

About EFAS:

English for Academic Success (EFAS) is a unique English language program offered by the Renison English Language Institute through the University with Waterloo that refines students' academic English skills, and prepares its students for potentially studying at Waterloo. EFAS is a 4-month English academic program that runs for the duration of a school term, for 4 terms during the year (winter, spring, summer, fall.) The program is offered in 4 different levels, ranging from the low-intermediate (100-level) to the advanced (400-level). The EFAS curriculum has been mapped by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), a global standard in English language proficiency. There is a diagnostic placement test on the first day to determine what level you will be put into, to ensure that you are in the correct level. Through EFAS, students are provided with the opportunity to develop their English communication skills to meet the academic standards of the university, and potentially pursue their undergraduate degree at various universities where the program certification is accepted. EFAS provides students with 20 hours of classes a week, in an integrated learning environment with students learning essential reading, writing, and speaking skills necessary for academic success.

If you are interested in potentially pursuing a degree at Waterloo, EFAS will help you with gaining the required English academic skills for meeting the university's English language requirements for international students. If a student successfully completes a term of the level 400 program, where he/she gets a minimum grade of 75% in the program and attends at least 80% of the classes, he/she satisfies the English language requirements for admission to the University of Waterloo. If a student gets a minimum grade of 70% in the program and attends at least 80% of the classes, he/she may be eligible for entry into Waterloo's undergraduate programs through the BASE program. This program is a valuable resource for those wishing to dedicate four months to intensively practicing their English.

Students will also receive a certificate of completion and a report card at the end of the program.

Wondering how you will be able to apply your academic skills in university?

The interdisciplinary skills that students develop in these three classes are applicable to the real academic university environment, so students will be able to use what they learned in EFAS in their university career. The academic skills taught in the program are fundamental for projects and assignments, so that students will be successful in university. Any students who meet the requirements of level 400 can apply for direct entry to Waterloo's undergraduate programs. The instructors who teach the courses in the program are qualified in helping students apply their academic knowledge and catering to academic needs as well.

The unique feature about EFAS is that it is not skill-specific, meaning each of the classes do not only focus on one skill, but provides you with an integrated curriculum and learning environment. Unlike conventional skill-specific classes, an integrated curriculum combines similar skills into an interdisciplinary skillset, which connects the different skills that students learn, so you can apply them together. EFAS has three classes: academic skills, writing skills, and oral skills. In academic skills, students are taught the necessary skills for them to be successful in an academic environment. The class includes reading comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, summarizing, paraphrasing, and there is a research component to the course where you research a topic related to your prospective field. You will also be given a university-style report writing assignment, so that you get ample practice writing academically. Another important skill you will learn is evaluating and referencing sources of information, so that you

will be able to find credible sources for future projects and assignments. All of those skills are combined into one class.

Your writing class will not only be focused on basic grammar and writing skills, but you will also develop the necessary writing skills that you need to write an actual university-level essay. There is also a research component to the essay assignment to help you practice your essay-writing skills. The oral skills class is student-led, student-driven, and students learn to lead a discussion. The oral skills class functions like a seminar in which you will pick topics related to your prospective field of study, research topics, and participate in a group discussion about your chosen topics. Another component of the class is presentation skills, where you will learn to give academic presentations. It's a very academic language program and the instructors are well-experienced and qualified to teach. The course skills taught are easily transferable, so students can use their learned skills for multiple classes. EFAS aims to provide

Will I be supported with my academic and cultural transition in Canada?

Yes, we have dedicated student advisors and an entire student experience team to support you in your transition to life in Canada. Our student advisors are friendly staff who want to see you succeed academically and will be happy to help you with any challenges you might have with your academics. If you are interested in a particular field of study, the student advisor can help you to research professors and admission requirements for programs in that field. If you are planning to apply to Canadian universities, the student advisors are also able to assist you in the application process. Our support team is also here to help you with your cultural transition, in making sure that you are adapting well to life in Canada. There will be check-in meetings throughout the term to check your progress in the program and ensure that you are doing well and having fun during your time here. Renison also has our very own social worker, who is able to provide 6 free counselling sessions for any students dealing with mental health or any other issues. We offer workshops for students who want to learn more about time management, academic development, and other skills that will help them succeed in the academic environment.

Curricular, Co-curricular & Academic excursions

Your learning will not be solely focused on what you do when you are in the classroom, but also focused on curricular and co-curricular classes. Your term in EFAS will be full of curricular and co-curricular activities and programming that engages students to participate and apply their learning in the real world. We offer academic excursions, where you can go on trips to different places, participate in activities related to school subjects, and complete assignments pertaining to the activities. Students are usually more engaged when they are able to apply concepts that they learned in school to co-curricular activities, and they tend to do better in their overall language experience.

