

**Welcome**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook



## Welcome to the Department of Second Language Studies (SLS) Student Handbook for Undergraduates!

SLS is an exciting interdisciplinary field where students learn about the art and science of languages and language learning. At the undergraduate level, SLS students learn how languages are taught and learned and how to become an effective language teacher.

What sets SLS apart from TESOL and Linguistics programs is our broader focus. You'll examine how languages are used in real-world contexts, how multilingualism supports intercultural communication, and how language policy and advocacy shape both local and global communities.

Through the SLS undergraduate program, you'll build a strong foundation in language learning, teaching, and research, while also developing valuable skills for a wide range of careers in education, research, and international fields. Whether you're passionate about teaching, studying how people use language, or making a difference through language policy, SLS will prepare you to be a thoughtful and impactful professional.

This handbook is designed to help you navigate your academic journey as a student in SLS. Inside, you'll find important information about the SLS major and minors, student resources and opportunities, career pathways, and much more. Whether you're just starting out, nearing graduation, or alumni, this handbook serves as a guide to help you make informed decisions, connect with opportunities, and succeed in your studies. We encourage you to refer to it often and reach out to our SLS Undergraduate Advisor & Coordinator Reynold Kajiware ([slsba@hawaii.edu](mailto:slsba@hawaii.edu)) with any questions or schedule an appointment via [STAR Balance - SLS Advising](#).

## **Major and Minors (Undergrad Programs)**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Undergraduate Programs in Second Language Studies (SLS)

#### What is SLS at UHM?

The Department of SLS offers flexible and enriching academic pathways for students interested in language, communication, and multilingualism. Our Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies (BA SLS) provides a comprehensive foundation in how second languages are learned, taught, and used across cultures, preparing students for careers in education, research, global service, and more.

In addition to the major, we offer two minors that complement a wide range of academic interests: the Minor in SLS and the Minor in Second Language Teaching (SLT). These programs are ideal for students who want to enhance their understanding of language learning and teaching while pursuing another major.

Students seeking an accelerated graduate education experience may also consider the BA+MA (BAMA) Pathway, which allows eligible undergraduates to begin taking graduate-level coursework and double-count those courses toward both the Bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts in SLS during their senior year.

Whether you are pursuing a major, minor, or graduate pathway, our undergraduate programs are designed to support your academic goals, professional development, and curiosity about how languages shape the world.

### In this handbook section:

[BA Second Language Studies \(Major\)](#)

[Second Language and Second Language Teaching Minors](#)

[BAMA Pathway \(5 / 5.5 year pathway\)](#)

[Portfolio Examples from SLS 485](#)



# **Bachelor of Arts**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

The Bachelor of Arts degree program in Second Language Studies (SLS) provides students with a comprehensive understanding of a wide range of issues related to how second and foreign languages are learned, taught, and used in local and global contexts. This program, in accord with the values of SLS graduate degree programs, takes the broad view that plurilingual and pluricultural societies have greater success at communication in and across languages, which enables mutual understanding and appreciation, conflict resolution, and negotiation of values.

Addressing theory, research, and practice, the program helps prepare students to become second language specialists who understand the nature of second language learning and use in diverse circumstances, and can act upon related challenges that emerge in a variety of settings. The BA in SLS also serves as an excellent preparation for entry into a variety of language-related graduate programs.



### Kallen Lin

BA SLS alumna, aspiring teacher, and multilingual speaker

*"I think SLS is a huge 'ohana (family) to me. It taught me a lot about the different perspectives of different cultures, and made me more understanding and aware of students' or teachers' perspectives."*

## Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies

### Major Requirements (33 credits)

- Core Requirements (15 credits / 5 courses)
  - [SLS 301 - Basic Language Concepts\\* \(DS\)](#)
  - [SLS 302 - Second Language Learning \(WI\)](#)
  - [SLS 303 - Second Language Teaching \(OC\)](#)
  - [SLS 304 - Sociolinguistics of Multilingualism \(DS, WI\)](#)
  - [SLS 485 - Professionalism in SLS \(major only\)](#)
- SLS Electives (18 credits / 6 courses)
  - [SLS 311 - Second Language Testing](#)
  - [SLS 312 - Second Language Teaching: Reading & Writing \(OC\)](#)
  - [SLS 313 - Second Language Teaching: Listening & Speaking \(OC\)](#)
  - [SLS 318 - Digital Literacies, Media and Language Learning \(OC, WI\)](#)
  - [SLS 408 - Multilingual Education \(DS, WI\)](#)
  - [SLS 430 - Pidgin and Creole English in Hawai'i \(DS, HAP\)](#)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- SLS 455 (cross listed with LLEA 455) - Learn & Teach World Languages
- [SLS 460 - English Phonology \(DS, OC\)](#)
- [SLS 475 - Practicum for Future Language Professionals](#)
- SLS 480(alpha) - Topics in Second Language Studies\*\*

300- and 400-level courses from other fields of study may be used as electives, if approved by an SLS advisor.

One elective (3 credits) can be a lower division course in SLS:

- [SLS 130 - Introduction to Pidgin in Hawai'i \(HAP\)](#)
- [SLS 150 - Learning Languages and Communicating in a Globalized World \(FGC\)](#)
- [SLS 170 - Language by the Numbers \(FQ\)](#)
- [SLS 218 - Second Language Learning & Technology](#)
- SLS 250 - Topics in Learning and Using Second Languages
- [SLS 280 - Bilingualism: Cognition and Culture](#)

### More Information

\*LING 320 can be used to fulfill the SLS 301 requirement.

\*\*Topic areas for SLS 480-alpha are:

- 480P = Second Language Pedagogy
- 480R = Second Language Research
- 480U = Second Language Use
- 480N = Second Language Analysis
- 480E = Second Language Learning

※Up to three upper-division elective courses may come from other departments, as approved. Courses from other departments must be upper division (300 or higher), and related to linguistics, language learning and teaching, and/or education. Courses in literature and culture may be considered. Please see an advisor if you have questions about courses outside of SLS.

If you are interested in declaring your major as a BA SLS major, please contact Reynold Kajiware - SLS Undergraduate Coordinator and Advisor ([slsba@hawaii.edu](mailto:slsba@hawaii.edu)) or schedule an appointment via [STAR Balance](#).

## **Minors**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

There are two Minors in Second Language Studies (SLS): the SLS Minor and the SLS Teaching Minor.

The SLS Minor (15 credits) is for students with an interest in any area of SLS to gain a core understanding of language, language use, and second language acquisition.

The SLS Language Teaching Minor (18 credits) is for students with an interest in language teaching and learning who want to deepen their expertise and qualifications for a language teaching career.

## Requirements

Both Minors require three courses (9 credits). Both Minors share SLS 301 and SLS 302 as required courses. The third required course for the Teaching Minor is SLS 303, while the third required course for the SLS Minor is SLS 304.

### Electives

The SLS Minor requires two electives (6 credits) that can be chosen from any of our [upper division \(300-400\) SLS undergraduate courses](#). Our 100 & 200 lower division courses and SLS 485 do not count for the SLS Minor.

The electives for the Teaching Minor can be chosen from the following list (9 credits/3 courses):

- [SLS 311 - Second Language Testing](#)
- [SLS 312 - Second Language Teaching: Reading & Writing \(O\)](#)
- [SLS 313 - Second Language Teaching: Listening & Speaking \(O\)](#)
- [SLS 318 - Digital Literacies, Media and Language Learning \(OC, WI\)](#)
- [SLS 460 - English Phonology \(DS, O\)](#)
- [SLS 475 - Practicum for Future Language Professionals](#)
- SLS 480-P - Second Language Pedagogy (offered in Spring semesters)

If you are interested in pursuing one of these minors, please contact Reynold Kajiware - SLS Undergraduate Coordinator and Advisor ([slsba@hawaii.edu](mailto:slsba@hawaii.edu)) or schedule an appointment via [STAR Balance](#).

## **BAMA Pathway (5 / 5.5 Year Pathway)**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### The BAMA Pathway

This accelerated pathway helps motivated SLS majors begin graduate-level work while finishing their undergraduate degree.

