

UI Student Grant Award Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The goal of this project is to provide English language support services for already-matriculated international graduate students at the University of Idaho. This project will provide a hybrid course offered on Bblearn and face-to-face once a week in the evening to assist international graduate students in developing the advanced academic literacy necessary for success.

This work is important to my career because it allows me to assist in the internationalization of the University of Idaho and enlarge the umbrella of support services. As a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction and the Master Teacher of the American Language and Culture Program at the University of Idaho, developing and teaching this course will enable me to put into practice the findings of my own research regarding international graduate students attitudes' towards literacy. This will contribute to the area of International Education and Teaching English as a Second Language.

This course is needed to support the success and retention of international graduate students on the University of Idaho campus. This problem of lack of English language support for international graduate students at the University of Idaho has been caused by an increase in total international student numbers due to the University of Idaho's mandate of internationalization. Internationalization has occurred without a corresponding increase in English language support services for international graduate students. At present, there is no funding from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, International Programs or the College of Graduate Studies to support the newly proposed course.

Kate Hellmann

PhD student, Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction

University of Idaho

Student Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Katherine Hellmann who is trying to obtain funds to develop and instruct a new English language support course for international graduate students at UI. I am her faculty advisor and am an Assistant Professor in Curriculum and Instruction. Katherine is a full-time doctoral student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and is also the Master Teacher of the American Language and Culture Program (ALCP) within International Programs here on campus.

Although the Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction would like to support Katherine's project, no funds are currently available to do so. She has not been able to obtain an individual research grant as she is not conducting research ALCP does not have funds for the course either.

I will be assisting Katherine in writing the curriculum for the course and overseeing the implementation of the curriculum and advertising materials. Katherine will be developing and instructing the course and will handle the requested equipment.

Katherine is currently completing a pilot study for her dissertation, which concerns international graduate students' attitudes towards literacy and support services they need. I know she works closely with International Programs marketing and recruitment and this course would help serve the mandate for internationalization on campus. The course embodies best practices in internationalization and does not require any regulatory agencies as she is no conducting research, but instead requires financial assistance to get it up and running.

I am happy to work with Katherine on this project and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Abstract:

The American Language and Culture Program (ALCP) is proposing a new English language support course for international graduate students starting in the fall of 2012. The course will support academic reading and writing for international graduate students and will be offered as a hybrid course using Bblearn with face-to-face classes on Monday nights from 4:30-6:20. This support course will fill a needed hole in international student support services and will assist already matriculated international graduate students who need additional support but cannot take a face-to-face course during the day.

Narrative:**Objective-**

We hope to improve the visibility and reputation of support services for international graduate students offered by the American Language and Culture Program (ALCP) and the International Programs Office (IPO). The International Programs Office is making plans to increase support staff and services as international enrollment at the University of Idaho increases. This newly proposed hybrid English language support course will serve assessed student needs.

Goals:

1. Increase awareness of the presence of and services provided by the American Language and Culture Program (ALCP) and the International Programs Office (IPO) on the University of Idaho campus by all UI Colleges by spring 2013
2. Increase awareness about the English Language support course for international graduate students
3. Increase enrollment of Chinese students in the newly offered course by 50% by spring 2013

This project is aimed at international graduate students and specifically Chinese international students because they comprise the highest number of international students on the University of Idaho campus. They are also the most important because they are the language group projected to grow the fastest over the next decade. Also, Yin-Pan et al., in “Acculturative Stressors and Acculturative Strategies as Predictors of Negative Affect Among Chinese International Students in Australia and Hong Kong: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study” noted that Chinese international students are the least likely to seek out English language support services and the most likely to struggle with acculturation at a major American University. They are the most likely to stay with their language group as much as possible and the least likely to develop relationships with Americans. They are likely to continue to celebrate Chinese culture and holidays with their language group only. Yin-Pan et al. went on to say that Chinese are also likely to live only with other Chinese students (376-377). This is why they are the most important group to reach right now.

