**Project TEAMMATES-LL Frequently Asked Questions**

* **What is the goal of Project TEAMMATES-LL? T**ransdisciplinary **E**ducational **A**nd **M**ulticultural/**M**ultilingual **A**pproaches for **T**eaching  **E**lementary **S**tudents - **L**anguage and **L**iteracy is a unique new interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary training program for students in the Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (MS-CDIS), or the Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning, Mild-to-Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist credential (MALT-MMSN) funded by the US Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs. The main goal is to provide inter-disciplinary training to graduate students in the Mild-to-Moderate Support Needs Education Specialist and Speech-Language Pathology programs that is focused on meeting the needs of children in elementary schools with language-related learning difficulties that affect literacy. A particular emphasis is on serving culturally and linguistically diverse children.
* **Are additional courses/credits required for participation in Project TEAMMATES-LL?** No, there are no additional courses or credits. All the requirements are integrated into the curricula of the respective master’s programs (MS-CDIS or MALT-MMSN). However, trainees will be required to additionally participate in the following co-curricular activities: attend a total of 9 monthly meetings in which they will interact with other trainees and hear from guest speakers; attend 3 visits to each other’s classes; and participate in a minimum of two local or online workshops or conferences on the topics of language & literacy development, bilingualism, and/or family-centered services. In addition, trainees will be required to participate in some program evaluation activities.
* **How much of a scholarship will I receive if I am selected as a trainee?** All trainees will receive a tuition discount of approximately 35-40%. This will be applied to tuition for the duration of the trainee’s master’s program (60 credits for MS-CDIS students and 39 credits for MALT-MMSN students). If a trainee needs to repeat a class, additional tuition will not be covered by the scholarship.
* **What is the “payback obligation”?** Project TEAMMATES-LL is funded by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. As such, trainees will be required to work in the fields of Special Education or Speech-Language Pathology after completing their programs, for 2 years for each year they receive funding (i.e., 4 years for MS-CDIS students and 3 years for MALT-MMSN students). The details of this requirement may be found on [the OSEP website](https://pdp.ed.gov/osep/home/faq2006).
* **Do I need to speak Spanish fluently to be a TEAMMATES-LL trainee?** While we consider proficient Spanish skills to be an asset to the goals of this project, we are most interested in trainees who demonstrate a commitment to supporting the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse children in schools.
* **What is meant by the term “non-Mainstream American English dialects”?** Linguists and Speech-Language Pathologists use the term “Mainstream American English” (MAE) or “Standard American English” (SAE) to refer to the kind of spoken or written English that is taught in U.S. schools and is used in the workplace, in newspapers, on news broadcasts, etc. “Non-mainstream” dialects of American English are other variants such as Appalachian English, African American English, and Chicano/Latino English, which have some grammatical and phonological features that are different from those of MAE. Like bilingualism, bidialectalism is an asset that children bring to their learning experiences in school. The following webpage is an [excellent resource](https://ygdp.yale.edu/faq) on dialectal variants of English spoken in North America.
* **What are the federal eligibility requirements for receiving a Department of Education training grant? Can non-citizens, including DACA recipients, apply?** The [Department of Education](https://pdp.ed.gov/OSEP/Regulation/ProgramRegs2006) outlines the 2006 citizenship/resident requirements governing their grant that trainees must satisfy. According to information we have received from the Department of Education, “under the regulations governing service obligation for federal funds awarded under section 662 of IDEA (34 CFR 304.3(g) (e.g., 325K, 325D), U.S. citizenship is an eligibility requirement. DACA students are not eligible.”