The Global Engagement Office
Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Faculty Fellows Program

The FGCU Global Engagement Office (GEO) is pleased to announce the re-launch of the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Faculty Fellows Program. Working closely with the Lucas Center for Faculty Development and with support from Instructional Designers, the program will provide faculty support in the development of COIL-type courses to be offered in Academic year 2022-2023 and beyond.

COIL Defined

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), a practice developed at the SUNY COIL Center [https://coil.suny.edu/](https://coil.suny.edu/), is a pedagogical approach also referred to as virtual exchange (VE). This innovative, cost-effective instructional method promotes intercultural learning through online collaboration among faculty and students residing in different countries or locations (see diagram on next page). As universities around the world work to internationalize their campuses and increase access to intercultural learning, COIL initiatives have grown as an important cost-efficient method that allows students to interact virtually with students and faculty overseas as well as gain cross-cultural skills and develop a more global outlook.

In keeping with the FGCU Strategic Plan pillars of Academic Excellence and Student Success, GEO supports programs that prepare students for an increasingly globalized world and workplace. The COIL Faculty Fellows 2022 program will allow a group of faculty members (up to 10 awards) to learn about Collaborative Online International Learning and develop strategies for incorporating the methodology into current or proposed courses in the next academic year (2022-2023). Applicants for the COIL Faculty Fellowship are welcome from all disciplines, colleges and in-unit faculty in any full-time, continuing lines.

COIL Faculty Fellows Program Structure

Interested FGCU faculty will have the opportunity to be part of a cohort of approximately ten (10) COIL Faculty Fellows starting in summer 2022. Faculty selected for the program will receive structured support via workshops, published resource materials, support from the Global Engagement Office, Curriculum Designers and the Lucas Center. Selectees will receive up to $1000 in travel funds from the Global Engagement Office to support the development and first offering of their COIL course.

The funds may be used to:
• Travel to international partner’s institution to cultivate relationship with faculty member and develop/adapt courses to employ the virtual exchange model.
• Host COIL partner on FGCU campus to develop/adapt courses to employ the virtual exchange model.
• Attend and participate in a national/international COIL or VE conference.

The yearlong program will require of grantees:

• Teach a course with a COIL element.
• Attendance at Spring/Summer 2022 workshops (exact time TBD) and completion of assignments ahead of workshops to allow focused-time on workshop activities
• Follow-on participation in Lucas Center activities, panel discussions on COIL courses
• Participation in COIL faculty fellows’ discussion/support group.

Grantees are also required to submit:

• a finalized course syllabus to GEO COIL Coordinator before the course is to be taught.
• a letter of engagement/collaboration with overseas partner to co-develop and offer a COIL course.
• a letter of support from Department Chair to acknowledge your course development activities and agreement to allow you to offer the COIL course in ay 2022-2023.

Eligibility

COIL Faculty Fellowships are open to any full-time FGCU faculty members who plan to design a new COIL course or incorporate COIL principles into an existing course. All applicants must commit to teaching a COIL course within the next academic year (2022-2023) and then again within the next two years. Failure to comply will make the recipient ineligible for any future Global Engagement Office grants and a formal letter of non-compliance will be provided to the faculty member’s department chair.
Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is the term used at FGCU to refer to the learning experiences that are embedded into course syllabi to provide students with an opportunity to interact with peers at an international partner university via virtual platforms. COIL courses involve a cross-border collaboration or interaction with people from different backgrounds.

The above illustration presents a generic format for COIL courses. In reality, the possibilities for crafting a COIL course are almost limitless. COIL project leaders and their partners can decide when, how, and to what extent, the COIL activity functions in their courses or non-course-based international connections. The collaborative elements can vary in duration and format. Some COIL projects might involve, for example, a ‘live’ interaction for no more than one hour, while others will involve a series of activities scheduled throughout the entire semester.

COIL Projects can take place in ‘real-time’ so that students from different countries are communicating, interacting and problem solving ‘live’ simultaneously. However, projects can also take place ‘asynchronously,’ wherein students from each location interact and work together at different times in situations where time zone differences present challenges to synchronous activities.

Likewise, COIL project leaders can select the type of activities and tools that are more suitable for their students and amenable to discipline or topic-specific needs. Apart from university-provided tools (e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.), many COIL project leaders have employed a wide range of online resources, such as blogs, social media, video-conferencing and video-
sharing platforms to conduct their courses. The COIL course experience aims to promote intercultural competences and digital skills while working together on subject-specific learning tasks or activities. Participating in a COIL project is one of the key actions that may help students develop a global perspective, especially in circumstances where travel is not possible.

Benefits to Students

- Interact, engage and collaborate with peers they would have not otherwise have the chance to work with.
- Share understanding of one another’s societies, ways of living, and perspectives to develop valuable intercultural skills and mutual understanding.
- Observe, listen and learn about differences in communication style, non-verbal cues and body language;
- Increase capacity for understanding and managing interactions in diverse, complex and novel scenarios.
- Enhance ability to effectively manage and appropriately respond to diverse opinions, beliefs and values that might be different from their own.
- Develop digital skills that are key to life in the 21st Century, especially those that will enable them to participate in team-work involving networks of geographically-dispersed professionals.

Benefits to Faculty

- Model and elicit intercultural awareness and communication skills
- Develop or strengthen institutional partnerships
- Participation in ongoing efforts to internationalize the FGCU curriculum
- Expand pedagogical toolkit
- Increases student engagement in both course content and assignments due to the collaborative nature of the curriculum.
- Access funding for curriculum development and implementation.
- Scholarship of teaching and learning on COIL pedagogy in their discipline

Benefits to the University

- COIL courses offer FGCU the opportunity to infuse a course in any department or program with an international perspective, either in whole or in part. Furthermore, FGCU mission priorities such as diversity, community engagement, and environmental sustainability are enhanced by the COIL approach as it encourages faculty and students to explore them from a comparative and international perspective.
Global Engagement Office COIL Faculty Fellow Application Form

Application Instructions: Please respond to the following questions by March 14th, 2022.

Cut and paste the following information into an email message and submit to:

Dr. Jackie Salmond jsalmond@fgcu.edu with COIL Faculty Fellow in subject line.

Name

Department

Name and CRN of course to adapt to COIL:

Name of collaborator and university. If you don’t have a collaborator, please name the region/country or language preference for partnership.

Have you participated in any online course development workshops? If yes, please reference the year and the course(s) that you have developed, and or delivered as on-line or hybridized formats.

Semester in which you plan to teach your COIL course: Fall 2022 or Spring 2023?

Proposal Statement (300 to 500 words): Please tell us about the course you’ve proposed as a COIL course. Describe the qualities that would make it a good choice for incorporating COIL principles. Describe how incorporating COIL would enhance your students’ cross-cultural engagement opportunities. Briefly describe a sample assignment or potential focus for the course.

Finalists will be contacted by email in order to arrange an informal meeting with the COIL development team.