



## ST.PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



### 2015 Course Dates

- February 17
- May 4
- June 29
- August 24
- October 19

TEFL Program Course Fee: **\$2,550.00**

ELS is proud to announce, in partnership with Via Lingua, its 2015 TEFL Certification Program. ELS Educational Services is the leading provider of English programs on university campuses in the USA, with over 50 years of leadership in international education. The ELS TEFL Certification program, in partnership with Via Lingua is a thorough and up-to-date 4-week TEFL program that includes 130 hours of training and 10 hours of assessed teaching practice. The course is delivered through a combination of workshops, seminars and demonstrations designed to give you an active role as an ESL or EFL teacher in training.

### What sets the ELS and Via Lingua Program Apart?

**On-site, face-to-face:** You will learn in a classroom setting from certified trainers with years of experience.

**Student-centered:** You will receive personal and individualized attention in the classroom.

**Teacher Training:** Because your course will be conducted at an ELS location – either in St. Petersburg, Florida, or in Boston, Massachusetts – you will have ample opportunity to meet students of diverse populations and gain real teaching experience in classrooms of EFL learners, much like the students you will be qualified to teach when you complete your course.

**Cross-cultural component:** You will learn vital concepts and strategic skills needed to live and teach effectively abroad. This awareness will empower you to appreciate the similarities and differences between your culture and others and be more effective as a teacher.

**Earn graduate-level credits:** Graduates of the ELS TEFL Certification program can receive up to six graduate credits towards MA TESOL programs with our partner institutions: Hamline University (St. Paul, Minnesota) and St. Michael's College (Burlington, Vermont).

**Job guidance:** The Via Lingua job guidance program assists all successful graduates of our TEFL course in finding a TEFL teaching position.

## Course Requirements:

Be at least 21 years of age

Hold a minimum of an Associate's degree

Be able to demonstrate both written and oral competence in English sufficient for study in Higher Education

Non-native English speakers must submit a TOEFL® or IELTS score

In certain circumstances, non-degree holders will be considered for a place if their qualifications and/or experiences are regarded as being equivalent to the demands of a degree

## St. Petersburg, Florida

St. Petersburg is a city in Pinellas County, Florida, United States. As of the 2013 census estimate, the population was 249,688, making St. Petersburg the 5th most populous city in the state of Florida and the largest city in Florida that is not a county seat (the city of Clearwater is the county seat). St. Petersburg is the second largest city in the Tampa Bay Area, composed of roughly 2.8 million residents, making it the second largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in the state. It is also a popular vacation destination for both American and foreign tourists.

The city is often referred to by locals as St. Pete. Neighboring St. Pete Beach formally shortened its name in 1994 after a vote by its residents. St. Petersburg is governed by a mayor and city council.

The city is located on a peninsula between Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It is connected to mainland Florida to the north; with the city of Tampa to the east by causeways and bridges across Tampa Bay; and to Bradenton in the south by the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (Interstate 275), which traverses the mouth of the bay. It is also served by Interstates 175 and 375, which branch off I-275 into the southern and northern areas of downtown respectively. The Gandy Bridge, conceived by George Gandy and opened in 1924, was the first causeway to be built across Tampa Bay, connecting St. Petersburg and Tampa cities without a circuitous 43-mile (69 km) trip around the bay through Oldsmar.

With an average of some 361 days of sunshine each year, and a Guinness World Record for logging the most consecutive days of sunshine (768 days), it is nicknamed "The Sunshine City".

Due to its good weather and low cost of living, the city has long been a popular retirement destination, although in recent years the population has moved in a much more youthful direction. American Style magazine ranked St. Petersburg its top mid-size city in 2011, citing its "vibrant" arts scene.

## TEFL Training Center:

Our TEFL program is held at ELS St. Petersburg, located on the beautiful waterfront campus of Eckerd College. St. Petersburg is situated on Florida's tropical west coast and is well known for its beaches and yearlong great weather (361 days of sunshine each year). Only a five minute drive from the Center are 42 kilometers of white sand beaches and clear blue water. Additionally, there are eight world-famous theme parks and four water parks all within a 90 minute drive, including Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Florida, SeaWorld and Busch Gardens.

## Food and Clothing:



St. Petersburg, Florida is home to an incredible mix of cultures that denote themselves in the varied gastronomy of the city, which includes French, Chinese, Japanese, Cuban and of course American specialties.

Without question, one of the most popular universal dishes is the classic burger with cheese, or cheeseburger, with a unique flavor thanks to its mixture of beef, American cheese, tomato, mustard and ketchup. In St. Petersburg you can find a myriad of restaurants, especially in fast food. The ribeye is one of the most consumed beef steaks in the world and St. Petersburg is not the exception, since there are several steak houses serving it with the characteristic flavor that the grill gives to the meat; you can accompany it with your favorite drink, either soft drinks, beer, or even a glass of red wine to give an elegant touch.

Florida, with a large Cuban presence, makes it is possible to enjoy dishes from that country. Try a refreshing mojito prepared with rum, lemon, mint, club soda, and ice, or an aromatic cup of Cuban coffee.

Though the area has yet to top its own Guinness World Records title for the longest consecutive run of sunshine (768 days from Feb. 9, 1967, to March 17, 1969), there's no denying its sunny disposition. Let sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, UV-protective sunglasses and adequate hydration be your constant travel companions (pack insect repellent, too, particularly for outings planned near mangroves or wooded or secluded areas). And to outsmart summer showers, always carry an umbrella and/or poncho.

In late spring and summer, breezy, casual clothes work best. Fall and winter temperatures vary from mild to cool, so determine in advance of your visit whether shorts and sandals are still in season or if it's time to pack a light jacket and pants.

## Climate:

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## Accommodation:

Student Residence (on-campus)

Homestays in the area

## Excursions and Cultural Highlights:

The city has a children's museum (Great Explorations), Museum of Fine Arts, The St. Petersburg Museum of History (which has a full-size replica of the Benoist XIV seaplane and is located near the approximate spot by the St. Petersburg Pier where the first scheduled commercial flight departed), a Holocaust Museum, and the Salvador Dali Museum, which houses the largest collection of Dalí's works outside of Europe, including a number of famous and large-scale paintings such as *The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus*. The Chihuly Collection at 400 Beach Drive houses some of the magnificent glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly. There are also various other smaller art galleries and entertainment venues, especially in the downtown area, which has seen a boom in development since the mid-1990s; these include the Mahaffey Theater complex, American Stage (an equity regional theater), The Coliseum, and Palladium Theatre, and the Midtown Royal Theater, The Arts Center, and the Florida Craftsmen Gallery.

Downtown is the location of the Sundial shopping complex which opened in May 2014. It contains an IMAX Muvico 20-screen movie theater, as well as many chain restaurants and retail shops. Restaurants serving ethnic and domestic culinary specialties can be found throughout the downtown area. Every Saturday morning, from October to May, the downtown area hosts a farmers' market in the parking area of Al Lang Stadium (formerly Progress Energy Park). Local vendors sell the fruits of their labors (whether edible or decorative) alongside artists of all kinds including live music. Downtown waterfront (2005) — the barriers in the foreground mark the border of the Honda Grand Prix racetrack

Due west of downtown on Central Avenue is a district called the 600 Block Arts District. It is made up of Bohemian art and clothing stores. The eve-N-odd gallery is located in the historic Crislip Arcade built in 1925. This recently refurbished shopping arcade is one of 13 original city arcades. Only three are left and only the Crislip arcade is still being used as a place for small businesses to set up shop! Shop in the Crislip arcade for local art and unique wonders.

For more information please contact the main European office:

[www.vialingua.org](http://www.vialingua.org) or

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