

CSU, Chico International Bridge Program

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Academic year of intended implementation: 2017-2018 upon certification by the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

The CSU, Chico International Bridge Program combines non-credit American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI) ESL coursework with undergraduate coursework that meets undergraduate degree requirements through Open University registration. The International Bridge Program provides an additional conduit by which academically qualified students with deficiency in English language proficiency can successfully matriculate at the University, thus helping to realize increased international student enrollment. ALCI's ESL curriculum as well as credit-bearing coursework through Open University are covered under the same WASC accreditation for the entire university's program curricula. Only applicants who meet Chico State's undergraduate admission standards, except for the English language proficiency requirement, are eligible to apply for admission into the International Bridge Program. The program is offered through Regional & Continuing Education (RCE) in collaboration with the Office of International Education (OIE).

Rationale, Need, and Demand

The International Bridge Program embodies the University Strategic Plan as an active collaboration among a community of diverse students, staff, and faculty that enables learning opportunities. The Bridge program promotes the purposeful engagement of people across cultures to help internationalize our University and prepare our students for a global community.

Currently, CSU, Chico is authorized by Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) of the federal Department of Homeland Security to issue two types of authorizations (Form I-20) for students to seek F-1 visas: degree and language instruction. CSU, Chico proposes to establish the CSU, Chico International Bridge Program and seek SEVP authorization for this additional type of bridge language training program for I-20 issuance. Examples of universities conducting bridge/pathway programs include CSU, Monterey Bay, Oregon State, U Mass, and Central Florida.

First-hand accounts from numerous potential applicants and education agents across SE and East Asia strongly suggest that degree-seeking international students in need of conditional admission seek out "Bridge" or "Pathway" programming because they believe their chances of getting an F-1 visa increase. This anecdotal evidence was corroborated at the September 2016 ICEF agent event in Liverpool. Of the 46 agents interviewed during the event (many but not all from Europe), all but two agents expressed interest in a bridge program and reinforced the benefit of a bridge program I-20 as either more likely to facilitate visa issuance or as the minimum possible authorization for students traveling from their countries. Our intention is that all international students who desire to study at Chico State and are eligible for admission to Chico State are able to come if they meet all the requirements, except for English language proficiency, for a student visa. With competition for degree-seeking international students at an all-time high, it is critical that CSU, Chico ensure multiple conduits for enrollment of qualified international students. Global demand for bridge or pathway programs delivered in English is high, and indications are it is increasing. The global demand has a current estimated market value of \$1.4bn per year, according to a recent report from StudyPortals and Cambridge English. The report looked at 2,275 pathway programs from around the world and estimated this sample at 80% of the total share (*Professionals in International Education News* Sep 7, 2016).

¹ This program is referred to as a "Bridge Program" for internal, Chico State purposes only. The Student Exchange and Visitor Program unit under US Immigration and Customs Enforcement refers to such programs as "Pathway Programs." We have chosen "bridge" to avoid confusion with our General Education Pathways program.

The CSU, Chico International Bridge Program, similar to other University bridge programs, allows qualified international students to take University courses on a limited, part-time basis while they complete English language classes. The key component in Chico's Bridge Program that differs from some other universities is that there is no third party, for-profit provider of the English language instruction and academic coursework.

Established on the Chico State campus in 1979, American Language & Culture Institute (ALCI) is a university-based and academically focused intensive English program (IEP) conducted through the CSU, Chico Research Foundation as a part of Regional and Continuing Education. ALCI facilitates a transition from the non-credit language program to an academic degree program at CSU, Chico. Other than the conditional admission arrangement between ALCI and Chico State, Chico State has no other equivalent or closely related curricula for this purpose. ALCI program goals are to improve English language proficiency, to introduce American culture and the higher education system, to provide general and academic English language skill training for personal and professional growth, to facilitate the transition from an intensive English language program to an academic program, to provide for appropriate socio-cultural activities and events, and to provide compassionate and supportive student services. ALCI offers new-student orientation and extended orientation for returning international students, housing assistance, and a wide variety of appropriate and engaging socio-cultural activities at no cost or a reduced cost to students.

ALCI offers seven levels of English language instruction across five core subjects:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar

ALCI levels 5-7 are connected to established English language proficiency requirements for postsecondary study. Completion of ALCI level 5 correlates with community college proficiency requirement levels; completion of ALCI level 6 correlates with CSU, Chico undergraduate requirement levels; and ALCI level 7 correlates with CSU, Chico graduate requirement levels. ALCI offers five, seven-week sessions of intensive English language instruction per year (two sessions in the fall, two sessions in the spring, and one session in the summer) with 20 hours of instructional hours per week. ALCI maximum class size is 20 with an average class size of ~13. ALCI has appropriate assessment tools and procedures for initial placement of students into courses and to measure student progress toward course learning goals and attainment of English language proficiency. Student performance is closely monitored and attendance is taken daily. Grade reports include attendance and participation, coursework, exams, and progress made. Conditionally admitted students who do not show propensity for academic success will not complete the ALCI program and are not recommended for matriculation.

Regular student evaluations of courses and teaching are conducted at the end of each session. ALCI's curriculum, which is periodically reviewed and updated, includes measurable performance objectives/outcomes and rubrics for all levels of instruction across all core subject areas. The curriculum specifies the criteria for advancement through all levels and completion of the program. Advancement in ALCI depends on course grade (B or higher), standardized exit proficiency testing (Cambridge Michigan Language Assessment CaMLA), and faculty recommendation based on course outcomes and advancement criteria. Academic preparation is also embedded in instruction across subjects and levels. All ALCI instructors possess a minimum of a Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) or related field. ALCI staff and faculty are employees of the CSU, Chico Research Foundation.

Student demand for Chico State Bridge program is closely tied with their awareness of the Bridge option. CSU, Chico must get authorization from Homeland Security before we can launch the program and process applications. Since January 2015, the average number of conditionally admitted international students enrolled annually in ALCI is 28. Based on the portion of those students who would be eligible for the bridge program, we estimate the initial year enrollment at 10-15. Marketing and outreach initiatives will promote awareness of the bridge option. The average

international student enrollment growth in the U.S. over the last two years is 8% increase per annum. Given that increase -- plus the growing global demand for bridge programs-- we anticipate enrollment after three years projected at 20-25 and after five years at 30-40.

Curriculum/Program Design

The CSU, Chico International Bridge Program will operate on a semester basis (16-week term) with the option of no more than two semesters in total program length to meet the English language proficiency requirement for matriculation at Chico State. Successful completion of the Bridge Program (Open University credit-bearing coursework and ALCI coursework) would result in a TOEFL waiver and full-admission to the University. Academically qualified students may also meet the English language proficiency requirement utilizing established and accepted English proficiency scores, e.g., equivalent Pearson Test of English (PTE), IELTS scores. Any student who completes the International Bridge Program after two semesters but does not earn a C or better in all University coursework or does not complete level 6 in all ALCI core courses, will have their guaranteed admission rescinded. They may transfer to other schools, or leave the US at the end of the bridge program. Students in the International Bridge Program are not eligible for CPT (Curriculum Practical Training) or OPT (Optional Practical Training).

The CSU, Chico International Bridge Program will utilize standardized English language proficiency scores (TOEFL iBT or IELTS) to determine access to unit-bearing Bridge coursework and ensure a sufficient number of instructional hours for SEVP compliance. A minimum of 18 clock hours per week in each term is required.

55-60 iBT (IELTS 5.5) =

- One University course (4.5-6 clock hours/week) + four ALCI core classes (13.5-15 clock hours) per term (two ALCI sessions/one University semester).
- Two University courses (9-10.5 clock hours/week) + three ALCI core classes (9-12 clock hours) per term (two ALCI sessions/one University semester).

Vetted University Course Options

International Bridge students will be limited to a specific list of vetted University courses from which to choose. Bridge students will provide a course preference list from the specific Bridge options list as part of their ALCI application materials. RCE will collaborate with College Deans and Department Chairs to ensure an appropriate number of seats are available in the University course sections in the Bridge Program to guarantee enrollment for Bridge students.

The International Bridge Course Options are based on prior international student performance in these courses, OIE/faculty consultation, consultation with Department Chairs, and three criteria: a) student record of success; b) courses that count for general education or the student's major; and c) a specific goal not to isolate international students into "international-only" sections. Not all of the courses meet all of the criteria, but offer a balance to support student success and progress toward degree prior to matriculation.

- BADM 101 (for Business majors only)
- ELFN 170 *
- PHIL 102E *(for non-engineering majors)
- ARTH 100
- INST 110
- CMST 132
- Lower Division MATH (101-120): *all MATH courses require a passing ELM score*

*Not to be taken in the same semester

Complete course descriptions for Bridge are appended at the end of the document. Additional vetted courses may be added to the list of options. Discussions are underway regarding potential consideration of BSIS 111 Digital Literacy—a GE course without a history of international student enrollment yet but may be suitable for inclusion pending additional assessment from the faculty member and department chair.