- How?
  - Double-count 9 credits toward both the BA and the MA - saving time and tuition.
- Who can apply?
  - Only available to current SLS majors (not minors).
- When can students apply?
  - After reaching second-semester junior status (75+ credits or more).
  - Minimum GPA of 3.0 or above.
  - Completed SLS 302 and 303 with a B (not a B-) or higher
- More information: <https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/graduate/ma/bama-pathway/>

If you are interested in applying or pursuing this pathway, please contact Reynold Kajiware - SLS Undergraduate Coordinator and Advisor ([slsba@hawaii.edu](mailto:slsba@hawaii.edu)) or schedule an appointment via [STAR Balance](#).



#### **Kelvin Ibia**

BAMA SLS Student, Completed double major in BA SLS and Filipino

*"For me, basically SLS is a home. After becoming a part of SLS, I feel this is where I belong; where bilinguals and people who speak different languages fit in."*

## **Portfolios from SLS 485**





# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Undergraduate Portfolios

#### SLS 485: Professionalism in Second Language Studies



Through this course, which serves as the capstone experience in the SLS bachelor's degree, students reflect upon their learning and accomplishments throughout the pursuit of their degrees, become acquainted with diverse concepts of and approaches to professionalism in the field, and formally compile a professional portfolio. Evidence of learning and accomplishments can include academic writing, presentations, artifacts and reflections on teaching, service, and research experiences, and professional development experiences. Students incorporate important elements of their portfolios such as curricula vitae, statements of professional philosophy (often, but not limited to, philosophy of teaching), cover letters, instructional materials, research papers, presentations, and web sites and conduct information searches in fields and locations for future employment or graduate study.

Explore the portfolios below to see how some of our Spring 2025 students in SLS 485 showcase their professional identities and experiences in SLS!

- [Adrian](#)
- [Kelvin](#)
- [Rey-Rey](#)
- [Samantha](#)
- [Shannon](#)
- [Tori](#)

## **Areas of Study within SLS**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Areas of Study within SLS

The field of SLS is broad and interdisciplinary. It brings together insights from linguistics, education, psychology, anthropology, psychology, and the social sciences to better understand how people learn, teach, use and assess additional languages around the world. Here are topics in SLS that you could study:

<b>Second Language Pedagogy</b> How to teach additional languages effectively	<b>Second Language Acquisition</b> How people learn new languages	<b>Testing, Evaluation, &amp; Assessment</b> How language skills are measured
<b>Psycholinguistics &amp; Cognition in L2 Learning</b> How the brain processes language	<b>Sociolinguistics</b> How language relates to society and identity	<b>Conversation Analysis &amp; Discourse Analysis</b> How people communicate in real-life settings
<b>Phonology and Second Language Speech Intelligibility</b> How pronunciation affects understanding	<b>Applied Linguistics</b> Solving real-world problems through language studies	<b>Plurilingualism &amp; Pluriculturalism (and Multilingualism &amp; Multiculturalism)</b> Living with and navigating multiple languages and cultures
<b>Second Language Literacy</b> How people read and write in additional languages	<b>Technology-Assisted Language Learning</b> Using digital tools to support language learning	<b>Translanguaging</b> Blending languages in communication and learning
<b>Task-Based Language Teaching</b> Learning by doing real-world language tasks	<b>Critical Pedagogy</b> Exploring power, equity, and inclusion in language education	<b>Global Englishes (bringing together ELF, EIL and WE)</b> Understanding English as a global and diverse language

SLS courses help you connect theory with real-world practice, preparing you for careers in teaching, research, education, and beyond! Whether you're drawn to how language works in the brain, classroom, or community, SLS offers flexible and exciting pathways to explore.

## **Careers related to SLS**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Exploring Career Pathways with Second Language Studies

Second Language Studies (SLS) opens doors to a wide range of careers where language, communication, and culture intersect. Whether you're passionate about education, global service, research, media, or international travel, your SLS training equips you with valuable skills to thrive in diverse professional settings. The table below outlines potential career areas, types of employers, and strategies to help you prepare for life after graduation. Use it as a starting point to think about how you can align your academic experiences with your future goals.

Second Language Studies <i>What can I do with this major?</i>		
Area	Employers	Information/Strategies
<b>Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Immigrant services</li><li>Language policy specialists</li><li>English language officers</li><li>Translation &amp; interpretation</li><li>Language testing and assessment specialists</li><li>Literacy specialists</li><li>Consultants on linguistic and second language matters</li></ul>	Federal government organizations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overseas Aid Agencies</li><li>US Citizenship and Immigration Services</li><li>Department of State</li><li>Department of Commerce</li></ul> State government organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State Department of Education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete an <a href="#">internship with a federal agency</a> and maintain a high GPA to be a more competitive candidate.</li><li>Learn government job application procedures. Plan to apply early and inquire frequently about job vacancies.</li><li>Review special hiring authorizations to be hired and to advance more quickly.</li><li>Participate in campus organizations and activities that promote interaction with international students.</li><li>Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities.</li></ul>
<b>Service and education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teaching</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>K-12 schools, public and private</li><li>Universities/Colleges</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Earn a graduate degree for college or university teaching opportunities.</li></ul>

Second Language Studies  
*What can I do with this major?*

Area	Employers	Information/Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutoring</li> <li>• Curriculum and materials developers</li> <li>• Educational administration including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Program administrators</li> <li>o International exchange coordinators</li> <li>o International student services advisors</li> <li>o Academic advisors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NGO coordinators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-schools</li> <li>• Professional language schools</li> <li>• English language institutes</li> <li>• Overseas dependents' schools</li> <li>• Foreign study exchange programs</li> <li>• Adult education programs</li> <li>• International organizations</li> <li>• Nonprofit organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop superior written and oral communication skills in the English language including proper sentence structure and comprehensive vocabulary.</li> <li>• Minor or double major in another subject that you could also teach.</li> <li>• Get experience as a teaching assistant or tutor.</li> <li>• Become familiar with the cultural base of your language (literature, art, politics, etc.) as well as with cultural traditions.</li> <li>• Consider teaching English as a foreign language (overseas). Research courses and certifications for teaching English to non-native speakers.</li> <li>• Volunteer with government programs such as VISTA or community programs such as ESL classes.</li> <li>• Work abroad through volunteer programs or missions.</li> <li>• Earn a graduate degree in a field of speciality, e.g. student affairs administration, counseling.</li> <li>• Obtain state teacher licensure for K-12 teaching through <a href="#">College of Education Post Bacc-Certificate Program</a>.</li> <li>• Learn about opportunities for international teaching like <a href="#">Peace Corps</a>, <a href="#">Fulbright</a>, <a href="#">JET</a>, <a href="#">EPIK</a>, and <a href="#">TAPIF</a></li> </ul>
<b>Research and publication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research analyst</li> <li>• Language lab administrator</li> <li>• Publisher's representatives or editors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language research centers</li> <li>• Professional and scholarly publishers</li> <li>• Academic journals</li> <li>• Academic professional associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an internship with a publisher to get good references.</li> <li>• Receive training in publishing such as proofreading and copy editing.</li> <li>• Develop good PR skills and social media skills.</li> <li>• Keep an eye on the openings of the publishers that you are interested in.</li> <li>• Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities.</li> </ul>

**Second Language Studies**  
*What can I do with this major?*

Area	Employers	Information/Strategies
<b>Commerce and industry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation and interpretation</li> <li>• Language-learning software developers</li> <li>• Consulting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation and interpretation companies</li> <li>• Computer and software firms</li> <li>• Consulting companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop fluency in one or more foreign languages</li> <li>• Plan to take both written and oral examinations to become an interpreter/translator.</li> <li>• Seek certification or accreditation from an interpretation/translation organization.</li> <li>• Get experience through internship or volunteering</li> <li>• Develop aptitude with computers and the Internet.</li> <li>• Interpreters and translators who have expertise in a particular area such as law or medicine may find more opportunities.</li> <li>• Develop skills in negotiation.</li> <li>• Learn to work well under stress.</li> </ul>
<b>Travel and Tourism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour guide</li> <li>• Customer service agent</li> <li>• Flight attendant</li> <li>• Tour book researcher and/or writer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour and excursion companies</li> <li>• Travel agencies</li> <li>• Hotels/Motels</li> <li>• Resorts</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Airlines/Airports</li> <li>• Cruise lines</li> <li>• Car rental agencies</li> <li>• Chambers of commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply your intercultural communication and multilingual skills to support diverse travelers and enhance guest experiences</li> <li>• Emphasize your understanding of language use in real-world, service-oriented contexts - especially in cross-cultural settings</li> <li>• Gain hands-on experience through part-time jobs, internships, or volunteer work in tourism, hospitality, or visitor services</li> <li>• Highlight knowledge from SLS courses such as intercultural communication, discourse analysis, or sociolinguistics in customer-facing roles</li> <li>• Consider roles in guest services, travel coordination, or tourism outreach where you can support language access and cultural understanding</li> <li>• Use your second language skills in high-demand tourism destinations, especially where language barriers can impact service quality</li> <li>• Participate in study abroad or exchange programs to deepen your global awareness and showcase international experience</li> </ul>

