

TIPS Program



TIPS (Truro International Programs & Services) has been Truro Anglican's "Bridge to the International Community" for 40 years. TIPS seeks to meet and serve the practical, cultural/educational, social, and spiritual needs of international students, visiting scholars, immigrants, international professional workers and diplomats, refugees, and other international guests to the Northern VA/DC area. Since the advent of virtual classes in March 2020, TIPS now includes students joining in from other countries around the world as well.

The heart of TIPS is the ESOL classes. We have two sets of classes – morning and evening.

Morning Classes meet in person at Truro Anglican Church on Tuesdays & Thursdays:

Volunteer Meeting*: 9:15-9:50am

ESOL Class*: 10:00-11:30am (volunteers join at 9:50)

Conversation & Culture: Tuesdays from 12:15-1:30pm

Exploring Faith (hybrid): Thursdays from 12:15-1:30pm

Evening Classes meet virtually via Zoom on Mondays & Wednesdays:

Volunteer Meeting*: 6:30-7:05pm

ESOL Classes*: 7:15-8:45pm

*-required for all volunteers assisting on that day

Volunteer Positions:

ESOL Classes:

Lead Teacher: Either alone or as a part of a teaching team, this person prepares and presents the lessons, assigns homework, corrects work, etc. Most teachers employ a model of teaching for a few minutes, going into small groups for practice or exercises, returning to the main class for more teaching, back to small groups, etc.

Assistants: Most volunteers serve as assistants. These people assist the lead teachers as needed. They welcome students as they arrive, sit in on the class, demonstrate conversations, and serve as breakout group leaders. During these breakout groups, they follow the teacher's instructions on how to conduct the relevant exercises, and practice active listening and encouragement. There is no preparation needed to serve as an assistant – just show up and be willing to help! Assistants do need to purchase a student book, so that they can follow along with the lesson and conduct the relevant exercises.

Other Positions:

Hospitality: Assist with student check-in for our in-person classes, help set up refreshments, help with special events, etc.

Conversation & Culture:

This class is a discussion class, designed to give our students an opportunity to practice their English conversational skills and to encourage an exchange of ideas and a sharing of cultures. Each class will usually begin with a short (10-15 minute) presentation on the topic of the day, then the volunteers and students will be divided into breakout rooms for the discussion time. A few minutes before the end of the class, the groups will all come together and one student from each group will have an opportunity to share something interesting that their group discussed.

Volunteers serve as small group discussion leaders. They are responsible for having the discussion questions handy (they will be emailed out at least a day in advance), and for ensuring an even and equitable flow of conversation. Practicing active listening, they should encourage all students to participate and facilitate a lively discussion. No prior preparation is required.

Exploring Faith, Alpha ESOL, and other opportunities will recruit volunteers as needed.

Other Ways to Lend a Hand:

Hospitality: Greet and assist students with check-in for our in-person classes

Lunch: Provide lunch (or sponsor delivery of lunch) for one (or more!) of our in-person classes. OR, help us prepare and clean up lunch.

Prayer Team: Sign up to get monthly emails with updates and prayer needs.

Professional Help: As needed, give students advice in your area of expertise (job search, law, etc.)

Scholarships: Donate a scholarship to help refugees and other needy students pay for books and registration.

Special Events: Help with special events and activities, including parties and field trips. Serve as a driver for field trips in the local area.

For more information or to sign up, contact Myra Hinote at mhinote@truroanglican.com, call 334-301-0721, or register at: <https://touchpoint.truroanglican.com/OnlineReg/751>