

The UMBC Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Program Presents

Alumni Spotlight: Insights from EFL Educators



Bridget Jordan ESOL teacher at Baltimore Highlands Elementary



Matthew Gleason TEFL Advisor for Fulbright Taiwan

What is it like teaching abroad? What challenges or surprises are in store for EFL teachers? What teaching opportunities are available for UMBC students beyond the public school system? Join us in a discussion with TESOL alumni Bridget Jordan and Matthew Gleason about their international English teaching experiences, their teaching strategies, and life outside of the classroom.

Bridget Jordan is an alumna of the M.A. TESOL program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) where she also earned her Bachelor's in Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication. In her years leading up to teaching, she volunteered locally at the Education Based Latino Outreach and the Esperanza Center as well as overseas, teaching English classes in Bolivia and Italy. In addition, she served on the Maryland TESOL board as the graduate student chair and interned at the English Language Institute at UMBC. She is currently an elementary ESOL teacher at Baltimore Highlands Elementary.

Matthew Gleason received his MA in TESOL from UMBC. Afterwards, he served as an English Language Fellow in the Philippines from 2018 to 2020 and recently completed two terms as a TEFL advisor for Fulbright Taiwan. Prior to that, he completed a year of Americorps' service through the UMBC Choice program, where he mentored at-risk youth in their communities and schools.