Importance-

The time to provide English language support services for international graduate students at the University of Idaho is now. Through the American Language and Culture Program, this newly-scheduled course will support the success and retention of international graduate students at the University of Idaho. This English language support class will help serve the mission of internationalization at the University of Idaho. It is imperative that information concerning the course be sent to partnership organizations and posted online on the University of Idaho website, at the ALCP Facebook page, and as a paper brochure by the end of the spring 2012 semester so the course can be implemented by the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year. If the University of Idaho is to continue to be a leader in internationalization, it also needs to support the international students it is recruiting by offering this course every semester, beginning in the fall of 2012 and by promoting the course among international students.

This project will enable Kate Hellmann, the proposed instructor who is a PhD student in Education, to put into practice the findings of the pilot study for her dissertation. It would aid international student retention efforts and set a precedent for English language support services at other major universities and in the field of international education as well as teaching English as a second language.

Methods-

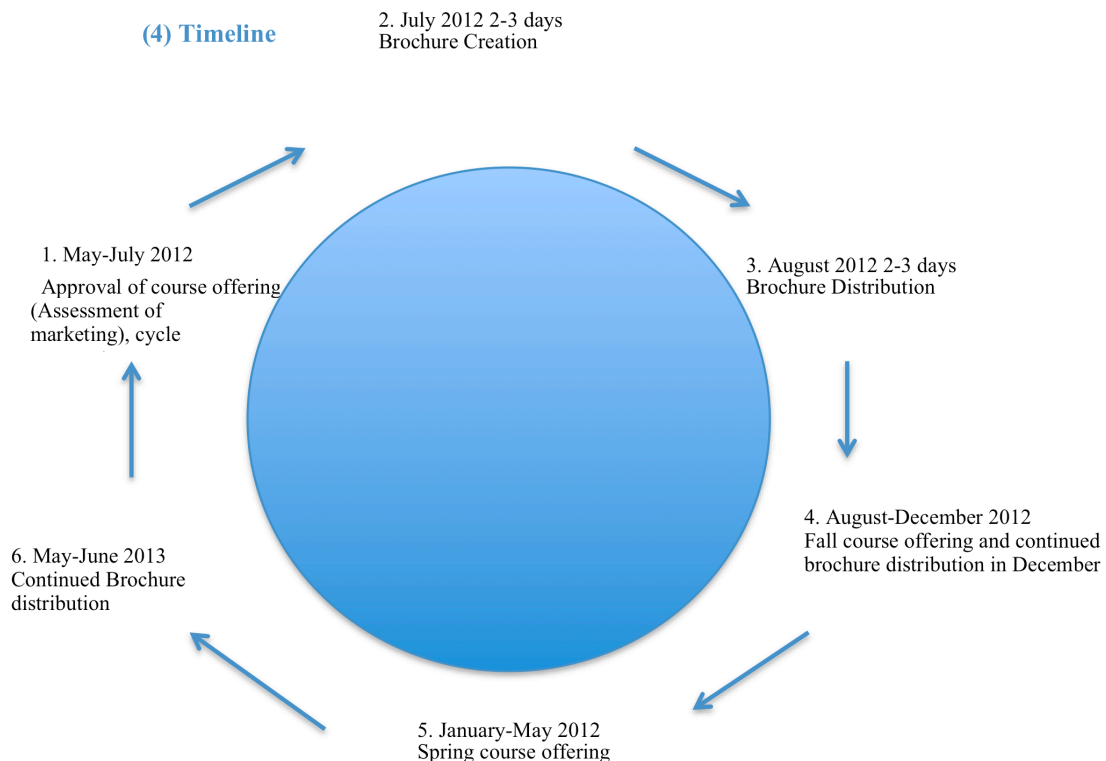
Based on assessed student needs, the proposed instructor, Kate Hellmann, wrote a curriculum for the course in January of 2012. Then, Kate Hellmann examined how to advertise the course and carry it out. With the help of the Marketing and Recruitment Assistant for International Programs, a brochure has been developed and the course will be advertised starting at the end of spring semester 2012 and will begin running in fall 2012. The curriculum for the course is below:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand acculturation at the graduate-level and how to network in their departments/in the American academy
- Utilize higher-order academic skills to critically assess research in their field

