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## Supporting International Students In Your University Class

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# Supporting International Students In Your University Class

Terri Bieszka, MA TESOL

Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS)

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## University instructors have many options for supporting international students in classes.

Here are 10 suggestions.

### 1. Structure classes mindfully.

- Have a goal and post a plan.
- Preview the topic and encourage student prediction.
- Include a variety of methods.

*These steps help your internationals stay oriented during class.*

### 2. Promote a community atmosphere.

- Be aware that internationals are easily isolated or segregated.
- Use collaboration and teamwork.
- Provide opportunities for internationals to share from their perspectives, if willing.

*These suggestions help your students feel welcomed and comfortable.*

### 3. Suggest reading strategies.

- Encourage the use of graphic organizers.
- Add a link for a technical dictionary to your class e-learning page.
- Remind students to focus on the relationship of ideas.

*These ideas assist less-than-fluent readers to read more effectively and efficiently.*

### 4. Guide note-takers as you lecture.

- Include previews: “*Today’s lecture will have 3 parts: a, b, and c.*”
- Use signal language.. “*Now let’s move on and take a look at my second point.*”
- Teach generally accepted abbreviations for technical words.

*These tips help your students manage the dual tasks of listening and writing.*

### 5. Vary the discussion formats.

- Use the “jigsaws” model to build expertise.
- Use online discussion boards so students can capture language and form a response.
- Include a few group roles that are less language focused.

*These suggestions promote engagement by non-native students.*

### 6. Build confidence for speaking up in class.

- Wait at least 10 seconds when you ask questions or ask for questions.
- Assign peer practice partners before important speaking assignments.
- Seek feedback from students more frequently.

*These actions allow students the time to communicate more fluently.*

### 7. Offer support for important writing tasks.

- Provide a model or basic template.
- Offer tools (i.e. library page, links,).
- Encourage use of Writing Center or library . (Arrange for a specific contact person).

*These steps provide resources to help students meet assignment objectives.*

### 8. Develop a variety of assignments.

- Use groups assignments with multiple roles.
- Assign projects that allow students to use their creativity.
- Plan multi-media assignments.

*These methods provide ways for students to engage that are less language-based.*

### 9. Reconsider your assessment methods.

- Use more frequent tests over a smaller amount of information.
- Use a variety of testing methods.
- Ask the student to explain how he thinks he is doing.

*These strategies allow students to demonstrate what they have learned.*

### 10. Give feedback frequently.

- Give feedback in writing.
- Provide a key for editing or correction marks.
- Include the correct answer.

*These methods help students see their challenges and their progress.*



**Don’t be surprised if these tips help your domestic students too!**

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