

The ELC GLOBE

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Letters
English Language Center



All ELC Courses Move Online Due to COVID-19



ELC Faculty and Dean Long record a message for students on Zoom

Back in spring semester, MSU President Samuel L. Stanley made an announcement on March 10, 2020 that MSU would be suspending all in-person classes to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community. This meant that during the second half of spring semester, all Intensive English Program and English for Academic Purposes courses were conducted virtually. ELC teachers had to quickly pivot their instruction to online platforms, such as MSU's learning management system, D2L. Students also had to adapt to taking online classes, in addition to the new social distancing measures put in place at the university. During this time period,

MSU encouraged students to return to their permanent places of residence, and many international students, including those taking classes with the ELC, chose to go home before the semester ended.

The suspension of in-person classes at MSU continued through the summer and into fall semester, and the ELC has continued to offer online IEP and EAP classes. In addition to these core programs, the Fulbright English for Academic Studies Program (EGSP) and Academic Culture and English Studies (ACES) ITA Preparation course have also been developed and taught virtually by ELC faculty.

The move to fully online teaching was unexpected, but fortunately, the ELC is well staffed with faculty who have significant expertise in educational technology and online course development. Even before the pandemic, the Center had developed several fully-online programs and courses: the Online Academic English Program, Online TESOL Certificate, Online Academic Training, and the ESL 093 Vocabulary course. ELC faculty in partnership with the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA) also expanded their Online Language Teaching program and provided training to language faculty across the country. While ELC faculty look forward to returning to the classroom and meeting their students in person, they are also excited to have had the opportunity to expand what they can offer virtually and to potentially reach students who are not able to come to East Lansing to study.

Virtual Fulbright EGSP at MSU Wraps Up



The Virtual Fulbright English for Graduate Studies Program (EGSP) wrapped up on August 1, 2020 after an intensive three week program. Ten ELC faculty were involved in the development, coordination and teaching of the program, and despite the many challenges of providing a partially synchronous program to ninety-nine Fulbright grantees in forty-six different countries, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

I am completely satisfied with the EGSP program. There is nothing like it. I learned a lot from that program. I leave the EGSP program very enriched. -A 2020 Virtual Fulbright EGSP Grantee

The Writing and Culture course culminated in the completion of short literature reviews, while the grantees applied what they learned by giving virtual presentations on their fields of study in their Oral Communication Skills course. Grantees also learned about and discussed various aspects of U.S. culture in these courses, from communication styles and ways of reasoning to education and athletics. They also completed an asynchronous course that provided lectures on U.S. Higher Education, U.S. Classroom Culture, Understanding Key Relationships, U.S. Healthcare, and MSU Police

In addition, the Fulbright grantees took part in several social hour events via Zoom. They met with MSU Fulbrighters who shared their own overseas Fulbright experiences, and they had Zoom meetings with MSU graduate students who had volunteered to take part in the Graduate Student Forum. They also had a chance to take part in virtual home visits with some ELC faculty and to share their own homes. While the ELC is looking forward to Fulbright EGSP returning to the MSU campus in the future, the success of the virtual program has opened up new possibilities for future programming.

14th year of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Summer Orientation



The ELC welcomed the 2020 Fulbright FLTA summer orientation (FLTASO) to MSU for a 14th year. Of course, the director team offered this year's orientation virtually and it was a joint effort within the College of Arts & Letters through a collaboration between the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program, the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages, the Department of Romance, and Classical Studies, and the English Language Center.

This vital orientation was offered to 65 FLTAs from around the globe. Many of the FLTAs will remain in their home countries until the spring while others have already arrived at their host institutions throughout the U.S. Danielle Steider, one of the FLTASO Directors, mentioned that even though most FLTAs have significant experience, she enjoyed seeing the professional development of all who came. *"It will have that positive ripple effect, too. Many stay in touch as they take their experience during the orientation and move onto teacher training in their own country or other Fulbright programs. It's so rewarding to see how much they grow."*

Shigeo and Isako Imamura Graduate Fellowship Update



Isako and Shigeo Imamura

For many years, the ELC has overseen the Shigeo and Isako Imamura Graduate Fellowship in English Language Teaching. This endowed fellowship is a gift from Mrs. Imamura who set it up in 2009 in memory of her husband after his passing in 1998. Shigeo Imamura was a faculty member at the ELC for 20 years and served as the director for 11 of those years. In fact, he was the ELC's second director back in 1964. His early life experiences led him to devote his life to promoting peace through cross-cultural understanding and his commitment is honored in perpetuity at the ELC through this endowed graduate fellowship. This fellowship has traditionally awarded one grantee with the honor. Due to its growth and continued financial support from donors throughout the world, the ELC faculty and staff were pleased to award an additional fellowship for 2020. Over the years, the fellowship has gone to the following recipients: Kyle Hess (2020-21), Megan Walsh (2020-21), Alyssa Bulow (2019-20), Amr Ahmed (2018-19), Laura Bowman (2017-18), Erin Degerman (2016-17), Laura Eickhoff (2015-16), Laurel Waller (2014-15), Kinsey Wethers (2013-14), Laura Ballard (2012-13), Kelly Leonard (2011-12), and Rebecca Floyd (2010-11). For those interested in donating to this important endowment honoring a gifted educator and incredible person, please visit <http://www.cal.msu.edu/alumni-friends/ways-give>

ELC Launches ACES Summer Program for International Teaching Assistants

This summer, with generous support from the Graduate School, the ELC launched the ACES Summer Program for International Teaching Assistants. This three-week online program, whose acronym stands for Academic Culture and English Skills, aims at strengthening participants' oral communication skills in English while developing an understanding of the American university system and roles and expectations of undergraduate students and teaching assistants at MSU.

The program attracted 57 international students from all over the world, including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Korea, China, and Honk Kong. Participants were divided into four sections, each taught by a long-term ELC faculty member, with students attending synchro-

nous instruction twice per week and completing additional asynchronous work the remaining days of the week. The program also featured undergraduate and graduate program assistants who participated in class activities and met with participants on Zoom outside of scheduled class time for small group discussions, assigned tasks, and social events.

Despite the relatively short time-frame of the program, participants reported an overwhelmingly positive response to the program on the anonymous end-of-program survey, with 98% saying they would recommend the program to incoming ITAs in the future, and most expressing an increase in their communication skills, confidence, and understanding of American university culture in general, and MSU culture in particular.