

ESL Program for MIT Service Employees

The goal of the program is to build students' confidence, which in turns helps them become more productive in their jobs -- and could potentially lead to advancement in their work.

The students work the day, evening, and night shifts. Among our students, we have native speakers of Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Russian and Tibetan, but you do not need to know any language other than English to teach. Their skills and levels vary.

Classes and One-on-One Tutoring are offered to employees working the day, evening, and night shifts. The majority of students have one-on-one tutoring, receiving one hour off from work twice a week to attend at the following times:

Day shift: Usually 10-11 am

Evening shift: Mon/Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm

Night shift: Tues/Thurs. 11 pm-12 am

Although we try to cover basic grammar, reading comprehension, writing and speaking, these are NOT academic classes. No homework is expected or required. It is more important to establish a relationship with the students to help them develop confidence in their English communication skills.

Resources are provided, though the teacher is encouraged to use any materials s/he finds appropriate. We have books and other teaching materials at various levels and can purchase books for students and teachers as needed. The program has a Stellar site where you can find materials and links to websites with additional information. If you see a need for anything not provided, please just ask!

The time commitment for a regular tutor is for an hour-long class once a week. Time spent preparing for class will vary with the teacher. We have a list of substitutes and would appreciate, if possible, advance notice if you do need a substitute. If you are a substitute, please consider visiting a class (or classes) before being called to substitute. This is a good way to get to know the students ahead of time.

Questions? Please contact esl-admins@mit.edu.