ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS

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Why offer English?
WHAT INSTITUTIONS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS WORKSHOP?

- Have no Intensive English Program (IEP) on campus
- Have IEP with different mission/focus
- Have special populations that need tailored ESL services
WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM SPECIAL PROGRAMS?

- Graduate Students/Assistants
- Postdocs and Researchers
- Spouses and Partners
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP!

• Provide solutions that have worked
• Help you avoid the pitfalls
• Provide ideas for funding

• Provide different implementation options
• Suggest various funding models
• Provide successful TLC offerings

• Give story from teacher
• Give story from student
• Show you unexpected benefits
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND CURRICULUM

Olexiy Kyrychenko, UC Berkeley, Economics Department
English Works for You!
At UC Berkeley

- Created for grad students, postdocs, visiting scholars and their spouses
- 10-15 students
- 1.5 hours, 2 times per week, 6 weeks = 18 instructional hours.
- Speaking and listening activities with a focus on professional presentations
- Academic English
Speak Up!
At UC Berkeley

- Created for grad students, postdocs, visiting scholars and their spouses
- 10-15 students
- 1.5 hours, 2 times per week, 6 weeks = 18 instructional hours.
- Speaking and listening activities with a focus on pronunciation.
- Conversational English
Course Content

- Discussion Topics—Art, music, travel, education, the election!
- Pronunciation—American Speech Sounds
- Presentations
- Americanisms—values, idioms, norms, current events
Inherent Benefits

1. Social support
2. Motivation
3. Understanding American cultural norms and academics
4. Life skills resource
Social Support

Travel together

Companionship for spouses
1. Controversial topics promote engaged conversation—Elk hunting, environment, politics, gender equality...

2. Learn about each other’s cultures

3. Understand current events
Originally very “European”: dry, formal, authoritative

Americanized it! Graphics, strong story, interactive
The class offers answers to questions about life in the US:
Where’s the best place to ski in Tahoe?
Do I need to buy a car while I’m here?
   Is Oakland too dangerous to visit?
Can I take public transportation to Yosemite?
   Why are there so many ads for mattresses?
What time should I arrive for scheduled events?
   Is it really okay to wear jeans and tennis shoes to work?
What’s the right response to, “How are you”?
What should we do in LA?
MORE from Olexiy?!
WHAT WE DO:

- Multi-level/Multi-purpose ESL programs
- Spouse and Partner Specialty Programs
- Graduate Student/Visiting Scholars Programs
- University Customized Course Offerings
- English for Scientists/Postdocs
ENGLISH FOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAM

• WHERE: Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA

• WHAT: To improve presentation, discussion, conversation, and pronunciation skills

• WHO: MD and PhD international postdoctoral researchers

This course provides an appropriate setting for communication skills improvement and a safe environment for inquiries into American culture.
“ALL POSTDOCS SHOULD TAKE THIS CLASS!”

Yoon-Kyung Sung, M.D., Dept. of Rheumatology, Allergy, Immunology
What can you do to enhance your institution’s support for non-English speaking students and scientists?

- Assess your needs
- Design a plan.
- Access an outside vendor design, hire, and deliver.
It's very simple:

* A happy spouse/partner makes for a happy student, postdoc, or visiting scholar.

A happy student, postdoc, or visiting scholar provides for a productive result, i.e., good research.

Good research is associated with a happy faculty sponsor and good mentoring.

Good mentoring is always connected to a successful career outcome.
WHAT TO CONSIDER?

COST/DESIGN
- Inexpensive
- Short
- Lean and Interactive

SCHEDULING
- Days, timing, transportation
- Group by schedule, score, level

COURSE LOGISTICS
- Timing of Announcements
- Facility coordination
- Fee collection

TESTING
- Match skills taught
- Quick
- Group or Individual
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Thank You