As an EFAS student, you will receive a student handbook on orientation day with FAQs, dates, the code of conduct, and our mission statement. The student handbook is quite handy for keeping track of events, activities, and program information.

Want to tour some of Canada's most popular tourist destinations?

Asides from learning in a strong academic environment, we want to ensure our students have a balance of work and fun, and we know how important it is for you to be able to constantly apply your communication skills on a daily basis outside of the classroom. As an EFAS student, you will get to go on

plenty of weekend trips to local tourist attractions and go on many sightseeing adventures to get a full experience of the Canadian culture. In the past, students have gone bowling with friends in the evening, skating on frozen ice rinks, climbing the CN Tower, and touring Niagara Falls. Through going on these trips, you will get to meet and bond with other international students as well as domestic Canadian students and practice your English conversation skills while having the time of your life!

Wanting to meet local Canadian students?

If you want to meet and practice your English conversation skills with local Canadian students, we offer students a conversation partner program. The conversation partner program allows international students to not only meet Canadian students, but also form friendships and take their learning beyond the classroom! EFAS students can also make their own arrangements with their conversation partner to go on trips and have fun together on their own time. Some partners have conversations continuing off-campus, which have evolved into deeper friendships. Through building friendships, partners have planned fun trips together to go to the mall, coffee shops, parks, and the movies.

Another unique feature about Waterloo is that we have students on campus all year round, because of our co-op system, where the majority of our students are alternating between study terms and work terms. If you would like to meet current Waterloo students, this is your opportunity!

Interested in joining a student council and developing your leadership skills?

If you are interested in developing your leadership skills, whether it be for personal development, extra-curricular experiences, or future career success, you should definitely consider joining the EFAS student council. The EFAS student council is a student leadership program that collaborates to identify issues and challenges in the EFAS student community and works to help improve the program. Ever since it was started, the student council has become a very popular program in the EFAS student community with members increasing each year. The student council works with the peer leaders to determine what kind of events that students want to hold, planning the events, and promoting the events. Each year, the student council volunteer at the University's Canada Day celebrations at Columbia Lake. Students help with the logistics of the day, spreading Canadian cheer at the event, and facilitating fun activities like face painting for children. Even if you are a bit shy, have no fear! We strongly encourage our students to participate in program events, as it is easy to make new friends through having fun together! Our staff and faculty members are also really friendly to talk to, so if you ever feel like you want to speak to someone about anything, they will be happy to talk with you. Many of our past EFAS students say that from their arrival in Canada to their departure, the program has helped them become a more energetic and outgoing person.

We even have peer leaders and peer support!

We also have peer leaders and peer support, who participate in conversation support. Peer leaders are student staff who have been trained to help you get accustomed to the Canadian culture. Throughout the duration of the program, they will interact and befriend international students, so that they can help with your cultural transition. They will join you during conversation lunches, which happen once a week, which gives you the opportunity to practice your English, talk about how you are doing in the program, and your general experience in Canada. Sometimes, conversation lunches will also include an activity, so that you can have fun and get to know your peer leaders better. Your peer leaders are also trained as

professional student success coaches. They can help you adjust to life in a Canadian university, build your study habits, time management skills, and help you prepare for university studies. There are always events going on throughout the term, so you have many options for activities that you can participate in.

In addition to peer leaders, we also have international social volunteers, who are local students who volunteer to go on trips and events with you, so that you will have the chance to meet and have conversations with them on trips and during events.

Are you considering immigrating to Canada in the future?

Studying at the University of Waterloo gives you an opportunity to immigrate to Canada in the future. International students studying at any Canadian university have the chance to apply to a 3-year work permit after their graduation. Usually at other universities, international students usually face strong competition with domestic students, because you do not have enough working/volunteer experience. However, Waterloo provides you with Canada's largest co-op program, which will give you access to more than 6,700 employers, and you will have the opportunity to gain up to 6 work terms (2 years) of work experience. During these work terms, you can earn an average of \$45,000 – 85,000 in income, which provides you with working experience to prove to Canadian employers, so that you are just as qualified as domestic students for employment. Another benefit of our co-op program is that you can also use your co-op earnings to pay for up to half of your international tuition fees.

Where will I live?

During your time at EFAS, you have options on where you can choose to live. You can choose to live on campus, and experience what life is like in residence, or you can live in homestay. If you choose to live in residence, you can live in some of our university colleges, and you will be assigned to a don, an upper-year student who acts as a support and resource for your residence floor.