

# What is OPELT? / What is PASEO?

## 1. Ohio Program for English Language Teaching (OPELT)

OPELT is the result of a collaborative effort between Chubu University and its sister university, Ohio University, in the United States. Since 1990 OPELT has served Chubu University by providing highly qualified, native-English speaker TESOL professionals in their general English classes. The OPELT mission expanded in 1998 when the PASEO program was established and OPELT was placed under the direct administration of the Chubu Language Center (CLC).

## 2. Program for Academic Study of English Overseas (PASEO)

PASEO is divided into five distinct proficiency levels [1, the lowest, through 5, the highest. Students advance in level depending on their ability to meet the set attendance and proficiency criteria, as determined by instructor evaluation. PASEO levels are based on professional standards established by the internationally recognized Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) organization. Level criteria is also drawn from American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines. All PASEO courses are offered during time slots that do not conflict with the students' regular academic courses. PASEO courses have recently been granted full university accreditation status and count towards the newly-instituted Grade Point Average (GPA) system (Spring 2006).

## 3. Three Goals of PASEO

The three principal goals of the program are outlined below:

- 1) To provide high quality, comprehensive, English language instruction to Chubu University students, faculty, and staff to assist them in their academic and occupational pursuits
- 2) To promote internationalization and greater cross-cultural understanding by providing opportunities to explore American culture and gain valuable experience using English outside the classroom
- 3) To empower students with the necessary skills and confidence to work, travel, and/ or study abroad

### Goal 1: Pre-academic English language instruction

In many ways the PASEO program attempts to simulate an American university pre-academic Intensive English Program (IEP). Specifically, PASEO was modeled after the IEP at one of Chubu University's oldest educational partners, Ohio University. Within the PASEO program, there are two types of courses offered at all proficiency levels, one type focusing on academic skills and the other on content-based learning. The skills courses (listening and speaking, and reading and writing) each meet twice a week for two ninety-minute sessions each. Students can opt to take up to two additional courses from the Wednesday content-based course selection as well. Wednesday offerings include such titles as English for Travelers, Business English, TOEFL Preparation, The History of Rock Music, Pronunciation Workshop, and American TV Shows, to name a few. PASEO classes are limited to 25 students, but average class size hovers around 15. This small class size creates an ideal learning atmosphere as the instructor has more time to dedicate to each individual student. In the small class scenario students are provided ample opportunities to use English in class to communicate with classmates and a native speaker

instructor, and this also allows instructors to understand each student's learning style, which in turn helps to strengthen and vary the mode of instruction.

### **Goal 2: Internationalization**

Chubu University offers many opportunities for students to gain international experience through study abroad. PASEO students frequently participate in study abroad programs to Hong Kong, Australia, England, and the United States. Not only does PASEO serve as a natural catalyst for internationalization on campus through its language program, but it also provides support for study abroad students from the Humanities Department by offering pre-departure workshops in English. These workshops are designed to help students to increase their awareness of potential cross-cultural pitfalls, to practice using survival English for daily life, and to develop strategies for not only surviving, but for thriving in an English-speaking culture. In addition, PASEO organizes a number of social and cultural events to encourage English language use outside the classroom.

### **Goal 3: Empowerment**

PASEO is active in helping prepare graduate-level Ping scholarship recipients to Ohio University to compete successfully with native speakers in a graduate school academic setting. Since the inception of this important scholarship program, all scholarship awardees have studied in PASEO. While the majority of PASEO students may not bid for this particular scholarship, many others decide to go overseas to continue their study of English, while still others benefit from a solid knowledge of English to compete in the domestic job market. PASEO students graduate from Chubu empowered with a firm English language foundation upon which they can build and continue to succeed. It is a generally known fact that, compared with their non-PASEO counterparts, PASEO students feel more confident in their ability to use and communicate in English. PASEO students are renowned for their active participation even in the general English courses offered by Chubu. Furthermore, they seize every opportunity to participate in language club activities, as well as campus-wide events such as English speech contests.

## **OPELT Mission Statement 2006**

To deliver high quality, comprehensive, English as a foreign language instruction to Chubu University students, faculty, and staff; to promote Chubu University as well as the Preparation for Academic Study in English Overseas program (PASEO) to both current and potential future Chubu University students; to assist in the continued success of the sister-university relationship between Chubu University and Ohio University as well as to promote the exchange programs between the two universities; and to provide a career development platform upon which TESOL professionals may gain practical experience.

***Below is a breakdown of the four different facets of the OPELT's mission.***

**Instruction**

To deliver high quality, comprehensive, EFL instruction to Chubu University students, faculty, and staff in the following areas:

English for Academic Preparation (PASEO classes)  
English as a Foreign Language (non-PASEO classes)

**Promotion**

To promote Chubu University as well as the PASEO Program to both current and potential future Chubu University students through the following annual events:

Chubu University Speech Contests  
Chubu University Open Campus  
Kasugai Junior High School Speech Contest

**Cooperation**

To assist in the continued success of the sister-university relationship between Chubu University and Ohio University as well as to promote the exchange programs between the two universities through the following annual events:

Ohio University Study Abroad Orientation  
Ohio University Study Abroad Pre-Departure Workshops  
PASEO Ena Retreats

**Professional Development**

To provide a career development platform upon which TESOL professionals may gain practical experience in:

Teacher Training Design and Facilitation  
Curriculum and Materials Development  
Test Writing and Design  
Practical Classroom Research  
Web site management  
Textbook review and selection  
Placement Test Administration/ Supervision

Teaching English as a Foreign Language  
Participating as a Member of a University Faculty  
Administration  
The Use and Study of Japanese Language  
Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL)