

The ELL Peer Mentors Program

Role of the ELL Peer Mentor:

Students chosen to become peer mentors will help to enhance the interpersonal warmth and connectedness in the café. This is very important for language learning! The peer mentors will encourage their peers to take part enthusiastically in each activity, draw out quieter students, and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak. Peer Mentors will also be role models of students who are successfully improving their English.

Note that Peer Mentors do **not** need to speak English extremely well and are not in a teaching role; there is always a writing centre instructor present at each café. The mentors will also help the instructors with logistical details like attendance, dividing into smaller groups, etc., so that the cafés will run as smoothly as possible.

Qualifications for Applicants:

- Prior attendance at a minimum of 3 Communication Cafes or the ELL summer course, ELL011H1F
- Currently in year 1, 2, or 3
- Willing and able to make a one-year commitment to the café by attending training meetings during Fall Break, answering emails promptly, and attending 6 cafés over the coming winter and fall terms (Winter 2018-Fall 2018). Training will take place on the afternoons of November 6 and 7, 2017. The total number of hours required for training and café attendance is 15.
- Interested in and willing to discuss a range of academic topics
- Motivated to help other students and to develop skills in interpersonal and intercultural communication
- Multilingual, though no particular level of English or any other language is required

Application procedure:

By midnight on **Friday, October 13, 2017**, send the following by email only to ell.newcollege@utoronto.ca:

1. Cover letter stating that you wish to apply for this volunteer position and explaining why you are interested in becoming an ELL Peer Mentor. Include your college, year (1-3), program of study, and the term(s) in which you took the ELL course or participated in the Communication Café. Describe your attitude toward language-learning and how you think you could help other students in our ELL context. Two short paragraphs should be sufficient. You can attach your letter and also paste it into the body of the email.

2. Your resume, as an attachment. List any work experience you have, whether it was paid or volunteer, and give some details about what you did in this job. Prior experience working with people as individuals or in groups is an asset. One page should be sufficient. If you don't have any work experience yet, list some relevant experiences you've had in school with clubs, organizations, class projects, etc. If you don't know how to format a resume, see the OWL site: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/719/01/>

3. We will contact you if you've been selected for an interview. The interviews will take place the week of **October 23 - 27, 2017**.

4. Successful applicants will be notified by **October 30, 2017**.

Timeline for Peer Mentors:

Fall Break/ November 6 and 7, 2017: The group of peer mentors for the coming year will meet from 1:00 – 4:00 pm on Nov.6 and 12:00 – 3:00 pm on Nov.7. Meetings will include orientation about the logistical procedures of the Communication Cafe; discussion and reflection, as well as role play related to various aspects of intercultural and interpersonal communication.

January-February 2018: Peer mentors will attend at least 3 cafes, for which they'll be scheduled in advance. Peer mentors are required to arrive at the cafe 10 minutes prior to the start time.

March-April 2018 (optional): Peer mentors will be invited to attend an informal focus group, to advise the ELL coordinator about activities students find fun and meaningful.

Summer 2018 (optional): If you're in Toronto over the summer, consider coming to speak to the ELL011H1F Intensive Academic English course about the Cafe and the Peer Mentors Program. Peer mentors may also be invited to speak at a college orientation or other event. (These activities are not required).

September-October 2018: Peer mentors will attend at least 3 cafes, for which they'll be scheduled in advance. Peer mentors are required to arrive at the cafe 10 minutes prior to the start time.

In mid-October 2018: Peer mentors will have earned a Peer Mentor Program Certificate of Completion, awarded by the Faculty of Arts and Science! This certificate is noted on the Co-Curricular Record.

Total volunteer hours for Peer Mentors: 15 hours (minimum).