

news

For Immediate Release

TESOL Contact: John Segota
Tel. 703-518-2513
E-mail jsegota@tesol.org

TESOL Revises Position on Independent Short-Term TESL/TEFL Certificate Programs

Alexandria, Virginia (July 2009) – At its recent meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved a revision to the association’s position regarding independent short-term TESL/TEFL certificate programs. Typically a full-time intensive program or a series of part-time online courses running 4–6 weeks or longer, short-term TESL/TEFL certificate programs often serve as an entry-level credential to the field of English language teaching.

As an entry-level credential to the field of English language teaching, completion of a short-term TESL/TEFL certificate program should not be confused or equated with teacher certification, which refers to the credentialing process that must be completed in order to teach in certain settings, such as public schools in the United States. TESOL recommends that independent short-term TESL/TEFL certificate programs be taught by qualified and experienced teacher educators in the field of English language teaching, provide a balance of theory and practice regarding pedagogy and methodology in second language acquisition, and offer minimum of 100 instructional hours, plus supervised practice teaching and classroom observation components.

TESOL’s full *Position Statement on Independent Short-Term TESL/TEFL Certificate Programs* is available at www.tesol.org.

###

Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of nearly 60,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 12,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL’s mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.