Summer English Language Program (ELP)

AUGUST 1 TO 18, 2016
PROGRAM HELD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO START OF THE FALL ACADEMIC TERM

Who should participate?
Incoming international graduate students

Why should international graduate students participate?
ELP offers an introduction to life at Harvard and to the United States as students activate their English language skills in preparation for beginning their graduate programs. This intensive program provides opportunities to develop professional communication skills, to explore campus and classroom culture at Harvard, and to foster connections and build community across disciplines. During ELP, international graduate students live in the GSAS Residence Halls, where they build close relationships with fellow program participants, create lasting friendships, and start to feel at home at Harvard.

How much does ELP cost?
Students live free-of-charge in GSAS Residence Halls. There is no tuition charge. Students are responsible for living expenses only.

Students should discuss participating in ELP with their graduate program or e-mail gsas-elp@fas.harvard.edu for more information.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is host to Harvard’s largest population of international students. Inside are selected resources designed to support this diverse community and smooth the transition to Harvard.

For more information, visit the GSAS website at gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/resources_for_international_students.php
Building Strong Communication Skills

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning
The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning promotes graduate student professional development in teaching, learning, and scholarly communication through a variety of programs. The Bok Center’s Professional Communication Program for International Teachers and Scholars offers seminars and workshops designed to help international graduate students improve their spoken language proficiency and their familiarity with common pedagogical approaches in the US (and especially at Harvard), as well as their cultural awareness and sociolinguistic competence. To learn more visit bokcenter.harvard.edu/international-tfs

Oral English Language Proficiency Requirement
GSAS requires that all incoming PhD students who are non-native English speakers and who have received their undergraduate degrees from non-English speaking institutions meet a minimum level of oral English language proficiency. This proficiency standard is important for classwork, research, and teaching and must be met before students are permitted to serve as Teaching Fellows. Students will be screened for oral proficiency in their first semester; if they do not meet the minimum required level, they will be advised to take classes in the Professional Communication Program for International Teachers and Scholars at the Bok Center. To learn more about this requirement visit handbook.gsas.harvard.edu/oral-english-language-requirement

The Bureau of Study Counsel
The Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC) offers services for graduate students to help them thrive in their academic life and learning at Harvard. The BSC provides counseling for academic and personal development, which gives students an opportunity to speak informally with a counselor for guidance in developing the skills and approaches necessary to learn effectively. Throughout the year, “The Bureau” also offers reading strategy courses and an English as a Second Language (ESL) Peer Consultation program for international students who are interested in improving their English language conversation skills. To learn more, visit bsc.harvard.edu

A Community of Scholars

GSAS Host Student Program
Each year, Dudley House and GSAS sponsor the annual Host Student Program to welcome incoming international students. Host students are continuing GSAS students who provide friendship to incoming international GSAS students as they make the transition to life in the United States and to graduate studies at Harvard. To learn more visit gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/host_student_program.php

Dudley House (the GSAS Graduate Student Center)
Numerous activities are offered at Dudley for students, including faculty talks, social events, language tables, sports, and musical ensembles. International students in particular benefit from these experiences because they are able to meet students from around the world and work on their English-language skills in informal settings. To learn more about offerings at Dudley House, visit their website at dudley.harvard.edu and sign up for the monthly mailing list.

GSAS Residence Halls and Resident Advisors
GSAS Residence Halls feature a large international student population and many Resident Advisors (RAs) originate from outside the US. These RAs plan ongoing and frequent activities for international students in the residence halls, such as sessions on “small talk,” “speaking in public,” and “coming to America.” International students should consider applying for accommodation in GSAS Residence Halls during their first few years of study. To learn more visit gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/gsas_residence_halls.php

International Student Orientation
August 23, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Emerson Hall 105
Students coming to the United States for the first time and those who are returning are invited to this pre-term orientation for international students. The event features a discussion with an advisor from the Harvard International Office about visa and immigration policies and procedures and a panel of continuing international students, who will share the cultural and academic adjustments they made when coming to the United States and to Harvard.