Second Language Studies <i>What can I do with this major?</i>		
Area	Employers	Information/Strategies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore tourism or hospitality certificates to complement your SLS degree and increase employability</li> </ul>

Here is a list of careers some of our undergraduate alumni have gone into:

- English as a Second / Foreign Language Instructor (for a private language school)
- English Language Learner teacher (for K-12 public school)
- Special Education teacher (for K-12 public school)
- Assistant Language Teacher (for JET Programme / EPIK Program)
- Academic Advisor (for a university)
- Academic Coordinator (for a private language school)
- Operations Coordinator (for non-profit)
- Continuing Professional Educational Coordinator (for non-profit)
- Bilingual Support Engineer (for a Japanese IT company)
- Realtor (for private realty company)
- Exam Coordinator & Cambridge Exam Prep Instructor
- Transfer Evaluation Specialist (for a university)
- Dispatcher (for an airline)
- Travel Planner Designer (for private travel agency)
- Human Resources Coordinator (for government)
- Student Services Specialist (for a university)
- Tourism Manager (for a travel agency)
- Professor (for Japanese University)
- Interpreter (self-employed; court interpretation)
- Flight Attendant (for an airline)

These examples show just how versatile a degree in Second Language Studies can be. By studying SLS, you will develop skills like intercultural communication, critical thinking, research, and multilingual awareness. These skills are highly valued in today's global workforce.



If you are passionate about teaching, advising, travel, technology, business, or making an impact in your community, SLS can help you get there. Our program prepares you for a wide range of rewarding careers, whether your path takes you abroad or keeps you close to home.

## **Student Opportunities**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Gaining Experience

Your learning in the Second Language Studies (SLS) program doesn't end when you leave the classroom. In fact, some of the most meaningful growth and career preparation can happen through experiences beyond lectures and assignments. Engaging in internships, volunteer work, research projects, study abroad programs, language exchanges, or community-based learning allows you to apply your knowledge in real-world contexts, explore different aspects of the field, and build valuable professional skills.

These experiences can help you:

- Discover career interests and potential pathways within language education, multilingual communication, research, policy, and more.
- Strengthen your resume and stand out to graduate schools or employers with practical, hands-on experiences.
- Build professional networks by connecting with mentors, peers, and organizations doing work aligned with your goals.
- Reflect on your identity and values as a multilingual individual and future professional in an increasingly globalized world.

We encourage you to be proactive in seeking opportunities that resonate with your interests. Talk with Reynold about internships, campus jobs, or study abroad options that can enhance your academic experience. The Department of SLS also shares opportunities regularly—so stay connected!



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

**In this handbook section:**

[Internships](#)

[On-Campus and Off-Campus Jobs](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Student Clubs / RIOs / Organizations](#)

[Study Abroad and Exchange Programs](#)

## **Internships and Volunteering**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Internships

Internships are a great way to apply what you're learning in your SLS courses to real-world settings. They help you build professional skills, explore potential career paths, and make valuable connections in language-related fields. Internships also strengthen your resume and can give you a clearer sense of your goals after graduation.

#### Dept. of SLS Internships

SLS is actively working on expanding internship opportunities for SLS students to help you gain real-world experience in language education, research, and multilingual environments. These internships will allow you to apply what you've learned in the classroom, explore potential career paths, organizations and build valuable professional skills. Stay tuned for updates as we develop new partnerships both locally and abroad! Here are examples of some organizations that we have had partnered with:

- Education First (Fall & Spring semesters)
- Hawai'i Palms English Language School (Summer and Winter breaks)
- Summer Teaching Internship at Ehime University

If you are interested in any of these internship opportunities, please contact Reynold at [slsba@hawaii.edu](mailto:slsba@hawaii.edu) for availability and more information.

#### Other UH Mānoa Internships

- [College of Social Sciences Internships](#) (for other SLS-related experience)
- [Hawai'i Language Roadmap](#)
  - Interns are recruited throughout the year. Students interested should email [roadmap@hawaii.edu](mailto:roadmap@hawaii.edu).
- [EPIC Internship](#)

#### Internships in the State of Hawai'i

- [Hele Imua - State of Hawaii Internships](#)
- [Kāpili 'Oihana - Kamehameha Schools Internships](#)
- [Make a Wish Hawaii Internships](#)
- [Pacific Forum Internships](#)
- [Po'okela Fellows Internships](#)
- [Ronald McDonald House Charities Internships](#)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- [YMCA Internships & Career Mentorship](#)

### Nationwide Internships

- [Internship Opportunities with the Office of International and Foreign Language Education](#)
- [ACTFL Internship & Scholars Program](#)
- [Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program](#)
- [U.S. Department of State Internships](#)
  - Pathways Internship Program
  - US Department of State Student Internship Program
  - US. Foreign Service Program
  - Virtual Federal Service
- [Unicef Internships](#)
- List of [Applied Linguistics Internships from Pathways to Science](#)
- [Council of Foreign Relations Internships](#)
- [AERA Undergraduate Student Education Research Training Workshop](#)

### Volunteering

Volunteering is a meaningful way to gain hands-on experience while giving back to the community. For SLS students, it's an opportunity to practice language and communication skills, work with diverse populations, and explore interests in teaching, cultural exchange, or community service. It also shows initiative and dedication qualities that stand out to future employers and graduate programs. Check out the list below of potential volunteer opportunities and sites you may find helpful:

- [Dept. of SLS Community Collaboration with Wai'alaie Elementary School](#) - Volunteer Tutor Program (Fall semesters)
- Project SHINE - *Students of Hawai'i for Inclusion & Newcomer Empowerment* (Fall & Spring semesters). Calls to volunteer are sent out via email usually at the beginning of the Fall & Spring semesters. Click [here](#) to see the Spring 2025 Fact Sheet.
- [Hawai'i Literacy](#)
  - [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
    - [Adult Literacy Program](#) - 1:1 Tutoring
      - [Volunteer Tutor Registration](#)
    - [Digital Literacy Program](#)
    - [English Language Learner \(ELL\) Program](#)
- [Helping Hands Hawai'i](#)
  - [Bilingual Access Line](#) - Translation & Interpretation
    - [Volunteer Application](#)
- [Institute for Human Services](#)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- [After School Children's Program - Kaaahi](#)
  - [Japanese Cultural Center](#)
  - [Japan-America Society of Hawaii](#)
  - [Bishop Museum](#)
  - [Hawai'i International Film Festival](#)
  - [Ho'opili Tribal Council](#)
  - [Honolulu Museum of Art Volunteer Program](#)
  - [Palama Settlement](#)
  - [Children's Discovery Center](#)
  - [Filcom Center](#)
  - [Pacific Gateway](#)
  - [Read to Me International](#)
  - [Crisis Text Line - Spanish Bilingual Volunteer](#)
  - [Project Dana](#)



## **Jobs**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Student On-Campus/Off-Campus Jobs

Students may look for on-campus and off-campus jobs via the [Student Employment and Cooperative Education \(SECE\)](#) database. Undergraduates must be enrolled in at least 6 credits for the Fall/Spring semester, cannot work more than 20 hours per week, and must be eligible to work in the United States.

Here are some examples of on-campus and off-campus job titles students have found success in.

