**Fall 2014 English Language Support**

**for International Graduate and Professional Students**

The newly established English Language Support Office (ELSO), a collaboration between the Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines and the Graduate School, is dedicated to creating writing and speaking support for Cornell’s international multilingual graduate and professional students. In Fall 2014, ELSO is offering courses, workshops, and tutoring. For more information, contact ELSO Director Michelle Cox (michelle.cox@cornell.edu).

**Writing and Speaking Courses**

ELSO offers three courses to international graduate and professional students: **WRIT 6100 Oral Communication** (fall and spring), **WRIT 6400 Academic Writing** (fall and spring), and **WRIT 6600 Advanced Academic Writing** (spring only). All courses are S/U and 3 credits. For course descriptions, go to (<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/international/writing_speaking.htm>. Here, you will also find the forms used to apply for seats in these courses. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on August 26, students will be notified by August 28, an open house for selected students will be held from 1:00-3:00 on August 29, and classes will start the week of September 2. Contact ELSO Director Michelle Cox (Michelle.Cox@cornell.edu) for more information.

**Friday Workshop Series**

ELSO offers a series of workshops designed to introduce international graduate and professional students to different aspects of writing and speaking. This semester’s workshops topics include: *Creating a Writing Life at Cornell* (9/12), *Making Use of Cornell’s Libraries to Support Writing and Publication* (9/19), *Writing with Sources (without Plagiarizing)* (9/26 and 10/3), *Writing to Critique, Designing an Effective Oral Presentation* (Oct 24 and Nov 5 or 7), and *Creating and Working with a Writing Group* (11/14). To learn more about these workshops and registration, go to <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/international/workshops.htm>.

**Tutoring on Writing and Oral Presentations**

ELSO lecturer Shirley van der Veur offers one-to-one consultations with international graduate and professional students. Students may consult with her at any stage in the process – from brainstorming to finalizing – and on anything they are writing or presenting– from short essays to research articles to dissertation chapters to conference presentations. Appointments are scheduled through the Graduate Writing Service (<https://cornell.mywconline.net>).

***Which option is the best for you? Turn to the other side for more information.***

**Q:** *I’m new to graduate school in the US and am not sure I understand what will be required of me as a writer. I’m not sure what writing looks like in US colleges and am not sure that my writing in English is strong enough. What should I do?*

**A:** WRIT 6400 Academic Writing for International Graduate Students was designed for students like you! This course will introduce you to many aspects of US academic writing, as well as offer you individual consultations with the instructor and allow you to be a part of a cohort of international multilingual students.

**Q:** *I really need writing support and am interested in taking WRIT 6400 but I’m afraid that I won’t have time for another course. I think I’ll be overwhelmed by the work for courses I have to take for my program. What should I do?*

**A:** A combination of workshops and tutoring might be a better option for you, so that you don’t run the risk of getting a grade of “unsatisfactory” on your transcript. The workshops are offered weekly and you may select the ones that you have time for and are most interested in. Tutoring focuses on the writing you are already doing, so it helps you manage the work you already have.

**Q:** *I’m currently working on my thesis and what I really need is help writing it. What should I do?*

**A:** You have two options: You may apply to enroll in WRIT 6600 Advanced Academic Writing (which only runs in the spring) or you may sign up for regular meetings with ELSO lecturer and tutor Shirley van der Veur through the Graduate Writing Service. The course gives you the advantage of being part of discussions on research writing, participating in peer review, meeting individually with the lecturer for feedback, and being part of a cohort of international graduate students working on similar projects. If you don’t have time for a full course or are finalizing your draft, tutoring may be a better option for you.

**Q:** *I need to work on my oral communication skills in English, because speaking is an important part of my degree program. What should I do?*

**A:** You have two options. If you are looking for support with many aspects of speaking – gaining more experience in speaking English, learning the conventions of US classroom discussions, becoming more familiar with peer-peer and instructor-student dynamics, designing and delivering oral presentations – then you should apply to enroll in WRIT 6100 Oral Communication for International Graduate Students. If you don’t have time for a full course or only want information on how to more effectively design and deliver oral presentations, then you should register for a workshop on this topic. The workshop runs for two weeks, with the first session focused on aspects of presentation design, after which participants deliver presentations for feedback.