

## MLE

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Master of Applied Linguistics & Exegesis is offered by ACTS Seminaries in conjunction with CanIL on the campus of Trinity Western University in Langley, BC, Canada. To find out more or to apply go to [www.twu.ca/graduate](http://www.twu.ca/graduate).

**1. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?**

- The official deadline for application for the fall semester is July 1<sup>st</sup>. For the spring it is November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is possible in some cases to process an application after these dates.

**2. WHAT IS THE BEST SEMESTER TO START?**

- The MLE is designed for students to begin in a fall semester but it is possible to begin in the spring or summer as well. If a student has not yet completed the prerequisites and/or has never attended ACTS, TWU or CanIL before, the summer session is the best time to start.

**3. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR ACCEPTANCE?**

An undergrad degree (BA, BSc, etc.) from an accredited institution, plus:

- LING 210 Language & Society
- LING 310 Articulatory Phonetics
- LING 330 Phonological Analysis
- LING 360 Grammatical Analysis (or LING 361 Morphology + LING 362 Syntax)
- BIE 500 Intro to Bible (or 6 hours of Bible at the undergrad or grad level)
- THS 540 Intro to Theology (or 3 hours of Theology at the undergrad or grad level)
- All the linguistics prerequisites can be completed in a summer session for a reduced tuition rate. Go to [www.canil.ca/summer](http://www.canil.ca/summer) to find out more. It is possible to begin taking some MLE courses before completing the prerequisites; however, several courses cannot be begun until the prerequisites are completed.

**4. IS THERE A LIMITED NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT CAN BE ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM?**

- Currently there is no cap on the number of students who may be admitted to the MLE program.

**5. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?**

- The MLE can be completed in 4 semesters (not including the prerequisite courses - see #3 above), that is, in about 2 years. Most students opt to spread it out over 5 semesters (or 4 semesters plus a summer).

**6. HOW MANY SEMESTER HOURS SHOULD I TAKE AT ONCE?**

- For grad courses, you should normally expect to spend about 3 hours outside class for every classroom hour. So if you take 12 semester hours, you should be prepared to spend 48 hours per week on classes and course-related work. For some purposes (e.g., Canada Student Loans), you need to be taking at least 6 semester hours (of grad-level courses) to be considered a full-time student. For other purposes (e.g., ACTS or CanIL Financial Aid), the minimum is typically 9 hours (though this can be adjusted upon request).

## 7. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- The 2011-2012 tuition rate for the MLE is \$430 per semester hour. This comes to about \$21,070 for the entire degree (plus any increase in the rate for each academic year).

## 8. IS THERE FINANCIAL AID?

- Financial aid is available both through ACTS and through CanIL. The deadline for applying for ACTS aid for the following academic year is May 1. The deadline for applying for CanIL financial aid for the fall is in July 15 and the deadline for the spring is November 15. Students beginning the MLE who have applied for financial aid from CanIL currently receive an automatic entrance scholarship of \$3000 in their first full time semester. Bursary aid is available in all other semesters, currently averaging \$1000-\$2000 per student per semester. MLE students who join Wycliffe Bible Translators or similar Bible translation or literacy mission organization, receive an exit scholarship in two parts: 1) \$1500 for membership in a Bible translation organization before graduation and 2) \$1500 for beginning a field assignment within 2 years of graduation. MLE students are also welcome to apply for teaching assistant (TA) positions which provide about \$1900 per semester in income. MLE students are also now eligible to apply for the Church Matching Grant which can provide as much as \$4000 per academic year in bursary aid for the student, depending on the student's eligibility and their church's participation.

So, consider the following scenario. You come to summer @ CanIL and take your undergraduate prerequisites; you then complete your MLE in 4 regular semesters plus some course work in the intervening summer. You apply for and receive the following:

\$3000 entrance scholarship

\$6000 financial aid (\$1500 per semester for your 4 regular semesters)

\$3800 TA stipend (\$1900/semester for average of 2 semesters)

\$8000 Max church matching grant

\$20800 Total (approx)

Note that this does not include the costs of your first summer (undergrad prereq's); but it also doesn't include the \$3000 exit scholarship available to those going into field work with Wycliffe or a similar Bible translation/literacy organization.

## 9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MLE AND THE MALING?

- The MLE is designed primarily for students interested in becoming Bible translators who have not yet had extensive training in Biblical studies. The linguistics courses are mainly "applied" and are focused on training in cross-cultural linguistics analysis. The seminary courses in the MLE are focused on Biblical languages and good exegetical methods.
- The MALING is 100% linguistics with a mixture of applied and theoretical linguistics training. It is an excellent training option for those interested in Bible translation who already have sufficient training in Biblical studies. The MALING may be a better program for those pursuing literacy work, language survey, and specialist linguistic roles on the mission field. For students not pursuing roles on the mission field, the MALING is a good degree for preparing for doctoral work. It is also a great credential for those planning to teach English as a second language.

#### **10. WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN MLE DEGREE?**

- The MLE is excellent preparation for work in Bible translation in organizations like Wycliffe Bible Translators or other agencies in the Forum of Bible Agencies. It is beneficial for language learning, translation, literacy and Bible teaching in a cross-cultural context. It is also good preparation for certain post-graduate programs.