- Lead a seminar and take lecture notes for future use
- Understand and synthesize academic sources to produce a credible argument
- Self-correct grammatical errors in both oral and written communication
- Cite academic sources in the citation method used in their fields

Timeline-



Bibliography

- “American Language and Culture Program Facebook Group.” *uidaho.edu*. uidaho, n.d. Web. 21 February 2012.
- Burrelli, Joan. “Foreign Science and Engineering Students in the United States.” *The National Science Foundation*. 2010. Web. 19 February 2012.
- Brinton, D.M., Snow, M.A. & M. B. Wesche. 2003. Content-based second language instruction. Michigan Classics Edition. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Harder, Bob. Personal Interview. 16 February 2012.

“International Enrollments at U.S. Colleges Grow but Still Rely on China.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 2011. Web. 14 November 2011.

“International Student Forum.” internationalstudentforum.com, n.d. Web. 21 February 2012.

Johnson, Tammi Personal Interview. 15 February 2012.

Rogers, Abby. “International Students are Taking over the U.S. Education System.” *Business Insider Magazine*. 12 Nov. 2011. Web. 13 February 2012.

Schiffelbein, Kathryn. Personal Interview. 20 February 2012.

Additional Information: (3 pages max): Include the following information:

Institutional resources available – This includes resources already available through the university that will aid in the completion of your project (i.e. laboratory/gallery facilities, existing equipment that you will therefore not have to purchase to complete your project, etc).

Other sources of funding –

The class will be two credits and will charge each student \$612 starting in the spring of 2012. These funds will go to additional support services offered by the American Language and Culture Program to the University of Idaho.

Plan to disseminate to the university –

The cover of the brochure will display the following message:

- This hybrid English will enable students to reach academic goals and improve their English while working on their degree programs at the University of Idaho.

The following three messages will be presented to the Chinese Student Association and will be present within the body of the brochure:

A hybrid English language support service course will be offered starting in fall 2012

- This hybrid course is designed for matriculated international graduate students and will support their reading and writing
- The course will help students improve the grammar in their writing and their

confidence in your English

To combat those who may say this course is too expensive or will slow the completion of students' degree programs, the following two messages will also be included in the brochure:

- This hybrid class can be taken concurrently while working on your degree program and is offered at a low cost since it is a two-credit course
- Highly-qualified faculty will teach the course enabling students to improve their academic English specific to their own fields of study

Visual images will be included in the brochure and will show the proposed instructor, Kate Hellmann, working with a diverse group of English language learners in the Teaching and Learning Center at the University of Idaho. It will also feature the logo of Bblearn as well as the International Programs Office and American Language and Culture Program.

The spokesperson for the course will be the International Programs Marketing and Recruitment Assistant, Shawn Greenfield and he will design, distribute and modify the brochure based on the assessment plan included in the media plan to ensure maximum effectiveness. As a member of the International Programs Office and professional in direct correspondence with the development of the University of Idaho China Offices as well as other international constituents, he is the most credible spokesperson on behalf of the UI and international support services (Greenfield Interview).

A paper brochure will be distributed in high-traffic areas on the UI campus. It will also be available electronically as this population is reliant on electronic messages via e-mail or online forums. This will enable the International Programs Office to develop a brochure that can be uploaded to already existing websites, sent electronically to UI departments and printed off and copied so students can pick them up and review them more closely at home (Harder Interview).

A paper brochure will be posted or distributed via the following forums:

- ALCP Facebook Page
- Chinese Student Association Website
- International Programs/American Language and Culture Program Website
- Graduate and Professional Student Association e-letter
- International Student e-bulletin
- Faculty Staff bounce list

Regulatory committee approvals –

No regulatory committee approvals are necessary for this project.