#### Example of On-Campus Jobs related to SLS

- NICE Program Student Interchanger (SECE Job Number 2051)
- Athletics Academic Mentor/Tutor (SECE Job Number 5346)
- ACE Peer Mentor (SECE Job Number 245080)
- EALL Advising Office Assistant (SECE Job Number 272136)
- CALL Peer Advisor (SECE Job Number 273832)
- Mānoa International Exchange (MIX) Peer Advisor (SECE Job Number 244513)
- Reading Tutor (SECE Job Number 333)

#### Example of Off-Campus Jobs related to SLS

- Kama'aina Kids Preschool Teacher Assistant (SECE Job Number 270591) / Preschool Assistant (SECE Job Number 272080) / Teaching Assistant (SECE Job Number 272443)
- Tomodachi-USA Online English Instructor (SECE Job Number 242689)
- Mid-Pac GlobalX Supervisor (SECE Job Number 274285)
- Stevenson Middle School Paraprofessional Tutor/Educator (SECE Job Number 274286)
- Koko Head Elementary School Paraprofessional Tutor (SECE Job Number 274083)
- Mānoa School A+ Program (SECE Job Number 153562)
- [Afterschool All-Stars Program Leader](#)
- [VIPKid ESL](#)
- [LbE Hawaii](#)

Please note that some of these jobs may not be available currently but we encourage you to search for jobs via the [SECE database](#).

## **Scholarships**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Scholarships

Scholarships are one of the best ways to help cover your college costs and many students don't realize how many opportunities are out there just waiting for applicants.

[Department of SLS Undergraduate Excellence Award](#): Every academic year, the Department of SLS awards undergraduate students who have officially declared as a BA SLS Major. Awards are based on high academic promise/achievement and professional commitment in the field of SLS (at a level commensurate with being an undergraduate student). Both international and American students are eligible for these awards. Application information is sent out by email once a year, in late February or early March.

*A variety of other national and university scholarships are available to SLS majors involving language study, research, and achievement in language-related areas:*

[UH Student Scholarships \(STAR\)](#): Utilize the STAR Scholarships Website to look for scholarships offered to UH system students. Search for some scholarships like:

- CASAA Scholarship Fund
- Kenneth H. and Alice A. Furukawa Scholarship
- Colleges of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association Academic Opportunities Fund
- Danny Kaleikini / Kahala Hilton Hotel Scholarship Fund
- Hands of Hope Arts and Humanities Scholarship
- Sharon Harumi Iimura Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Matsu Fujimoto Endowed Scholarship
- Arthur H. & Bernice S. Y. Chun Scholarship Fund
- Sidney J. Townsley Endowment for UH Scholarship - College of Arts, Languages & Letters
- K.S. Cheng Memorial Scholarship Fund - College of Arts, Languages & Letters
- Hands of Hope Languages, Linguistics, & Literature Scholarship
- Edith Stoecklein Suyama Endowed Scholarship
- Paul Petrowski Family Endowed Scholarship
- The John Young Scholarship Endowment Fund

[UH Mānoa Financial Aid Services' Lists of Scholarships](#): List of University of Hawaii, Local, and National Scholarships+Searches.

UH Mānoa Scholarships and Fellowships Office:

- [Fellowships and Scholarships that require UH Endorsement](#)
- [Fellowships and Scholarships that do not require UH Endorsement](#)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

[Hawaii Community Foundation](#) - Scholarships generally for residents of the State of Hawai'i, demonstrate financial need and maintain a 2.0 GPA.

[Critical Language Scholarship Program](#): The CLS is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and provides undergraduate, Master's or Doctoral students with fully funded opportunities for intensive language study and cultural experiences in countries where the target languages are spoken (see the CLS website for a list of target languages). CLS awards are for periods of 7-10 weeks. Awardees must be U.S. citizens, are expected to continue on with their study of the target language after they return, and are expected to have plans for entering into professional careers in which they use their skills in the target language. Application information is available from the CLS website in Fall of each academic year.

[Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Program](#): The FLAS Fellowship program is set up to assist meritorious undergraduate and graduate students studying modern foreign languages and related or international studies. FLAS Fellowships are only available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

[Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#): The Gilman Scholarship is part of the Institute for International Education. Awards are limited to U.S. Citizens who have financial need. Awards can be used for academic study or internships abroad.

## **Student Clubs / RIOs / Organizations**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Student Clubs / Registered Independent Organizations / Organizations

Getting involved in student clubs and organizations is a great way to make the most of your time at UH Mānoa. These groups offer valuable opportunities to build community, gain experience, explore your interests, network, and make an impact. Whether you are looking to expand your social circle, grow professionally, or just have fun, joining one of the organizations is a smart and rewarding choice.

### SLS RIOs

- [Second Language Studies Student Association](#) (SLSSA)
- [Multi'ōlelo](#)

### Cultural Clubs / RIOs at UH Mānoa

- [Anthro Explorers](#)
- [ASL Club](#)
- [Chinese Club](#)
- [French Club](#)
- [Japanese Culture Club](#)
- [Katipunan - Filipino Club at UH Mānoa](#)
- [Taiwanese Student Association](#)
- [Vietnamese Student Association](#)
- [International Student Association](#)

### Other RIOs

- [American Association of University Women at UH Mānoa](#)
- [Anime Manga Society of Hawai'i at UH Manoa](#)
- [CARP Hawai'i](#)
- (CADS) Conversation Analysis Data Sessions
- [Environmental Justice Club](#)
- [Tadoku Talk \(English-Japanese Reading and Language Exchange Club\)](#)
- [The Language Documentation Training Center \(LDTC\)](#)
- [Peer Mentor Ohana](#)
- [Service Passion Advocacy Responsibility Kindness \(SPARK\)](#)
- United Network of Inclusivity (UNITY) for Disabilities
- Whining & Dining Club



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

Check out the full list of RIOs [here](#)

### Chartered Student Organizations (CSO)

- [Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i \(ASUH\)](#)
- [Campus Center Board \(CCB\)](#)
- [Student Activity and Program Fee Board \(SAPFB\)](#)
- [Student Media Board \(STB\)](#)

### Intramural Sports

- [Register for a sport league at UH Mānoa](#) (you can either create a team with friends or join a team as a free agent)

### Other Outside Organizations

- [International Junior Chamber of Commerces](#)
- [Mortar Board National Honor Society - Hui Po'okela Chapter](#)



# **Study Abroad and Exchange**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Study Abroad and Exchange at UH Mānoa

Studying away - whether through the Study Abroad Program, Mānoa International Exchange (MIX), or the National Student Exchange (NSE) - offers SLS students an incredible opportunity to deepen their understanding of language, culture, and communication in real-world settings. These programs allow students to experience linguistic and cultural diversity firsthand, gain valuable cross-cultural competencies, and apply what they've learned in the classroom to global and national contexts. Whether you're immersing yourself in a multilingual society abroad, studying at a U.S. university with different language communities, or exploring new perspectives on language learning and teaching, study away experiences strengthen your academic, professional, and personal growth—making you a more effective language user, learner, and educator.

