10 Best Academic Support Strategies for International Students

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Getting to Know One Another

With which type of Higher Education Institute are you currently affiliated?

0% 1. Public 4-Year Institution
0% 2. Public 2-Year Institution
0% 3. Private 4-Year Institution
0% 4. Private 2-Year Institution
0% 5. Other
Getting to Know One Another

How many years have you been working with international students?

1. 0-3 years
2. 3-6 years
3. 7-10 years
4. More than 10 years

0%
Getting to Know One Another

How many years have you been in the field of academic support?

1. I am brand new.
2. 1-3 years
3. 4-6 years
4. 6-10 years
5. More than 10 years
Scenario 1: Tae-Eun from Korea

What is a literature review? I have never written one in Korea!

- A college junior who majors in psychology
- Wants to get in a doctoral program in psychology after she graduates.
What would be your priority when working with Tae-Eun?

1. Explain what a literature review is.
2. Refer her to a reference librarian.
3. Send Tae-Eun to Career Services for her doctoral application.
4. Send Tae-Eun to her psychology course professor/TA.
5. Say to Tae-Eun “You don’t know what a literature review is? How did you make it this far?”
What would you do to follow-up with your referral?

1. Nothing. Tae-Eun is an upperclassman. She should be able to work independently.

2. Make a follow-up appointment with Tae-Eun at your office to check-in on her progress.

3. E-mail her professor to let him/her know that Tae-Eun is lost and needs extra help.
Strategies

• Encourage international students to utilize their professors’ and TAs’ office hour to ask questions, obtain feedback or clarify assignments.

• Familiarize students with campus resources such as academic advisors, librarians, writing coaches, learning instructors, counselors, and career advisors.

• Cultivate students’ writing skills by breaking down assignments into manageable components, prioritizing their challenges, and providing instruction on self-editing.
Scenario 2: Amit from India

- Family Responsibility
- Needs to find a job
- Take 5 courses

What do I do with all these readings? I have nothing to say in class? Can I tape record my prof.'s lectures?

First-Year MBA student double-majoring in Finance and Marketing
What would be your priority when working with Amit?

1. Provide him with semester and weekly calendar. Work with Amit to plan his time.
2. Teach him how preview, chunk, question, read, review and reflect.
3. Teach him Cornell Note-Taking Method.
4. Teach Amit how to prepare for class participation by printing out PowerPoint slides and predicting questions.
How would you help Amit balance his life?

1. Tell him that getting a job is the most important thing – for him and for his family.

2. Encourage him to do everything and sacrifice his sleep. Tell him something like “Do you think people on Wall Street sleep 8 hours per night?”

3. Help Amit to set his own goals and priorities for this year. Brainstorm strategies to achieve those goals and priorities.
# Case-Based Reading Strategies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Date, Location, Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Facts</td>
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<td>Key Problems</td>
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<td>Relevant Considerations</td>
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<td>Qualitative Analysis</td>
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<td>Quantitative Analysis</td>
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<td>Recommendation supported by analysis</td>
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Note-Taking Strategy for Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Ideas</th>
<th>Notes from Reading</th>
<th>Class Discussion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key Questions</td>
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Strategies for Participating in Cases

**Before Class**
- Prepare for Summary
- Frame Different Possibilities
- Practice Answering Questions

**During Class**
- Listen Carefully
- Take Notes in Class
- Participate by Asking Questions and Making Comments

**After Class**
- Review Notes
- Reflect
- Strategize Participation Patterns Based On Performance
Strategies

- Work with international students to make their time visual. Facilitate conversations with them about goal setting and prioritizing.
- Divide academic tasks into before, during and after, supplying strategies for each stage.
- Develop students’ reading versatility by introducing the strategies of previewing, chunking, questioning, reading, and reflecting.
Scenario 3: Yuko from Japan

I don’t know how to participate in class! Americans talk like a machine gun! I can never get a chance to talk!

I want to join a study group. I think a study group can help me with reading and my take home exam!

• A freshman from Japan
• Taking 4 courses
What would be your priority when working with Yuko?

1. Clarify the concept of a take-home exam and review the code of academic integrity.
2. Encourage Yuko to join weekly English conversation group to improve her English and meet new people.
3. Teach Yuko how to preview her class materials, think critically and prepare for possible questions asked in class.
4. Encourage Yuko to go to the office hours.
Strategies

- Introduce students to the concept of academic integrity in American higher education, bearing in mind that there might be cultural differences in their perceptions.

- Encourage students to learn from their peers by forming study groups that meet regularly.
Learning Pyramid
Source: National Training Laboratories. Bethel, Maine

Average Percentage of Retention of Material after 24 hours for each Instructional Method

- Lecture: 5%
- Reading: 10%
- Audio-Visual: 20%
- Demonstration: 30%
- Discussion Group: 50%
- Practice by Doing: 75%
- Teach Others / Immediate Use of Learning: 90%
Why is Class Participation Difficult?

- Culture
  - Face saving
  - Different Cultural Values

- Personality
  - Quiet, Shy
  - Non Risk-Taking Personality

- Class Dynamics
  - Peer Dominance
  - Non-Trusting Environment

- Language
  - Pronunciation
  - Turn-taking
  - Colloquialism

STRATEGY
Strategies for Participating in Lectures

Prepare for Comments Before Class

Listen Actively

Practice in a Small Group

Take Notes In Class
Strategies

• Network with other professionals and campus groups that support and advocate for international students.

• Provide workshops and written materials to ease international students’ acclimation to academic culture in the U.S.
Questions? Comments?