Bridge completion requirements are as follows:

- A grade of C (2.0) or higher in all University coursework
- A grade of B or higher in all ALCI coursework
- Completion of ALCI level 6 in all core subject areas (or qualifying English proficiency test score, e.g., TOEFL iBT 61 or higher)

Any student who completes the International Bridge Program after two semesters (terms) but does not earn a C or better in all University coursework or does not complete level 6 in all core ALCI courses will have their guaranteed admission rescinded.

Implementation

Eligibility for the CSU, Chico International Bridge Program first requires application to the University through Calstate Apply and admission determination through OIE, submission of an ALCI application, and completion of the TOEFL iBT (Internet-based TOEFL) or IELTS. Students who meet the academic qualifications for undergraduate admission at CSU, Chico and have an iBT score of 55-60 or IELTS score of 5.5, i.e., are conditionally admitted to the University, may be considered for Bridge admission. (A minimum TOEFL iBT score of 61 or IELTS score of 6 is the English proficiency requirement for undergraduate degree admission at CSU, Chico). Application materials also include a course preference list selected from the approved list of University courses under the International Bridge Course Options.

Successful applicants will receive CSU, Chico International Bridge Program admission, and Regional and Continuing Education will issue a CSU, Chico International Bridge Program I-20 under the lead of the Principal Designated School Official in the Office of International Education. RCE is responsible for confirming adequate seats in targeted University classes with relevant College Deans and Department Chairs, and Bridge admits/enrollments will be confirmed at the end of July for fall and November for spring. RCE registration staff will enroll International Bridge students in the International Bridge Program course options via Open University, assuring appropriate distribution of enrollments across all course sections. Students will be enrolled in ALCI classes according to placement testing and students' indicated preference/schedule availability. Final class schedules will be available to students during orientation on Friday prior to the start of the semester. ALCI coursework will be scheduled in the mornings daily, while International Bridge Program course options will meet in the afternoons.

Advising, Orientation, and Student Support

With regard to conditional admission and the Bridge Program, ALCI also functions as an extended orientation and vetting process for international students who intend to matriculate. While enrolled in ALCI, students receive personalized instruction, hands-on student services, and the opportunity to establish themselves in the Chico community. Bridge Students will receive Wildcat ID cards (with portal authentication, email, Blackboard, library access) and also have access to the ESL Resource Center and the Student Learning Center. As a result, ALCI helps increase rates of retention and graduation among international enrollments by both ensuring English language proficiency and academic readiness. The number of international students who enrolled in Chico State degree programs and began in the ALCI program has varied recently between 20-32%.

OIE will provide admission advising for the International Bridge Program as done for all international students to determine eligibility. RCE will provide orientation, information about the approved course options, and advising for ALCI coursework. Academic advising related to the students' University degree program to which they have been conditionally admitted will be provided by Academic Advising or major advising in the same manner that advising

services are provided to international students admitted to degree study at the University. As the University expands international student enrollment over time, Bridge Program enrollment is anticipated to grow. If the number of Bridge students exceeds the space available via Open University enrollment, self-support sections of the courses may be a viable option to serve both students in the Bridge Program as well as expand the capacity for serving regularly matriculated students at no additional cost to the students, colleges, or departments. RCE will meet annually with Academic Advising and major advising to ensure the degree applicability of the International Bridge Program Course Options. RCE will collect longitudinal data to assess the International Bridge Program, including enrollment, matriculation, retention, and graduation data.

Faculty Development

Research shows that language acquisition can be greatly improved when combined with content coursework. With the small number of university courses targeted for Bridge enrollments, we support the formation of a faculty community of practice to share successes and strategies for teaching international Bridge students. With the assistance of Faculty Development, additional professional development can be fostered for faculty. There may be potential for connecting successful teaching practices such as deploying multiple teaching modalities (e.g., visual, aural) to support a broader student audience, including domestic students whose first language is not English. Through a partnership with Faculty Affairs/Faculty Development, a faculty learning community will be established with a \$500 stipend for participating Bridge instructors.

Resources and Budget

The International Bridge Program is a self-support program which combines enrollment in the non-credit ALCI program with undergraduate coursework through Open University registration. Self-support tuition and fees will be a flat per student rate collected by RCE to cover all required direct and indirect Bridge program costs. Bridge revenues for ALCI will be deposited into the CSU, Chico Research Foundation with Open University per unit fees deposited into the Continuing Education Revenue Fund (CERF) and Student Health Center fees deposited into the Student Health Center trust fund. The three different funds reflect the different components required for the program.

