the real world

“It is really rewarding and ultimately a greater learning experience for students to be able to apply their studies instead of simply reading and doing homework.”

Broadened their Perspective

- Possible settings for teaching in the TESOL field
- Different culture's teaching style
- Specific language issues for Chinese speakers

Possible settings for teaching in the TESOL field

“Not only did working with LCC give me some of the hours I needed [for my internship], but it gave me a different perspective of TESOL and what possibilities are available.”

Different culture's teaching style

“It also gave me a bit of insight concerning the teaching style of classrooms in [Hong Kong]: they are very demanding and the students very much want to learn! It made me happy and pleased to be studying TESOL.”

Specific language issues for Chinese speakers

“Since I speak Spanish it is easy for me to know what the common mistakes for Spanish speakers are, but since I don't speak Chinese this was a great way to better understand what a student that speaks Chinese will most likely struggle with.”

Gained Personal Skills

- Organizational Skills
- Time Management Skills
- Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Administration Skills
- Confidence

Organizational skills

“I've learned to organize myself so that I can get my homework done and at the same time correct the papers on time. It has really helped me to become more organized.”

Time Management Skills

“I really had to learn to manage my time properly because of how the paper schedule was structured.”

Interpersonal Communication Skills

- “Through the Blackboard, I have been committed to establish an effective “on-line” communication with my students. . .”
- “I have also had the opportunity to work with a supervisor or coordinator, which I never had before. . . . In this way, I have developed some interpersonal and communicational skills that I didn't possess before.”

Administration Skills

“ One of the most important things that I have learned is administration. I've had other experiences supervising in other jobs I have had, but nothing within the TESOL field. I have also given feedback to the tutors, which I found to be a little different than giving feedback to students.”

Confidence

“It gives me a sense of confidence, I feel much better able to help others with their writing now.”

Would they recommend continuing the program?

Unanimously YES

“It gives students the opportunity to experience another culture's teaching style, see what is expected as a tutor, and even learn if online teaching/tutoring is what they want. Internships are meant to give experience, to help students explore the environments and opportunities available through their course study. I think LCC certainly fulfills that demand.”

“ I highly recommend the program be continued. It provided me a great experience with authentic second language output. It helped refine my editing skills. I believe anyone fortunate enough to be an LCC tutor would likewise benefit from the experience. Being an LCC tutor has been a wonderful experience for me. It has made me more excited to teach ESL writing. I loved getting to work with authentic language and help the students improve their writing skills.”