SLS Courses Offered through UHM Study Abroad Center:

- SLS 303
  - [Yongin, South Korea - Earn Credit for Second Language Teaching \(SLS 303\) in the Summer!](#)
- SLS 408
  - [London, England](#)

Check out the table below to see the differences between the programs:

	<a href="#">Study Abroad at UH Mānoa</a> <a href="mailto:uhmsac@hawaii.edu">uhmsac@hawaii.edu</a>	<a href="#">Mānoa International Exchange (MIX)</a> <a href="mailto:uhmix@hawaii.edu">uhmix@hawaii.edu</a>	<a href="#">National Student Exchange (NSE)</a> <a href="mailto:exchange@hawaii.edu">exchange@hawaii.edu</a>
<b>Location</b>	Foreign country	Foreign country	Within the US, US territories, & Canada
<b>Participants</b>	Primarily undergraduates but graduate students may participate	Undergraduate and Graduate Students  Open to most but some exchanges are for specific majors	For undergraduates only
<b>Course Offerings</b>	• Take one class from UHM Faculty Resident Director (semester/year programs) and other courses from host university	• Take all classes from host university  • Study with the main student body of the host campus	• Take all classes from host university  • Study with the main student body of the host campus



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study with the main student body of the host campus</li> </ul>		
<b>Credits Earned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UHM credits earned for courses taken overseas</li> <li>• Courses appear on UHM transcript</li> <li>• Grades earned abroad will impact cumulative UHM GPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered as full-time student at UHM in a place-holder course</li> <li>• Transfer credits</li> <li>• Courses appear on transfer report</li> <li>• Grades earned overseas do not impact cumulative UHM GPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered as full-time student at UHM in a place-holder course</li> <li>• Transfer credits</li> <li>• Courses appear on transfer report</li> <li>• Grades earned do not impact cumulative UHM GPA</li> </ul>
<b>Tuition</b>	No UHM tuition is charged, but a flat study abroad fee is assessed according to number of credits taken	Pay UHM tuition based on the student's residency status. No tuition is paid to host campus	According to plan: Host payment (resident) or UHM tuition (according to residency status)
<b>Financial Aid</b>	Available for eligible students	Available for eligible students	Available for eligible students  Apply with UHM financial aid  Scholarships available
<b>Visa Requirements</b>	Visa required	Visa required for most programs	Visa not required
<b>Faculty Mentoring</b>	Faculty Resident Director available	No Faculty Resident Director	No Faculty Resident Director
<b>Language</b>	Helpful to have some knowledge of the local language	Helpful to have some knowledge of the local language but not necessary for most programs	English speaking except in Quebec (French) and Puerto Rico (Spanish)

# **Student Responsibilities**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Student Responsibilities

As an SLS student, you are expected to take an active role in your academic experience. Being informed, proactive, and engaged will help you succeed both inside and outside the classroom. This section outlines key responsibilities such as maintaining clear communication and participating in academic advising that will support your growth, keep you on track, and help you make the most of your time in the program.

### In this handbook section:

[Communication](#)

[Academic Advising - Major, Mandatory, College](#)

# **Communication**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Department of Second Language Studies Communication

#### Departmental Communication

##### *UH Username*

Newly admitted students can find information on obtaining a UH Username at this [link](#)

Your UH email account is the official channel of communication between the University and you ([UH policy](#)). Therefore, from the time that you are admitted until the time you graduate, all SLS communications will be sent to your UH email. Please check it every weekday, respond with promptness, and exercise [netiquette](#).

- Clearly title the subject heading of your message, especially for matters other than general academic, departmental, and university operations.
- Avoid including extensive addressee lists and embedded messages in replies.
- Alumni can also keep their UH email address after they've graduated by enrolling in 'Ohana services. Click [here](#) for more information.

##### *Departmental Listservs for Undergraduates*

The department also administers several listservs. The overarching listserv is SLS-L@LISTS.HAWAII.EDU, which is a moderated list that includes ALL faculty, staff, students, and affiliates of the department. If a message is not directly related to everyone, it is requested that other lists be used.

Students entering the department are automatically added to the following listservs:

Listserv	Who is this for?
sls-l@lists.hawaii.edu	All Students in SLS
ba-sls-l@lists.hawaii.edu	BA and Minor Students
eslj-l@lists.hawaii.edu	Employment opportunities in SLS

##### *Text Messages*

The SLS Undergraduate Coordinator and Academic Advisor, Reynold, will send text messages from 808-730-1552 with friendly reminders about important events, deadlines, and opportunities during the regular semester. If you have not been receiving messages, please email him at [reynoldk@hawaii.edu](mailto:reynoldk@hawaii.edu) with your cell phone number to be added. You are also free to

## **Academic Advising**





# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Major Advising

Meeting with your major advisor, Reynold Kajiwara ([reynoldk@hawaii.edu](mailto:reynoldk@hawaii.edu)) is an important part of helping you succeed as a student in the Department of Second Language Studies.

Our goal is to guide, support, and encourage you—whether you're choosing your classes, exploring career goals, or looking for ways to build professional experience. I'm here to work alongside you as you pursue your academic and personal goals.

### Mandatory Advising

Mandatory Advising (MA) ensures that students receive the support they need to stay on track academically and professionally. These sessions help students plan their courses, stay informed about program updates, and connect with opportunities in and beyond the classroom.

All BA in Second Language Studies (SLS) students are required to meet with Reynold at least once each semester.

Students minoring in SLS or Second Language Teaching must attend an initial advising session when they declare the minor, but follow-up meetings are optional.

Semester	Begins about 1 Month after the semester begins	Registration holds put on for those who did not complete MA
Fall	September 22, 2025	October 15, 2025
Spring	February 16, 2026	March 15, 2026

### College Advising - CALL Advising Center

CALL Advisors have a broad knowledge of academic advising as a whole. They provide guidance on completion of general education and graduation requirements. They also process and clear students for graduation. They make decisions on exceptions to college and university requirements for your degree. The CALL Advising Center provides advising from professional advisors, study abroad advisors, and peer advisors.

If you have any general questions, please schedule an appointment with them via [STAR Balance](#) (if you are having difficulty with STAR Balance book via this [Google Form](#))

## **Student Resources**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Resources

As an SLS student, you have access to a wide range of academic and support resources to help you succeed during your time at UH Mānoa. Whether you need help with coursework, writing, study strategies, or wellness support, there are many services available both on campus and online.

This section highlights key campus resources including tutoring centers, study spaces, library services, and wellness programs as well as support specifically available through the Department of Second Language Studies. We encourage you to explore and make use of these services to enhance your learning, stay connected, and take care of yourself throughout your academic journey.

### Tutoring and Academic Resources

- [Hamilton Library](#)
  - [Loanable Technology](#)
  - [Study Spaces, Zoom Rooms, and Presentation Practice Rooms](#)
  - [Library Essentials](#)
- Tutoring
  - [UHM Writing Center](#) - Writing help
  - [Online Learning Academy](#) - Math, Science, and Writing help
  - [Academic Resource Center](#) - Academic Coaching, Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction
- [Student Success Center](#) - Study & Academic Wellness Space, Chair Yoga, and other Academic Resources
- [International Student Services](#) - ISS assistance focuses on advising international students and their dependents on immigration regulations affecting their status in the U.S. and providing programs and activities that promote adjustment to U.S. and local cultures
- [UH Manoa Career Center](#)

### Health and Wellness

- [Virtual Basic Needs - UH Mānoa](#) - Food Assistance, Financial Help, Health Services, Housing & Shelter, and Additional Resources
- [Counseling and Student Development Center](#)
- [University Health Services](#)
- [Department of Public Safety](#)
- [KOKUA Program](#) - if you need assistance due to a disability
  - [Information for Students](#)
- [Student Parents at Mānoa](#)
- [Women's Center](#)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Department of Second Language Studies

- [SLS Papers - Scholarspace](#)
  - Read research papers from Dept. of SLS faculty and graduate students
- SLS-Linguistics Reading Room
  - The Reading Room occupies Moore Hall Room 572. It is a facility that is shared with the Department of Linguistics, our neighbors on the fifth floor. Both departments contribute acquisitions to the Reading Room, and share responsibility for monitoring the facility. In addition to the collection related to Linguistics, the SLS collection includes a) academic books on applied linguistics and language learning, b) textbooks for teaching various aspects of SLS, and c) SLS research and professional journals, as well as course materials placed on reserve for selected courses, and a small amount of other reference material. The Reading Room is not a lending library; materials do not circulate and can only be read or consulted during the hours the room is open, through monitoring by Linguistics and Second Language Studies student volunteers. Reading Room open hours are dependent on volunteers and posted on the bulletin board outside the door each fall and spring semester.

## **Tips**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Tips

Throughout your journey in Second Language Studies, you're not alone. Many students have walked this path before you. In this section, alumni share insights from their time in the program and the lessons they carried into their careers, while faculty offer practical tips to help you succeed both in and beyond the classroom. From staying organized and building professional experience to making the most of campus resources, their advice is here to guide, support, and inspire you as you navigate your own academic and professional path.

