Bridging International Learning Program :: Quick Facts ::

What is BIL?

Bridging International Learning (BIL) is the support and resource program that intends to assist students participating in an SFU international co-op work term throughout the duration of their experience. It provides the information they need for a successful experience, including:

- giving advice on key preparations they will need to make before leaving Canada
- drawing attention to specific elements/areas they need to consider while away
- exploring issues they may encounter upon their return
- providing an opportunity to share their excitement, connect with one another, and have their questions answered

The BIL program is replacing the international co-op pre-departure orientation session and has expanded to include support and resources during the international co-op work term and upon return to Canada.

The program is managed and facilitated by the team of the International Co-op Coordinator, WIL Curriculum Coordinator, and LIDC Instructional Designer.

Expectation

All students embarking on an international co-op work term beginning and beyond Fall 2009 are expected to participate in the BIL program.

Communication

When students approach you about international co-op, please inform them that BIL provides international co-op work term support and resources that will support them prior to, during, and upon return from an international co-op work term. The expectation is that all students participating in an international co-op work term will participate in BIL. Co-op coordinators may communicate the new BIL expectation to students effective immediately.

Student Registration

The WIL PA will identify students who have been tagged for an international work placement in Symplicity starting six weeks prior to the beginning of each semester, and then weekly thereafter. Please keep Symplicity updated as students will be automatically registered for the BIL Program.

Policy Development

BIL will be rolled out in July 2009, and policy regarding BIL will be developed in Spring 2010. Please review the BIL course (contact the WIL Curriculum Coordinator for access) so that you may impact policy development.

We need to know...

What pieces do you need about and/or for BIL in order to assist with integration and promotion of the program within your existing processes when communicating about international co-op? (i.e. email blurbs, updated handouts, presentation slides – please be as specific as possible) Please discuss your needs with your PM’s. This issue will be discussed at the Wednesday, August 12 Program Manager’s meeting.