

Form Name:	Provost Innovation and Enhancement Grant
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Proposal Title	Graduate Writing Fellows
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Department/Program/Unit	Graduate School
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Proposal Leader(s)	Noelle Selkow
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Leader Department/Unit Name	Graduate School
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Additional Leaders or Participants

Additional Leader	Becky Beucher
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Additional Department	College of Education
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Add leader or participant?	Yes
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Participant Name	Wouter Van Alebeek
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Participant Department	Office of International Engagement
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Add additional leader or participant?	No
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Add additional leader or participant?	No
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Add additional leader or participant?	No
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Add additional leader or participant? - Copy - Copy	No
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Background

Graduate students have expressed the need for support in writing throughout the graduate career, especially in thesis/dissertation writing, based on survey results received by the Graduate School. This level of research writing is more than likely new to the graduate student, overwhelming, and often feel confused on expectations. Plagiarism also accounts for 95% of the cases reported to Student Code of Conduct of graduate students, primarily by international students. One reason we see high plagiarism incidents in international students is cultural differences, time management in completing writing tasks, and lack of resources. Last year, there was one writing support specialist for graduate students for 16 hours/week and the need far exceeded what could be provided. We have also learned that many thesis/dissertation committees highly suggest or require editing of documents by an outside source. These can be very expensive and take weeks to months to complete.

Goals and Objectives

The strategic plan of the graduate school highlights writing needs of graduate students and the need for ISU to offer support. Graduate students need different writing assistance than undergraduate students, as well as more campus wide resources for graduate writing, were common themes from an internal survey. We have 3 goals:

1. Increase the number of appointments and availability of writing services to graduate students.
2. Provide plagiarism resources and education to graduate students and faculty to decrease SCCR sanctions.
3. Provide proper training of the writing fellows with best practices and CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) certification.

Proposed Strategy or Plan

Our plan is to hire 3 writing fellows as graduate student workers. The intention is one fellow will have a background working with international students and English as a Second Language, one fellow will be from the College of Education, where the largest population of doctoral students is housed, and one fellow would have a generalist background in writing styles, editing, writing tutoring, and workshop planning. The fellows will be set up with a scheduling manager for students to make appointments with about 60 hours per week to choose from. Appointments will primarily be in evenings and on weekends, in both virtual and in-person formats, to best meet the needs of our graduate students. In collaboration with the Visor Center, space can be used by our fellows after 5pm when Visor no longer uses the space. The writing fellows will receive training guided by CRLA, as well as regular check ins between the fellows and supervisors in the Graduate School, Efaw Center, and OIE. The fellows will also work on writing resources to be posted on the Reggienet site that all graduate students have access to, coordinate regular writing workshops for students and faculty, like plagiarism and mentorship. Assessment on tutoring sessions, number of appointments, workshops, and SCCR reports will be collected to assess goals and objectives.

Proposal Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this program are any graduate student who has a writing assignment. Resources will be available for all different levels of support. Accessible videos/tutorials/documents can be viewed by students on an individual bases looking for quick guides. One-on-one tutoring appointments can be for those that need more individualized attention and need specific questions addressed. These tutoring sessions are meant to help students learn how to become a more efficient writer, well beyond just editing services. Workshop offerings will help students know they are not alone and provide opportunities to put writing skills into practice. Graduate faculty will also benefit from this service, as they can refer students to a writing fellow, attend workshops on how a faculty member can help support a student in writing and provide mentorship tips. This initiative has the potential to impact over 3,000 people.

Expected Outcome/Deliverables/Indicators of Success	<p>The intended outcomes are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an actionable initiative to a request that continues to be a highly sought after resource 2. Provide students with writing support that is intended to be graduate level 3. Help international students understand the writing culture of American universities and decrease plagiarism 4. Help adult learners and non-traditional students through the writing process 5. Collaborate with faculty on resources, mentorship tips, and writing expectations. <p>Indications of success will be the use of the service (number of appointments, type of assignments), feedback on workshops and writing sessions, decreased SCCR reports of plagiarism, and increased awareness of graduate student writing needs. Time to degree and the number of thesis/dissertation hours will be tracked to understand if barriers in the writing process are causing delays.</p>
Sustainability	<p>The three units, Graduate School, Efaw Center, and OIE, have agreed to cost share expenses moving forward, where OIE and the Efaw Center can allocate funds in the next fiscal year budget. The Graduate School has funds available to support 2 fellows, so by cost sharing, the additional fellow can be maintained after the funding period.</p>
Anticipated starting date	Oct 01, 2022
Anticipated ending date	Jun 30, 2023
Budget	20000.00
Will department/school/unit funds be utilized?	Yes
Budget Breakdown	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13376423816
Attach letter of endorsement/support by next level supervisor (e.g. Chair/Director Dean or AVP)	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/13376423817