### In this handbook section:

[Tips from Alumni](#)

[Tips from Faculty and Staff](#)

## **Tips from Alumni**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Tips from Highly Successful SLS Majors and recent Alumni

Make the most of your time in the SLS program with these insights from students who've walked the path before you:

#### Stay Open and Engaged

- Keep an open mind. Listen to and reflect on what your instructors and classmates share.
- Remember: **all SLS courses are valuable**, even if their purpose isn't clear at first.
- Classes often involve group work. **Prepare ahead** and be ready to participate.

#### Build Connections and Trust

- Communication and trust are key. Not just for academics, but for your future career.
- Create a strong SLS network! Our department has an '**ohana-like camaraderie**. Your classmates, instructors, and advisors can support you long after graduation. Attend events held by SLSSA. Go to your instructors' office hours.

#### Take Initiative and Explore Opportunities

Keep your eyes and ears open - opportunities are everywhere!

- Study abroad in a different country
- Gain teaching or tutoring experience - on campus or in the community
- Get an on-campus or off-campus job to gain work experience
- Consider the [BAMA Pathway \(BA + MA\)](#)
- Assist with faculty research projects if you see an opening

#### Stay Balanced and Reflective

- Balance your academic life with your personal well-being.





# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- After each semester, **take time to reflect** and connect the ideas across your courses. Many concepts are deeply interconnected - you just need a moment to step back and see it.



### Use Technology to Support Your Growth

- Start building a digital teaching toolkit early! For example:
  - Use [Google Drive](#) to save and organize lesson plans, teaching ideas, and all of your class assignments and projects. You have 25 GB of free storage!
  - Collect materials you create in your SLS classes—you'll thank yourself during **SLS 485** when you build your **electronic portfolio**.

## **Tips from Faculty and Staff**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

Here's what your professors want you to know to make the most of your time as an SLS major:

### Stay on Top of Email

- Email is essential. Check it **daily**, including weekends as it is the University's official means of communication.
- To avoid email overload, create folders, filters, or schedule regular check-ins.

### Stay Organized and Save Everything

- **Back up your work regularly.** Create a folder in [Google Drive](#) for your portfolio and work.
- Save all of your **books, notes, readings, syllabi, and class materials**. They'll be helpful in future classes and your professional work.

### Attend Brown-Bag Talks (SLS Thursday Lecture Series)

- Thursdays, 12:00–1:15 PM, via Zoom and in person
- Learn from faculty, researchers, and professionals in the field.
- Announcements via the SLS-L listserv. Have topic suggestions? Contact **Justin Kanda** ([kandajus@hawaii.edu](mailto:kandajus@hawaii.edu))

### Consider Summer Session Courses

- Everyone pays the **resident tuition rate** in summer.
- Taking summer classes can help you **graduate earlier**, saving time and money.

### Use Campus Resources

Get support when you need it! UH Mānoa has many services available. Check out our tailored list of resources [here](#) for SLS students.

### Maintain Balance and Reflect Often

- Make time for your health and well-being.



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- At the end of each semester, reflect:
  - How did your courses shape your **professional knowledge, skills, and beliefs**?
  - Where do you see **overlap between courses**?
  - What key theories or concepts stood out? Add them to an **annotated bibliography**.
  - Complete your **SLS 485 synthesis document** if applicable.



### Make the Most of Dual Advising

- See **Reynold (SLS Advisor)** for:
  - SLS courses
  - Career exploration
  - Internships and experience
  - Goal-setting and job preparation

(In general: **See an advisor first!**)
- See **CALL Advising (Sakamaki D202)** for:
  - University Core/Gen Ed requirements
  - Graduation checks

## **Graduates and Alumni**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Graduates and Alumni: Exploring Your Post-SLS Resources

This section is designed to help you navigate your next steps after completing the undergraduate program in Second Language Studies (SLS). Whether you're planning to work right away, teach abroad, attend graduate school, or simply explore your options, the resources here will connect you with opportunities and guidance for your journey.

Use this section as a starting point to explore what's out there and to begin shaping your next chapter with confidence.

### In this handbook section:

[Careers related to SLS](#)

[Graduate School](#)

[Teaching & Service Fellowships and Programs for Undergraduates after Graduation](#)

[Job Search Engines and Sites](#)

[Voices from Graduates of the BA Program](#)

## **Graduate School**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Graduate School

Are you thinking about graduate school after completing your undergraduate program in Second Language Studies (SLS)? Whether you're interested in deepening your understanding of language education, conducting research, or expanding your professional credentials, pursuing a graduate degree can open new doors in academia, teaching, program administration, government, nonprofit work, or the private sector.

### Why should I consider graduate school?

Graduate programs can help you:

- Specialize in areas like TESOL, Applied Linguistics, Language Policy, Educational Technology, L2 Acquisition, Teaching, Testing, etc.
- Gain credentials needed for certain careers, such as university-level teaching or leadership in international programs.
- Conduct research in your areas of interest, potentially contributing to the development of language learning, assessment, or policy.
- Expand your network of colleagues and professionals in the field.

### Tips for Applying to Graduate School

*Adapted from documents created by Priscilla Faucette and Kenny Harsch*

Attending graduate school is a huge commitment of time, money, and energy. You want to be sure you have a good return on investment, and a degree that will be a good fit for you. When considering going to graduate school, it is important to evaluate your reasons for doing so. Make sure you choose a program that fits your needs and will help you achieve your goals. And then, make sure that your application is highly competitive.

Hint #1: START EARLY!

#### Do some soul searching

- What are your future goals? (Career goals, educational goals, personal goals)
  - Sometimes the career you want requires a graduate degree. Other times the career may not require it, but you yourself have personal/educational goals that can only be met by graduate school.
  - And remember that there are lots of people who are fully able to achieve their future goals without graduate school.
- What is it you really want to focus on in grad school?
  - What degree do you want to pursue? (MA, PhD, other?)





# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- In what field?
- And once you've figured out what field, what is it within that field you are most interested in (i.e., what specialization)?

Graduate School Possibilities for SLS Majors (definitely not a comprehensive list)

- Second Language Studies
- TESOL
- Applied Linguistics
- Translation and Interpretation
- International Studies
- (International) MBA
- Education (Educational Psychology, Educational Technology, etc.)
- Foreign Language (e.g., MA in French, Korean, etc.)
- Law
- Area Studies (e.g., American Studies, Asian Studies, Japanese Studies, etc.)
- Political Science
- Anthropology
- Linguistics
- Communication
- Speech Pathology
- Conflict Resolution/Peace Studies
- Public Administration
- and more!

### Do your research

- Online resources (rankings of schools – not just US News, but also by field of study). (See samples from [College Navigator - National Center for Education Statistics](#) or the [US Department of Education College Scorecard](#))
- Ask people who would know: friends in the field, faculty, advisors. (But remember that they aren't you – you're the one who has to live with the choice you make.)
- Start researching the schools' websites:
  - Does the program have areas of specialization? What does the program seem to be most famous for?
  - What grad level courses are offered? Who teaches those courses?
  - Who are the faculty? What are their specialties and other areas of interest? What have they written? Could you imagine having that person as your advisor?
- Narrow down your choices.
- Dig deeper about your top choices:



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- Financial support? What percentage of MA students get GA positions? What percentage get scholarships or other forms of support?
  - Opportunities for experiential learning, internships, and practicums.
  - Living conditions (climate, cost of living, transportation, available extracurricular activities and entertainment, etc.)
  - Alumni careers. What is the employment rate for graduates? Are graduates of this program getting hired into the areas you are interested in? Can you get names and contact information for some alumni?
  - Is there a grad student organization for the program? Do they have a website?
- If possible, visit the campus. Check out the campus atmosphere and facilities (especially in the building where your graduate program is housed), sit in on a few classes, talk with current students to get the “inside scoop”, etc.
  - If you can't visit the campus, see if you can get contact info for a few of the current students.

