



MSU SLS Ph.D. Program Admissions Procedures

The Ph.D. Program in Second Language Studies at Michigan State University - <http://sls.msu.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/>

Basic Requirements to be Considered for Admission

To be admitted to the SLS Program, you must have at least a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a recognized educational institution in a field related to applied linguistics (linguistics, a foreign language, teaching English as a second language, language education, etc.). Most students entering the program have a Master's Degree in a similar field, prior language-teaching experience, and experience conducting research in applied linguistics, foreign language education, or SLA. The MATESOL Program (with a thesis) at MSU is considered a pipeline to the SLS Program, so if you do not meet SLS Program requirements, consider applying to the MATESOL Program at MSU.

Application Deadlines

The SLS Program only allows students to enter the program in the fall of each academic year. To apply for entrance in the Fall, your application must be **complete and received in full** by the following date:

- **December 6, 2019** (for Fall 2020 enrollment)

Financial Aid: The SLS Program awards a select number of graduate research and teaching assistantships each year. These awards include a stipend, health insurance, and a tuition waiver of 9 credits per semester. All applicants whose application files are submitted and complete by December 6, 2019, will be considered for these awards. In addition, teaching or research assistantships may be available through other language programs at MSU. Please see the SLS Program "Admissions" site for more information. <http://sls.msu.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/>

Steps in the Application Process

- ▶ (1) Submit a Graduate School application: <http://grad.msu.edu/apply/online.aspx>. Include (a) through (e) below. The SLS Ph.D. Graduate Study Major code is **5642**.
 - Personal statement:** Your personal statement should include information about how your background and life experiences, including social, economic, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges motivate you to pursue a doctorate in Second Language Studies at Michigan State University. Write in first person.
 - Academic statement:** Please provide a concise academic statement of your plans for graduate study, your career goals, and how MSU's SLS Ph.D. graduate program will help you meet your career and educational objectives. Additionally, please discuss your research interests, with whom you would like to study in the program, or both.
 - Contacts for three (3) letters of recommendation:** In the gradportal, provide the names and email addresses for recommenders who are familiar with your academic and professional accomplishments and potential for success. At least one recommendation letter must be from a former professor, academic advisor, or other individual familiar with your academic background and abilities. The letters of recommendation must be current and specifically for the MSU SLS Ph.D. Program. After you submit your online application, the system will send an email to each of your references containing a link so they can upload their letters of recommendations directly into your application file. Note that *all recommendation letters are due by the application deadline*.
 - Under "File Uploads" in the grad portal, select Document Type "Resume" and upload your **Resume** (or CV, which is a curriculum vitae).
 - Under "File Uploads" in the grad portal, select Document Type "Writing Sample" and upload an **Academic Writing Sample** (e.g., your MA thesis, a paper, or publication).
 - You may optionally submit under "File Uploads" an additional piece of evidence that you believe will help the admissions committee understand your unique strengths or promise as a graduate student in this program. Examples are included below:
 - Foreign or second-language materials, course evaluations, syllabi, or examples of your prior work with technology (e.g., website link; link to an electronic portfolio, etc.). You can type the URL(s) and a short description of the website(s) in a Word document and submit that document under "Other."
- ▶ (2) Submit GRE test scores (MSU institution code=1465), and also submit English-language-proficiency test scores (TOEFL or IELTS) if you are a non-native speaker of English.
 - For non-native speakers of English: Send in your TOEFL score of 600 (250 CBT or 100 iBT) or higher or an IELTS score of 7.5 or higher (MSU institution code=1465). The TOEFL or IELTS test must have been taken within two years of the application.
- ▶ (3) Request **Official Transcripts** from places where you got a higher education degree. Have these institutions send them by mail directly to Mr. Ben Lampe (address below). If your transcript is from China, you must submit transcript verification, as described here: <http://sls.msu.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/>

QUESTIONS? SLS Contact Information:

Mr. Ben Lampe, SLS Graduate Secretary and SLS Program Application Coordinator
Michigan State University, B-331 Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing, MI
48824, USA — lampeben@msu.edu — Phone: 517-884-1517 — Fax: 517-432-2736

Check your application status! <https://admissions.msu.edu/gradportal>