



Welcome to Bristol summer 2017!

Dear Applicant

This year's MSc TESOL students are currently in full swing working on their dissertations – writing, collecting data and analyzing it – this is the culmination of a year-long programme. From a range of topics drawn from personal interest and their work on the programme, students are working hard to complete their dissertations. You too will be at this stage this time next year!

Who are your tutors at the Graduate School of Education

The TESOL tutors are a diverse group of researchers and practitioners that are research active and experts in the field of TESOL/Applied Linguistics. We have a 'gold standard' programme and our priority is to give you the best learning experience creating an environment that is focused on students' prior experiences in teaching and learning. We are members and leaders of research Centres and Networks in our areas of research. This is an important part of the culture at the School and you will be able to attend and participate in a range of research seminars, talks and activities that will enrich your time with us. Learn more about who we are by looking at our webpages:



Dr. Frances Giampapa (Director of the MSc TESOL programme)

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/person/frances-giampapa/overview.html>

Dr. Matt Kedzierski

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/matt-a-kedzierski/index.html>





Dr. Guoxing Yu

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/person/guoxing-yu/overview.html>

Transitioning to the ways of teaching and learning on the TESOL programme

You will find that on the TESOL programme we value the professional experiences and academic knowledge that you bring to your learning on the different TESOL units. You will find the autumn term to be very busy and full of new content. In the autumn term, you will be taking the core units: [Pedagogy and Curriculum in TESOL](#), [Second Language Learning](#), [Analysing Language for TESOL](#), and [Research Methods in TESOL](#). For many of you, these units will be full of new topics and content. Our classes are organized to build key knowledge about specific topics as well as work on different activities to explore issues related to TESOL/Applied Linguistics. Lectures are interactive with input as well as hands on activities. Your tutors will expect you to prepare by having read the key reading(s) for each session, by going through any pre-session material and tasks and by participating in group activities during each session. These are all important ways of making the most of your learning on the TESOL programme.

Teachers working together at the Graduate School of Education

Meeting new people and working across the Department is what many TESOL students have done this year. In the summer term MSc TESOL students have met with pre-service English teachers in training at the department. They have made friends and participated in a conference day to explore diverse issues in the teaching of English at UK schools. They have shared both models of practice and experiences and learned a lot about diversity in UK schools from our guest speaker Dr Justine Dakin. This conference was a hugely successful event that led to some MSc students being invited for a one-day visit to local schools. Visiting and finding opportunities to volunteer at local schools is something that this year's TESOL students have enjoyed.



Meeting with MSc TESOL Alumni: Maria Merino (Deputy Head at Ciudad Roma Bilingual School, Madrid Spain)

One of my great pleasures of being the MSc TESOL Programme Director is being able to keep in touch and meet with our TESOL alumni. On my many visits to Spain, I was able to meet with a former TESOL student, Maria Merino, who invited me to visit her school in Madrid. I had a wonderful time meeting with teachers and students in this sought after bilingual school. On asking her about why she decided to do the Masters in TESOL at Bristol she stated: *I wanted a course (that) could help me to improve my teaching and help me to be able to see teaching from a wider perspective. It (the programme) helped me to reflect on my teaching practice and to have a wider picture of different aspects of TESOL related to*



management, curriculum, pedagogy, evaluation and literacy which I have been able to apply to my professional and career development; and helping me in my actual job.

Our students' career and personal achievements are very important to us. We have a number of success stories of former students being recognized for their teaching and research. This is what we are very proud of at our Department. See what else our students say [here](#).

Become a student representative for TESOL!

This is an exciting opportunity to make a difference for yourself and fellow students. During Welcome Week, you will learn about becoming a 'student representative' – a highly valued role – that gives two people an opportunity to work with students and staff sharing student concerns and achievements. Your will include organizing student events – an equally important part of your new life in Bristol. We are looking for dynamic, and responsible people to take on this student leadership role – so if this is you then join in the process! As one of our past student representative has shared:

“Throughout the year, our interests in theory and practice were boosted by thought-provoking sessions, a wide range of study resources, and individualised feedback offered by the programme, to which I was happy to contribute as a student representative by gathering students' opinions and organising amusing events.” (Hiroshi Shirane, MSc TESOL student rep 2014)

Checklist of things to do before arriving

- **Apply for Accommodation** - The Accommodation Office is accepting [applications](#) from offer-holders who are commencing study in September 2017. University accommodation is very popular and the deadline of the end of this month (**31 July 2017**) is fast approaching.
- **Accept your offer** - The earlier we know the more preparation we can do for your arrival. If you have not already done so please [respond](#) to your offer of study.
- **Apply for a Visa (*International Students only*)** - If you are an international applicant now is the time to apply for your Tier 4 visa. Unconditional offer holders who have paid a [deposit](#) can request a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number. The University of Bristol has an excellent [International Office](#) and our colleagues there have vast experience in offering applicants advice and support. Contact details are available on the link above and we would recommend making use of their expertise.
- **Meet Any Conditions of Offer** - We appreciate that conditional offer-holders will meet their conditions at different points throughout the application cycle. Please ensure that as soon as you have the documents to satisfy a condition of offer that you get in touch [with us](#). We will then update your application accordingly.

Choosing to study with us will be one of the most enriching and rewarding experiences of your lives. I look forward to meeting you personally during Welcome Week in September. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any further advice or support.

Best regards,

Dr Frances Giampapa
Programme Director
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Graduate School of Education

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