### Prepare your applications

- Make a “backwards” time line for each application. Once you've narrowed down your top schools, mark your calendar going backwards -- starting from the time the application materials are due and going backwards to when you need to start working on each item you need to prepare.
  - And always allowing extra time!
- Standardized tests. If the school requires the GRE, TOEFL, or other tests, this should be one of the first things you focus on.
  - Allow enough time to take practice tests, familiarize yourself with the test, and possibly even take the test more than once.
  - Hire a tutor if you need help.
  - Do not go into the test “cold.” As you've learned in SLS 311, “test wiseness” can give you an advantage.
  - And don't panic. As with many kinds of applications, admission is not based solely on a standardized test.
- Letters of recommendation. What does the graduate program want to know? Who knows you well enough to provide that kind of information? (Department faculty, GA instructors, advisors, and possibly employers)
  - Give them plenty of advance warning, and give them enough information so that they can plan ahead:
    - Does the school require letters to be sent by standard mail, or do they have a system for uploading or emailing letters?
    - Who should the letter be addressed to?
    - Many letter writers like to know more about your areas of focused interest, potential future career, or anything else you can provide that might help them write a very positive letter to support you.



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- Transcripts and other “data” about you.
- Statement of Purpose. (This deserves its own section...)

### Statement of Purpose

- Often the key, or one of the keys, to admission. (It is a personalized look at who you are, why you want to study there, how your interests match what their program offers, and what you offer to their program.)
- It's a chance to show that you've done your homework, and clearly connect you and your interests to their program.
  - This is one place where it's OK to “name drop” (as long as you do so in a well-researched way, showing connections between your interests and who among their faculty has specialization in those areas)
- It can be a chance to briefly address anything that might be considered a shortcoming (e.g., a mediocre GPA, but if you can highlight how you got much higher grades once you discovered your academic interests...)
- It should be tailored. Never send exactly the same Statement of Purpose to two or more different universities.
- Remember – it's a sample of your ability to write in an appropriate, professional manner.

Samples of what graduate programs ask for in a Statement of Purpose:

1. [UH Manoa, Department of Second Language Studies](#)  
In a maximum of 1,000 words, outline your academic and professional objectives and reasons for applying to the MA in Second Language Studies. Describe your experience with languages, language learning, and professional contexts that involved various forms of language expertise, and connect these to your long-term goals as a second language professional.
2. [Columbia University - Teachers College](#)  
Your Statement of Purpose should describe your academic and professional background, your objectives for graduate school, and how you will positively contribute to the Teachers College community.
3. [Thunderbird School of Global Management](#)  
Essay(s) are required for admissions consideration for all Thunderbird programs. These personal essay(s) allow you to share your thoughts, values and ideas on the world of global business – and explore how earning a Thunderbird degree can position you for success in this environment.



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

Here are examples of essay prompts for Thunderbird School of Global Management's 2025-2026 application:

Essay Prompt 1: Navigating Challenges in a Global Context (500 words maximum)

Describe a significant challenge you have faced in your professional or academic career that required you to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. Explain the complexity of the situation, the actions you took, and the outcome. Reflect on how this experience shaped your ability to navigate diverse teams, manage uncertainty, and take accountability for your decisions.

Essay Prompt 2: Ethical Leadership in a Globalized World (500 words maximum)

Discuss a time when you had to make a difficult ethical decision in a professional or academic setting. What were the competing interests, and how did you weigh them? How did you ensure integrity while working with individuals from diverse cultural or professional backgrounds? What did this experience teach you about leadership, teamwork, and your own professional values?

4. [Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey](#)

What are your short and long-term career objectives; how will a Middlebury Institute degree, combined with your past educational and professional experiences, enable you to achieve these objectives? (Limit 600 words)

For more information: General websites with info on graduate school

- [Peterson's Guide](#)
- [About.com's "Graduate School Resources"](#)
- ["Graduate School Tips"](#)

Videos:

- See SLS Professor Betsy Gilliland's talk on [Why Language Teachers Should Consider Graduate School--or Not](#) (Video) from a language teacher research summit in 2022.



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

Below is a list of graduate programs that may be of interest to SLS students. These programs are offered at UH Mānoa, other universities across Hawai'i and the continental U.S., and institutions abroad. They represent a wide range of academic and professional pathways for those interested in second language studies, language education, multilingualism, and related fields.

### Graduate Programs at UH Mānoa

#### *Department of Second Language Studies*

- [BA+MA Pathway in Second Language Studies](#)
- [MA in Second Language Studies](#)
- [PhD in Second Language Studies](#)

#### *Other UH Mānoa Programs of Interest*

- [MA/PhD in Linguistics](#)
- [MA/PhD East Asian Languages and Literatures](#)
- MEd in:
  - [Curriculum Studies - Multicultural Education](#)
  - [Educational Administration](#)
  - [Educational Foundations - Global Perspectives](#)
  - [Educational Psychology](#)
  - [Global Perspectives](#)
  - [Learning Design and Technology](#)
  - [Teaching](#)
- [MS Communication Sciences & Disorders](#)

#### *Other Hawaii Programs*

- Hawaii Pacific University: [MA Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages \(TESOL\)](#)
- [Chaminade University Graduate Programs](#)

#### *U.S. Continent Programs*

- Indiana University: [MA in Second Language Studies](#)
- Georgia State University: [MA in Applied Linguistics](#)
- University of Maryland: [MA in Second Language Acquisition](#)

#### *Graduate Programs Abroad*

- Waseda University: [MA in International Culture and Communication Studies](#)

## **Teaching & Service Fellowships and Programs**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Teaching & Service Fellowships and Programs for Undergraduates after Graduation

Whether you are currently pursuing your degree or have already graduated, there are many exciting programs that can help you take the next step in your professional journey. From teaching English abroad to earning a teaching license or participating in service-oriented fellowships, these opportunities offer valuable experience, skill-building, and a chance to make a meaningful impact.

Many of these programs are well suited for students and alumni with a background in Second Language Studies and a passion for language, education, and cross-cultural exchange. Some provide training and certification, while others offer financial support, housing, or the chance to live and work in a new community, either locally or internationally.

Explore an example of programs below to find opportunities that could align with your interests, goals, and future career plans:

#### Government-Sponsored English Teaching Programs Abroad

- [The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme \(JET\)](#) - Teach English in Japanese schools as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) or Coordinator for International Relations (CIR).
- [English Program in Korea \(EPIK\)](#) - Teach English in South Korean public schools
- [Teaching Assistant Program in France \(TAPIF\)](#) - Serve as an English language assistant in French public schools
- [Central European Teaching Program in Hungary \(CETP\)](#) - Teach English in Hungarian public schools and live abroad for a year.
- [North American Language and Culture Assistants Program \(NALCAP\) Spain](#) - Assist in English instruction at schools across Spain
- [Taiwan English Teacher Program](#) - Work in Taiwan's public schools as an English teacher or teaching assistant.

#### Teacher Licensure & Education Pathways (U.S.)

Programs designed to help graduates earn teaching credentials and pursue careers in K–12 education in the United States.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificates to obtain Department of Education Teacher Licensure for:

- [Elementary Education](#) (K-6)
- [Secondary Education](#) (6-12)
- [Special Education](#) (PK-12)



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### [Teach for America – Hawai'i](#)

A two-year commitment teaching in under-resourced public schools across Hawai'i while earning teacher certification.

### U.S.-Based Career & Service Opportunities

- [Luce Scholars Program](#) - Offers stipends, language training, and a year-long professional placement in Asia for future leaders with limited prior experience in the region.
- [Peace Corps](#) - A two-year volunteer service abroad in sectors like education, health, or community development. Offers student loan deferment and graduate school opportunities.
- [Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center \(DLI FLC\)](#) - Trains linguists for the U.S. military and government. May be of interest to those fluent in or studying critical languages.
- [Princeton in Asia Fellowship](#)



## **Job Search Engines and Resources**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Job Search Engines and Sites

Finding a job that aligns with your interests in Second Language Studies starts with knowing where to look. The tables below include a wide range of job boards and employment websites - local, national, and international - that are useful for SLS students and graduates. Whether you're seeking work in education, language services, research, or other related fields, these sites can help you discover career opportunities in Hawai'i, across the U.S., and around the world. Use this list to start exploring, set job alerts, and apply to positions that match your skills and goals.

