Why study Teaching English as a Second Language at Maryville College?

Are you ready to make a difference in a student’s life? Maryville College’s major in Teaching English as a Second Language (TSEL) prepares you to work with pre-kindergarten through 12th grade language learners. Studies emphasize linguistics, second language acquisition, the psychology of language development and the pedagogical skills needed to have an impact on young English learners. With a requirement to minor in a foreign language, you will better understand the process of learning a language, which will help you connect to your students.

Byjan Kajaei ’18
Currently: Assistant English Teacher with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program

Byjan spent the summer of 2017 studying in Nagoya, Japan, in an immersive Japanese language program. A year later, she returned for a full-time job. As an assistant teacher with the JET Program, Byjan is working with the Japanese government to teach English in local Japanese schools. Numerous experiences at MC gave her the confidence to move abroad: She taught ESL as a volunteer at a local site, and worked with the College’s Center for International Education for four years.

“Thanks to those experiences, I am much better equipped to teach my students and pursue a master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL),” she said. “The Career Center was also vital in my preparation, helping me solidify my resume and conduct the job search.”

Nikki Wilks ’12
Currently: English Teacher at Kingsbury High School in Memphis, Tenn.

Although Nikki didn’t know she would be teaching English instead of ESL when she graduated, her major prepared her for her role at Kingsbury, one of the most diverse schools in Memphis, Tenn.

“Kingsbury’s students speak 22 native languages. Nearly 20 percent of them are immigrants or refugees from more than two dozen countries. I’m getting to experience cultural diversity that would be hard to come by unless I was an extensive world traveler,” she explained. “Maryville requires a minor in a foreign language because they want us to know what it feels like. It’s helped me be more patient in the classroom and get more creative with the way I’m teaching.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit maryvillecollege.edu/TESL or call 865.981.8092