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# SAGE (Student Ambassadors for Global Engagement)

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## Student Ambassadors for Global Engagement

**Abstract:** SAGE students work toward bridging the needs of students (domestic and international) and the university administration, identifying needs and gaps in services, and designing intervention to enhance the Global Engagement on campus. Having recognized unfulfilled international student English language needs on campus along with the opportunity for professional development in the international arena, SAGE was created to engage undergraduate students in program design, advocacy and implementation in the area of Global Engagement in Higher Education. In its initial stages, SAGE students conducted a needs assessment which identified the best practices at peer institutions. Additionally, the students developed collaborative networks for project implementation. After the initial research identified the university's most crucial needs, a pilot program was implemented to experiment with the most effective methods for addressing these concerns.

### University Needs Assessment:

- Faculty & Staff Surveys on Internationalization
- Survey of existing programs for international students
  - English Language School (Greenville)
  - Clemson Office of International services
  - Emeritus College CESP Test Prep Support
  - International Peer Mentoring
  - Living Learning Communities
  - Clubs & Organizations
- Reality of Limited English Proficiency in US
- Clemson International Student Recruitment and Retention
- Need for undergraduate training in Teaching English as a Second Language.

### Intervention:

Initial research found that the University's main issues included:

- International Teaching Assistant's discomfort with classroom culture
- Need for further on-campus assistance to pass the CESP Test
- In-classroom miscommunication due to clarity (assistance with accent reduction)

An English Language Initiative was created, combining a number of strategies: a weekly conversation hour, peer tutoring program, TESOL certification courses and CESP test prep support to support English language learners and teachers.

### Pilot Program:

In Spring 2015, SAGE implemented the English Corner: a comprehensive English language support open for international students of all language levels.

SAGE students received initial TESOL training from English for Life (Greenville), followed by monthly sessions. Students engaged in continued research of best teaching practices through weekly lesson planning and classroom experience. Sessions were held twice a week throughout the semester.

### Results:

During our interaction with international graduate students over the course of a semester, we found our efforts to be beneficial although not perfectly aligned with our original purpose.

Future steps include refocusing and improving the curriculum to meet the myriad of needs of our unique population, alongside the implementation of further initiatives to improve Global Engagement on campus and support our international community needs.



### CU Resources

Office of Global Engagement  
International Services  
Creative Inquiry Program  
Emeritus College  
1941 Studio for Student Communication  
Clemson Area International Friendship  
Math Department  
Education Department

### Industry Partners

English Language School - current provision of English language instruction for CU students off campus  
English for Life - contracted training workshops and events

### Mentors

Dr. Sharon Nagy

### Current Students:

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