
SIT Graduate Institute Admissions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, ACADEMIC ABILITY, career goals, cross-cultural experiences, ability to work well with others, adaptability, ability to analyze cross-cultural and professional experiences, and learning style are considered when reviewing an applicant's file. A variety of methods are used to assess these qualities, including essay, review of past academic performance, references, and personal interview.

SIT admissions counselors work with individual applicants from initial inquiry to arrival on campus. Their job is to assist prospective students with the admissions process and inform them of what they can expect from an SIT education and what SIT will expect of them as students.

Graduate Admissions

Application Checklist for Graduate Programs

- Signed application form
- Application fee
- Personal essay
- Official academic transcripts documenting post-secondary education
- Three references—no more than two may be from academic sources
- Specified documentation of sufficient English proficiency
- Interviews as requested

Admission Criteria

Master of Arts in TESOL

- US bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, or equivalent, demonstrating academic ability
- Relevant experience, including language learning and language teaching (minimum one year preferred)
- Intercultural experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to use previous experience as a source of learning
- An understanding of the structure and philosophy of the program

Summer Master of Arts in TESOL

- US bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, or equivalent, demonstrating academic ability
- A minimum of two years language teaching experience
- A position teaching ESOL during the school year prior to the first summer of coursework
- The same teaching position to return to between the two summers of coursework (the position must consist of at least 12 hours of classroom teaching each week for at least eight months, with a minimum of five students per class)

- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to use previous experience as a source of learning
- An understanding of the structure and philosophy of the program

All Other Degrees

- US bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, or equivalent, demonstrating academic ability
- Intercultural and professional experience
- Demonstrated ability to use previous experience as a source of learning
- An understanding of the structure and philosophy of the program

In addition to the above, applicants to the low-residency MA or Graduate Certificate in International Education are already practicing professionals in the field who meet the following criteria:

- Experience and familiarity with instructional technology, distance learning, and/or independent learning
- Demonstrated capacity for self-directed learning

Documentation of English Proficiency

Applicants whose first language is not English and who did not attend an undergraduate institution at which the language of instruction was English must take either the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Applicants taking the TOEFL must receive a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test. Applicants taking the IELTS must receive a score of band 6.0 or higher. These scores are considered the minimum proficiency needed to undertake graduate-level work. Scores must be dated within two years of the start date of the applicant's academic program. For the new Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT), SIT's operational standard for admission for applicants whose first language is not English and who did not attend an undergraduate institution at which the language of instruction was English is a minimum total score of 79. This includes section scores of at least 24 on the Writing section and 23 on the Speaking section. These section scores should be considered guidelines for recommended minimum scores on the new TOEFL exam.