#### Hawai'i Colleges and Universities

Name	Website
University of Hawai'i System College and Universities	<a href="https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiiedu">https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiiedu</a>
Hawaii Pacific University	<a href="https://www.hpu.edu/hpu-careers/index.html">https://www.hpu.edu/hpu-careers/index.html</a>
Chaminade University of Honolulu	<a href="https://chaminade.edu/employment-opportunities/">https://chaminade.edu/employment-opportunities/</a>
BYU Hawaii	<a href="https://byuhi.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/BYU_HI/jobs">https://byuhi.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/BYU_HI/jobs</a>

#### Local Career and Job Sites

Name	Website
Hawaii Department of Education Jobs	<a href="https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiipublicschools">https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiipublicschools</a>
City & County of Honolulu Jobs	<a href="https://agency.governmentjobs.com/honolulu/default.cfm?action=jobs">https://agency.governmentjobs.com/honolulu/default.cfm?action=jobs</a>
Hawaii JobsonDemand	<a href="https://hawaiijobsondemand.com/">https://hawaiijobsondemand.com/</a>
Hirenet Hawaii	<a href="https://www.hirenethawaii.com/">https://www.hirenethawaii.com/</a>
Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools	<a href="https://www.hais.us/job-board">https://www.hais.us/job-board</a>



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### International Career Job Sites

Name	Website
Dave's ESL Cafe	<a href="https://www.eslcafe.com/">https://www.eslcafe.com/</a>
Jobs Abroad	<a href="https://jobs.goabroad.com/">https://jobs.goabroad.com/</a>
Multilingual Vacancies	<a href="http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/">http://www.multilingualvacancies.com/</a>
TESOL Career Center	<a href="https://careers.tesol.org/jobs/">https://careers.tesol.org/jobs/</a>
Teach Away	<a href="https://www.teachaway.com/teaching-jobs-abroad">https://www.teachaway.com/teaching-jobs-abroad</a>
International Christian Schools	<a href="https://www.acsi.org/global/international-schools/vacancies">https://www.acsi.org/global/international-schools/vacancies</a>
International Schools Services	<a href="https://www.iss.edu/services/teacher-recruitment/teacher-postings">https://www.iss.edu/services/teacher-recruitment/teacher-postings</a>
GoAbroad	<a href="https://jobs.goabroad.com/">https://jobs.goabroad.com/</a>
GaijinPot (Japan)	<a href="https://jobs.gaijinpot.com/">https://jobs.gaijinpot.com/</a>

### Federal Job Sites

Name	Website
Intelligence Careers	<a href="https://www.intelligencecareers.gov/">https://www.intelligencecareers.gov/</a>
USA Jobs (Language)	<a href="https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=language">https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?k=language</a>



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Internet Job Sites

Name	Website
LinkedIn	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/">https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/</a>
Indeed	<a href="https://www.indeed.com/">https://www.indeed.com/</a>
Idealist	<a href="https://www.idealist.org/en">https://www.idealist.org/en</a>
Glassdoor	<a href="https://www.glassdoor.com/">https://www.glassdoor.com/</a>
Google Search	<a href="https://www.google.com/">https://www.google.com/</a>
Honolulu Craigslist	<a href="https://honolulu.craigslist.org/">https://honolulu.craigslist.org/</a>
Ziprecruiter	<a href="https://www.ziprecruiter.com/">https://www.ziprecruiter.com/</a>
Transitions Abroad	<a href="https://www.transitionsabroad.com/">https://www.transitionsabroad.com/</a>
Modern Language Association	<a href="https://joblist.mla.org/#positiontype">https://joblist.mla.org/#positiontype</a>
Linguist List	<a href="https://linguistlist.org/">https://linguistlist.org/</a>
Chronicle of Higher Education	<a href="https://jobs.chronicle.com/">https://jobs.chronicle.com/</a>
HigherEdJobs	<a href="https://higheredjobs.com/">https://higheredjobs.com/</a>

## Tips for Using Job Search Engines

Finding the right jobs often comes down to using the right keywords. Because SLS careers can be in so many areas like teaching, language services, international education, and more, try mixing and matching these keywords when you search:

Good keywords to try:

- ESL / ELL
- TESOL / TEFL / CELTA
- Language teacher / instructor
- Interpreter / translator
- Bilingual / multilingual
- Language program coordinator
- International education
- Study abroad coordinator



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

- Curriculum developer (for language learning)
- Applied linguistics
- Copy-writer

### Quick tips:

- Try using two or three keywords together like “ESL teacher bilingual” or “international education coordinator.”
- Add the location (or “remote”) to your search.
- Job titles can vary so don’t be afraid to test out different keywords.
- Set up job alerts so new postings come straight to your inbox.

## **Voices from the Graduates of the BA Program**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Voices from the Graduates of the SLS Undergraduate Program

Our alumni have gone on to teach, lead, and serve in diverse roles across the globe. Whether earning competitive fellowships, pursuing advanced degrees, teaching abroad, or working in international education, our alumni consistently draw on the strong academic and practical foundation they developed in SLS. In this section, we share the journeys and reflections of several graduates whose experiences demonstrate how SLS prepares students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive beyond UH Mānoa.



#### Victoria Lee

Victoria graduated from our accelerated BA-MA Pathway program. After receiving her MA, she was selected for a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea.

*"Post-graduate life still feels uneasy and I even question myself at times, but the preparation the department has given me in terms of knowledge and experience enables me to go out with more confidence and pursue my goals and interests with more motivation."*



#### Chase Nomura

After earning his BA in SLS, Chase was accepted into the Peace Corps and worked in Cambodia as an English Teacher and a Teacher Trainer.

*"SLS is designed to create language teachers and teaches you different teaching methodologies and styles of language learning. My post undergraduate experience of going abroad to teach couldn't have been more perfect."*



#### Colt Dante

Colt leveraged his BA in SLS towards his current position as the Academic Coordinator of EF Honolulu, the local campus of an international language school.

*"My BA in SLS gave me the ability to further develop intercultural competence. I am able to understand the contexts which international students may be coming from so that I can assist them in a more meaningful way. The theories I studied back then allowed me to create my own materials that I could use in practical English lessons with students of multiple backgrounds."*



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook



### **Zachary Izawa**

After graduating with his BA in SLS, Zachary began working at the Tokyo Global Gateway School as an instructor and currently assists in their robotics and coding program.

*"The skills and knowledge of SLS courses helped me during my internship and fortunately gained my current position in Japan. Thanks to SLS, I am well equipped to teach, create, and help me improve as a teacher."*



### **Emma Mason**

With her BA in SLS, Emma found her way to teach in Japan through the JET Program. After completing her time in Japan she has returned to UH Mānoa and is a student in the MA in SLS.

*"Second Language Studies has been instrumental in equipping me with a solid foundation in language education theory and practical teaching skills. I credit my acceptance into the JET Program to what I learned in the Department of Second Language Studies."*



## **Keeping your UH Email**



# Department of Second Language Studies

## Undergraduate Student Handbook

### Keeping your UH Username and E-mail Account

There is a system in place for alumni (as well as retired employees) to keep your UH email accounts, along with your Google Drive and Google Site for your UH account! However, it is your responsibility to actively enroll in the service and renew your enrollment on a yearly basis. Here are the important details:

- Students who are graduating (or employees who are retiring) will be able to keep your UH email account and have limited access to the university's online services by enrolling into 'Ohana Online Services. The access includes your UH email, your UH Google Drive, your UH Google Site, STAR and the SECE website (which also has some full-time jobs listed).
- Sometime soon after you have officially graduated/retired, the UH Identity Management System will detect that you are no longer "affiliated" to UH (that is, you're no longer an active student or employee). When that happens, your UH username is placed into a "grace period" of 180 days. During that 180-day grace period, you need to enroll in the 'Ohana Online Services.
- If you do not enroll in 'Ohana Online Services within the grace period, your UH username will be disabled and all your data on your UH-related Google Drive, Google Docs, or Google Sites (as well as any stored email messages) will be deleted, and impossible to restore (that is, it will be gone forever).
- Further, if you want to keep these services for the long term, you are also required to re-enroll in 'Ohana Online Services each year. Again, if you fail to re-enroll, your UH username will be disabled and all your data would be irretrievably deleted.

Additional information about the 'Ohana Online Services and how to enroll can be found at the following links:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/askus/932>

<http://www.hawaii.edu/askus/1137>

If you have questions, please contact ITS Help ([help@hawaii.edu](mailto:help@hawaii.edu))