

American Language and Culture Program (ALCP)

Memo

To: Dr. Diane Carter
From: Kate Hellmann
CC:
Date: February 15, 2012
Re: Proposed Topic for Upcoming Portfolio Assignments

I have chosen to focus my portfolio to develop communication support for a proposed new elective course in the American Language and Culture Program (ALCP) that I will be instructing starting Fall 2012. The course will support the development of advanced academic literacy for international graduate students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at the University of Idaho (UI).

Due to the dramatic increase of international graduate students on the UI campus in the past three years, this class is necessary to support international graduate student retention and success. The total number of graduate students on campus today is 274 and this is an increase from previous years by approximately 25%. Support services as well as class offerings for international students have not changed and that is why this course is now being offered. Marketing and recruitment for international students continues to increase and the International Programs Office expects the total number of international graduate students to increase also.

Further, in 2011, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported that “the number of international students enrolling in American colleges and universities grew at a faster clip in 2010 than a year earlier, reaching a high of 723,277.” With the mandate for internationalization on the UI campus, these numbers are clearly already being seen on the Moscow campus. Numbers like these demonstrate the need for more English language support now.

I have observed that international students in STEM struggle to develop the advanced academic literacy necessary for success in their degree programs and this class will help alleviate this problem because it will act as a bridge for such students to acculturate to their graduate degree programs and departments and develop the advanced English proficiency necessary for success. It will also support fully matriculated students who need more English language support and cannot attend a course face to face during the day.

The class would be a 2-credit blended course on Bblearn and in-person meaning that students would attend face to face for three hours on Monday nights or Tuesday nights only. Fully matriculated international graduate students will be eligible to take the course as well as international graduate students with deferred admission to the University. The course size would be capped at 15 students and the cost would be \$612.

I have included a brief description of the learning outcomes for the course below to demonstrate what students will be able to apply to their degree programs at the UI when they finish this course.

By the end of the class, students will be able to do the following:

- 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

As you can see, this class would benefit a large population of international graduate students at the UI. I look forward to talking with you more about this cutting-edge course and how it will help international graduate students in STEM at the University of Idaho. Please call me at 208-553-2620 or e-mail khellman@uidaho.edu. I am available next Monday and Tuesday between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to meet and discuss this course. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to our collaboration in the future. Thank you.

Kate Hellmann

Works Cited

Brewick, Mary Ellen. Telephone Interview. 1 February 2012.

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

Johnson, Tammi. Telephone Interview. 1 February 2012.