

Tips for Working with Multilingual Learners



Who?

Multilingual learners may be international students or students educated partly in U.S. schools, but limited English proficiency can make success in your classes more challenging for them.

What?

Here are some easy-to-implement tips that will help **all** of your students.

1. Recognize that limited language skills don't reflect lack of intelligence.
2. Make the hidden curriculum explicit by explaining things students often aren't taught-like what office hours are for or how you define academic integrity in your course.
3. Foster peer-to-peer interaction.
4. Focus on clarity rather than correctness.
5. Find ways to tap into the assets of international students.
6. Offer clear, structured options and support to language learners who may feel overwhelmed by too many choices.
7. Use a mix of summative assessments (high-stakes, major-grade items like exams, quizzes, or term papers) and formative assessments (frequent, low-stakes tasks such as homework, practice exercises, reflections, or discussions).
8. Conduct occasional "check-ins" (e.g., via email or after class) allowing students to share progress and faculty to check for understanding.
9. Promote student resources on campus, such as International Student Services Office, Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success, and Tebo Library.



Scan the QR code above to access the Faculty Resources available on the TILT website.



Scan the QR code above to access the Faculty Resources available on the ISS website.

Other Ideas:

Book: *Fostering International Student Success in Higher Education* (available through Tebo Library)

By: Shapiro, Farrelly, & Tomas

Suggest to students: Notetaking device

Courtesy of FHSU Faculty Development Committee