

English Language Institute

5811 South Ellis Avenue
Cobb Hall 211
Chicago, IL 60637

esl.uchicago.edu

97%

of AEPP participants rated their instructor “excellent”

98%

of AEPP participants said they gained a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural activities and resources in Chicago

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ACADEMIC ENGLISH PRE-MATRICULATION PROGRAM



The **Academic English Pre-Matriculation Program (AEPP)** is for incoming international students for whom English is an additional language. The program builds English language and intercultural proficiency and gives students the confidence to excel in their studies and thrive in their new Chicago home. The AEPP is a three-week intensive program in which students attend three hours of class a day and complete four to five hours a day of structured out-of-class activities using Chicago as a classroom. This program ensures students receive a well-rounded orientation to the city and the University of Chicago as they build proficiency.

Part of UChicago's **English Language Institute**, which offers a range of English language and intercultural communication programming throughout the calendar year, AEPP courses are taught by expert instructors with many years of experience teaching in the United States and abroad. AEPP programming is designed particularly for the needs of UChicago students for whom English is an additional language. Your AEPP experience will build on your existing proficiency to improve comprehension and enrich your transition into the UChicago community and the city of Chicago.

AS AN AEPP STUDENT, YOU WILL:

- Build spontaneous speaking skills and refine your knowledge of linguistic pragmatics
- Improve pronunciation and intonation while retaining your own unique voice
- Engage deeply with the people and places of Chicago, including the varieties of English spoken here
- Refine North American writing conventions and strategies
- Network with students and professionals from around the world and across UChicago



Develop English Expertise

Build proficiency emphasizing English speaking and listening skills

In the AEPP, students from diverse backgrounds and various UChicago academic programs are placed in groups based on proficiency levels. This ensures you will learn with **peers at the pace that's effective for you**, and you'll continue strengthening your existing skills with individualized feedback from instructors who have deep knowledge of world languages and cultures.

In AEPP classes, you'll improve pronunciation and develop listening comprehension with a focus on English spoken in Chicago, including colloquial language and idioms. By practicing spontaneous speaking, you'll build confidence and gain familiarity with English used in practical exchanges, including negotiations, polite disagreements, and complimenting others.

Prepare for UChicago Academics

Refine skills in preparation for rigorous UChicago studies

Get a head start on your UChicago experience by actively engaging in a student-centered classroom that reflects the University's culture of spirited dialogue and rigorous inquiry. In classes and weekly workshops, you'll discuss topics including the cultural diversity of Chicago and its history, the arts, education, inequality and social justice, health care, and public and economic policy. **You'll practice language necessary for academic contexts**, refine email writing skills and etiquette, and review North American academic citation norms and strategies. For your midterm project, you'll research a Chicago neighborhood that interests you and give a formal presentation to your class.

To make sure we meet the unique needs of UChicago students, the English Language Institute conducts an ongoing needs assessment with faculty, students, and administrators to ensure the AEPP curriculum is always relevant and challenging.



Experience Chicago as a Classroom

Develop cultural knowledge of Chicago through structured out-of-class activities

Throughout the AEPP, you'll explore campus and Chicago to improve your language skills and discover the city. In structured assignments that encourage you to travel independently across many of the city's diverse neighborhoods, **you'll meet local Chicagoans to practice speaking and listening** in authentic contexts as you learn about the history, people, and institutions of Chicago from various perspectives.

For your final project, you'll select a Chicago-related topic to research and write about your findings. Your stories are compiled into the English Language Institute's *Chicago from International Perspectives* book, a not-for-tourists guide featuring unique topics ranging from the city's underground pedway system to Chicago-style pizza.