SFU EAL Resources: A Guide for Instructors

Academic Resources (for undergraduate and graduate students)

Student Learning Commons
The Student Learning Commons offers academic and language support for undergraduate students. Services designed for undergraduate EAL students include:

a. **The English Conversation Group**: peer-facilitated workshop for EAL students to improve English communication skills and learn study strategies.

b. **Conversation Partners**: EAL Students are paired up with SFU student volunteers to practice conversational English.

c. **English learning plans**: Individualized English learning plans for EAL students.

d. **Speaking consultations**: One-on-one consultations led by peer volunteers to help EAL students improve English conversation.

e. **EAL workshops**: Workshop topics such as grammar and effective speaking skills.

Services helpful to EAL students (but not limited to EAL students) include:

a. **One-on-one/group consultations**: Peer-led one-on-one or group consultations. Each consultation lasts thirty to sixty minutes.
   i. **Writing consultations**: support students’ development of strategies and skills for more effective academic writing.
   ii. **Learning consultations**: enhance learning and personal management skills such as time management, exam preparation, and note taking.

b. **Workshops**:
   i. **Writing workshops**: include topics such as concise and coherent writing, writing graduate literature reviews, integrating quotes and sources into text.
   ii. **Learning workshops**: include topics such as note-taking, critical thinking etc.

Registration for consultations, workshops, conversation groups, and additional details of services offered at the Student Learning Commons can be found on their website: [http://learningcommons.sfu.ca](http://learningcommons.sfu.ca)

Research Commons
Among many services provided at the Research Commons in the SFU library, many include graduate language support. Services helpful to graduate EAL students (but not limited to EAL students) include:

a. **The Read Ahead Program** (for honors and graduate students only): intensive and extended support for graduate and honors students writing thesis, special projects or any piece of writing with a longer deadline.

b. **Graduate Consultations**: Students are able to book consultations to gain support for their research, learning, and writing skills. Unlike consultations in the Read Ahead Program, graduate consultations are meant for more general concerns and/or shorter pieces of writing.

c. **Graduate Writing and Learning Workshops**: Workshops offered include *Getting the most out of the Grad-Supervisor Relationship* and the EAL specific *Grad café*. 
Registration for consultations and workshops, and additional details of services offered at the Research Commons can be found on their website:  [http://www.lib.sfu.ca/research-commons/services/workshops](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/research-commons/services/workshops)

The International Teaching Assistants Program (ITA program)
The ITA Program offers free intensive training seminars, designed to help both current and prospective teaching assistants and graduate students for whom English is an additional language practice their teaching skills, academic communication, critical and analytical thinking skills, and cultural understanding within a Western context. The two seminars are:

a. 10-week intensive ITA seminar where students meet once a week over 10 weeks.
b. A condensed Just-in-Time ITA seminar that complements the 10-week seminar.

Seminar registration and additional information on the ITA program can be found on their website:  [http://www.sfu.ca/grow/lang/ita/index.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/grow/lang/ita/index.htm)

Note: BOTH international visa and domestic students are eligible for the ITA program. As well, a refundable deposit is required for registration.

Additional Support Resources (for students)

International Services for Students (ISS)
Many services offered at the International Services for Students office are aimed at supporting international students in their personal and cultural transition to SFU and Canada. Note: not all international students are EAL students and vice versa. Specific ISS resources include:

a. Advising related to student's immigration documents (visas, study and work permits), medical insurance, acculturation into SFU, and personal transition.
b. Events aimed at creating social connections and engagement between new and current international and domestic students. These encompass both on campus and off campus community events and local day trips outside of the Greater Vancouver area.
c. An International Mentorship Program designed to assist new students with peer guidance and support as they transition to SFU.

More information on International Services for Students can be found here:  [http://students.sfu.ca/international.html](http://students.sfu.ca/international.html)

Teaching Support for Instructors

The Teaching and Learning Centre
The Teaching and Learning Centre staff is committed to working with instructors on designing effective learning opportunities for SFU's multilingual and diverse students. Educational consultants at the TLC work with instructors and teams to plan meaningful, relevant and accessible learning experiences. TLC's voice and presentation specialist offers workshops on making lectures and presentations more accessible for students. Learning technology and media specialists can coach instructors to use technology to engage students in the classroom and online. Further details about EAL services offered at the TLC can be found here:  [http://www.sfu.ca/tlc/development/studentexperience/eal.html](http://www.sfu.ca/tlc/development/studentexperience/eal.html)