CSU, Chico International Bridge Program tuition:	\$6500
Student Health Center Fee:	<u>\$ 120</u>
Total:	\$6620 (per semester)

Tuition and fees are subject to change based on a number of factors, including Open University per unit fees established and approved by the campus and Student Health Center fees per semester. Any agent commission for Bridge student recruitment will be based on the ALCI agent agreement of 15% of tuition, for each semester of the Bridge Program, not to exceed two semesters. ALCI will manage agent commission payments.

PROGRAM REVENUE

Per-Student Tuition and Fees: Three Units in Open U + four ALCI core classes per semester

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Program tuition	\$6,500.00
Student Health Center Fee	\$120.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES (3 units)	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Open University Fees (\$286/unit)	\$858.00

ALCI Expense	\$4000.75
RF Indirect Rate (8%)	\$520.00
University Mission MOU Indirect Rate (2.25% of revenue)	\$146.25
Commission payment (where applicable)	\$975.00
Student Health Center Fee	\$120.00

<i>Tuition & Fees Revenue</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
\$6,620	\$6,620

Per-Student Tuition and Fees: Six Units in Open U + three ALCI core classes per semester

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Program tuition	\$6,500.00
Student Health Center Fee	\$120.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES (6 units)	

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Open University Fees (\$286/unit)	\$1,716.00
ALCI Expense	\$3,142.75
RF Indirect Rate (8%)	\$520.00
University Mission MOU Indirect Rate (2.25% of revenue)	\$146.25
Commission payment (where applicable)	\$975.00
Student Health Center Fee	\$120.00

<i>Tuition & Fees Revenue</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
\$6,620	\$6,620

ALCI-related expenses include instructional, managerial, and support salaries and benefits; orientation and advising; ALCI student services; access to the ESL Resource Center; instructional space and shared facilities (rent and utilities), and shared RCE administrative overhead.

Open University fees provide students access to the University course and to the Student Learning Center. Fees also reimburse the campus for direct and indirect costs associated with serving the students and provides for partner revenue share to support department and college activities. A summary of the financial model for all Open University fees (a small portion of which reflects Bridge enrollment) follows.

2017-2018 PROJECTED OPEN UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL MODEL SUMMARY			
PROJECTED REVENUE	\$558,344		<i>Effective Spring 2017: \$284/unit</i>
PROJECTED SCUs	1,966		
PROJECTED Enrollments	550		

PHIL 102E Logic and Critical Thinking – ESL 3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: For Students with English as a Second Language.

A special section of Logic and Critical Thinking open only to students with English as a Second Language. Interested students should contact the instructor for an approved General Education course.

CMST 132 Small Group Communication 3.0 FS GE

This course examines communication in small group processes such as group development, group climate, leadership and roles, problem solving, and conflict. Student participate in a small group and practice gathering, organizing, and presenting research-based group speeches. 3 hours discussion. This is an approved General Education course.

INST 110I Introduction to International Engagement 3.0 FS GE

The nature of study, work, volunteering, and travel abroad. Emphasis on an exploration of the self as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological being while living abroad. Students learn to differentiate between personal, cultural, and universal patterns in order to develop greater understanding of themselves and people of other cultures. 3 hours lecture. This is an approved General Education course.

MATH 101 Patterns of Mathematical Thought 3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement.

An informal approach to mathematics designed to bring an appreciation and workable knowledge of the subject to non-majors. Not acceptable for a mathematics major or minor. 2 hours lecture, 1 hour discussion. This is an approved General Education course.

MATH 105 Statistics 3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement.

Summary of numerical data, elementary probability, distributions, and introduction to statistical inference. 1.5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours discussion. This is an approved General Education course.

MATH 107 Finite Mathematics for Business 3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement.

Solutions to systems of linear equations, matrices, linear programming, combinatorics, probability, binomial and normal distributions. 1.5 hours lecture, 1.5 hours discussion. This is an approved General Education course.

MATH 118 Trigonometry 3.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement.

Trigonometric functions, graphs, identities and conditional equations, logarithms, solutions of triangles, and complex numbers. 3 hours discussion. This is an approved General Education course

MATH 119 Precalculus Mathematics 4.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement, and either 1/2 year of high school trigonometry or MATH 118 (may be taken concurrently).

Functions and graphs, including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Systems of equations and inequalities, polar and parametric equations, complex numbers, and analytic trigonometry. 4 hours discussion. This is an approved General Education course.

MATH 120 Analytic Geometry and Calculus 4.0 FS GE

Prerequisites: Completion of ELM requirement; both MATH 118 and MATH 119 (or high school equivalent); a score that meets department guidelines on a department administered calculus readiness exam must be achieved by those who claim high school equivalence.