#### **11. WHICH COURSES SHOULD I TAKE FIRST?**

- If you have completed the prerequisites for the degree program and are beginning the MLE in a fall semester, priority should be given to taking LIN 560, 570 and 580 (which are only offered in summer and fall semesters). These are prerequisites to several other advanced courses. This combination is a heavy load so taking a fourth course would make for an extremely busy semester. (However, if you intend to complete the MLE program in 4 regular semesters, without summer classes, you will need to take at least 12 hours each semester.) If you intend to work on a language program with SIL, you may want to also prioritize courses on the "CanIL Certificate" list which represent the minimum training requirements for beginning a language program with SIL.

#### **12. CAN I TRANSFER CREDIT INTO THE MLE PROGRAM?**

- You can apply to transfer course credit into the MLE program if:
  - It was a graduate-level course, and you took it as a grad student, and
  - It is in the areas of linguistics, Bible, theology, Biblical languages or Christian ministry
- NOTE that a minimum of 30 semester hours must be taken at ACTS/CanIL. Furthermore, a minimum of 12 hours must be taken through ACTS in Biblical studies (i.e., BIE Biblical exposition, BIL Biblical languages, or THS Theological studies courses). Thus, if you transfer in course work which replaces two or more of the core Biblical studies courses, some of your elective courses will need to be in Biblical studies in order to offset the transfer credits.

#### **13. IF I'VE TAKEN A REQUIRED SUBJECT IN MY UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE CLASS?**

- If the course you took in your undergraduate studies is close enough in content to the graduate level course, it is possible that you can get approval not to take the course. No transfer credit can be issued for undergraduate work, but you may have the course waived. You would then fulfill the same number of credit hours by taking an additional elective course(s). Keep in mind the minimums referred to in #12 above: at least 30 semester hours must be taken at ACTS/CanIL, and at least 12 hours must be taken through ACTS in Biblical studies.

#### **14. DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE PROGRAM ALL AT ONCE OR CAN I PAUSE IT?**

- You do not have to complete the program all at once. You have 6 years in which to complete the degree. Many students pause their program to work or go overseas for a term on the mission field before returning to complete the degree. In the context of Wycliffe, this usually means completing the core courses listed on the CanIL Certificate first, going to the field, then returning to complete the seminary courses required to begin translation.

**15. WHICH OF THE MLE COURSES ARE REQUIRED FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION?**

- A complete list of minimum training requirements can be found on <http://www.sil.org/training/tracks.htm>. This list is also reflected on the CanIL Certificate Application. LING 210, 310, 330, 360, 560, 570, 580, 581, 583, 584, and at least one of the following: 582, 585, 586. For more details, request "CanIL Certificate Application.doc" from the CanIL Admissions office.

**16. WHAT IS THE 10-MONTH TRACK?**

- The 10-Month Track is basically the courses listed on the CanIL Certificate, which can be completed in a summer, fall and spring.

**17. CAN I TRANSFER TO THE MALING FROM THE MLE?**

- Yes. You can transfer to the MALING. Note, however, that ACTS courses do not transfer to the MALING.

**18. CAN I TAKE COURSES OUTSIDE OF ACTS/CANIL AS PART OF THE DEGREE?**

- With pre-approval from the MLE Program Director, you may be able to find graduate level courses at other schools which may serve as electives more appropriate to your career plans than what is provided by CanIL or ACTS in your time frame. You will need to provide the current syllabus for such a course for review by the MLE Program Director. See #12 above regarding transfer limits.

**19. WHAT IF I NEED A COURSE THAT IS NOT OFFERED IN THE SEMESTER I NEED TO TAKE IT?**

- From time to time a student will need to take a specific course that is not offered in the current semester in order to graduate sooner. In this instance, the student is encouraged to apply for a directed study course. The student would approach the Director of Academic Affairs, or the MLE Program Director; the Directors will seek to identify a faculty member who is able and willing to offer the course as a directed study. If an instructor is willing, the student will be advised on how to proceed with registration.

**20. WHAT GPA DO I NEED TO MAINTAIN?**

- A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for admission to the program. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7 is required for graduation.

**21. IF I'M NOT CANADIAN, CAN I WORK IN CANADA DURING OR AFTER THE MLE?**

- Non-Canadian students may work on campus with only a study permit. Non-Canadian students at ACTS seminary may **not** obtain an off-campus work permit or post-graduate work permit at this time.

**22. IF I ALREADY HAVE A BIBLE SCHOOL DEGREE, SHOULD I STILL TAKE THE MLE?**

- In general, students with previous undergraduate or graduate training in Biblical languages and exegesis may find that it is more beneficial to focus their studies on linguistics, and may thus instead decide to pursue the MALING. However, some students with a strong background in one Biblical language may still choose to take the MLE, with a focus on the other Biblical language. If they intend to work with Wycliffe/SIL, it may be a matter of comparing the SIL training requirements for Bible translation in order to determine which requirements would have been satisfied by their previous training. Refer to <http://www.sil.org/training/tracks.htm> to find training requirements.

### **23. WHAT MIGHT A “TYPICAL” PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?**

- There are many variables involved; the MLE program is fairly flexible. If you do not yet have a current copy of *MLE Planning Worksheet*, request it, along with *MLE Suggested Program Plan* from CanIL Admissions or download these files from the CanIL website. Begin filling out the *MLE Planning Worksheet* – you can edit the digital file directly, and send it as an attachment to the MLE Academic Advisor to have it reviewed; then you can easily update it each semester as you progress through the program.