Supporting International Students

FOR:
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BY:
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Our Agenda/ Guiding Questions

- Introduction
- What does Int’l Student Population look like at UWT?
- What services do ISS and TLC offer for Int’l Students?
- What common challenges do Int’l Students bring to classrooms? – we will offer some tips!
- What opportunities do Int’l Students bring to campus?
- What other resources are available for me?
- Q & A
Int’l Student Population @ UWT

- Int’l Students = F-1 & J-1 visa holders
- Autumn 2014 #s
  - 257 (95 of them were new students)
  - 162 % increase from Autumn 2013 # (98).
- Class Standings:
  - First Years = 12
  - Sophomores = 28
  - Juniors = 104
  - Seniors = 45
  - Graduates = 68
Int’l Student Population @ UWT, cont.

Undergraduates

- Average GPA (continuing students): 2.96
- Average Transfer GPA: 3.21
- Top Transfer Schools:
  - TCC
  - Highline
  - Pierce
  - Green River
  - Seattle Central
International Student Services (ISS)

- **F-1 & J-1 Student Advising**
  - Non-immigrant document issuance, status maintenance, international travel & re-admission, off-campus work authorizations, obtaining SS# and WA IDs)

- **Programs:**
  - Quarterly New Student Orientation
  - Weekly UWTea Time
  - Workshops
  - Int’l Education Week

- **Outreach & Advocacy:**
  - To students whose GPAs are suffering
  - Weekly Email Newsletters to students
  - Quarterly Email Newsletters to constituents.
  - Facebook page
  - Website: www.tacoma.uw.edu/iss
International Student Services (ISS), cont’d.

- **Office Location:** MAT 203
- **International Student Advisors:**
  - Akane Yamaguchi, Assistant Director (IT & Nursing majors)
  - Laura Belle Douglas, Int’l Student Advisors (IA&S and Pre-majors)
  - Jon Dietzen, Int’l Student Recruiter & Advisor (funded by Milgard, Business majors)
  - Vacant, Int’l Student Counselor (funded by Milgard, Business majors)
Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)

- Provide feedback on writing
  - fulfilling assignment
  - process
  - organization
  - clarity
  - vocabulary and limited grammar
    - Writing centers are not editing services
    - We take a long view, not a “perfect by due date” view.
Int’l Student Challenges

- English Proficiency
- Lack of Socio Cultural context
- Needs to invest 3 times more on studies
- University Culture
- Learning the *why, when, & how* of citation and reference
  - don’t frame as theft or “integrity”
Tips for Teaching Int’l Students

- **English Proficiency:**
  - Visual Aid
  - Recording
  - Avoid timed writing
  - Provide opportunities for revision
  - Don’t require perfect grammar, don’t grade heavily on it.
  - Encourage use of TLC

All entering Int’l Students have met the English proficiency requirement, yet need...
Tips for Teaching Int’l Students, cont’d.

- **Sociocultural Context:**
  - Do not assume background knowledge
  - Provide relevant materials for getting up to speed
  - Looks for tasks in lectures, assignments and exams where assumed background knowledge may disadvantage students.

http://www.examiner.com/article/expats-bridge-culture-gaps
Tips for Teaching Int’l Students, cont’d.

- **University Culture:**
  - Clearly articulate expectations
    - Academic
    - Interpersonal
    - Deadlines/ Timeliness
    - Special policy on student work
  - Capitalize on teachable moments
    - For all of the above

http://sd.keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk/i/keep-calm-and-read-the-syllabus-38.png
Tips for Teaching Int’l Students, cont’d.

- **Learning to Use Citation and References:**
  - Integrating sources effectively is more than the sum of citation and quotation rules.
  - The cultural values that animate source attribution in the AADC are not universal nor obvious to novices – recitations of rules and admonishments of “integrity” are not enough.
  - Students need practice before punishment
Tips for Teaching Int’l Students, cont’d.

- Needs to invest 3 times more on studies:
  - Try to make a personal connection
  - Encourage use of office hours
    - Encourage them to come in a small group or in a pair
  - Encourage study group & partners
Opportunities of Int’l Students Presence

• How have International Students influenced classroom dynamics in your classes?
• Integrating International Students (from Inside Higher Ed)
• Chinese Students in the Classroom (from Inside Higher Ed)
• Teaching International Students: Pedagogical Issues and Strategies (U. of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching)
• Tips on Teaching ESL Students (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Writing Center)
Further Readings

- **Adjusting to University**

- **Using sources in writing**


- **Reading**
Thank You!

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