Utah System of Higher Education

New Academic Program Proposal

Proposed Program Title: Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students

Min/Max Credit Hours Required of Full Program 15/15

Program Description - Abbreviated Template

**Section I: The Request**

The University of Utah requests approval to offer the following Graduate Certificate: Graduate Language and Culture Certificate effective Fall 2020.

**Section II: Program Proposal/Needs Assessment**

**Program Description/Rationale**

Present a brief program description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision to offer the program. Briefly indicate why such a program should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by offering the proposed program. Provide evidence of student interest and demand that supports potential program enrollment

Language Certificate for Graduate Students Description

The University of Utah Department of World Languages and Cultures requests approval to offer a Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students effective Fall 2020.

\* The purpose of the Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students is to give graduate students tangible proof of their foreign language and culture training.

\* The Certificate is offered in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

\* The Certificate requires 15 hours of course work / 15 credits.

\* Students will take a placement test and must test **above the 2020-level** (= four semesters of language study) in the target language. This corresponds to the BA language requirement.

\* The Certificate consists of **five upper-level courses** in the target language, including 3060 (=Advanced Grammar). All courses in all target languages are offered on a regular basis in the department of World Languages and Cultures.

\* Two of the five required courses can be taken during the summer through one of the Department’s five-week Learning Abroad Programs (for instance, French in Grenoble, Japanese in Osaka, German in Kiel, etc.)

\* Learning Outcomes: It is anticipated that students who have completed the Graduate Language and Culture Certificate in **French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish** will reach the **Advanced Level** according to the ACTFL (=American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) guidelines.

In terms of linguistics proficiency, a learner at the Advanced Level can “narrate and describe in past, present, and future. Deal effectively with an unanticipated complication.” In terms of cultural proficiency, the learner is able to explain in their “own and other cultures…some diversity among products and practices and how it relates to perspectives.”

It is expected that students who have completed the Graduate Language and Culture Certificate in **Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian** will reach the **Intermediate Level** according to the ACTFL guidelines. In terms of linguistics proficiency, a learner at the intermediate level can “Create with language, initiate, explain and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions.” In terms of cultural proficiency, the learner is able to make in their “own and other cultures… comparisons between products and practices to help understand perspectives.”

\* Assessment: All students are required to take ACTFL’s OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) or OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview –computer) to complete their Certificate. The Oral Proficiency Interview is a nationally recognized test that assesses both language proficiency and cultural knowledge.

Institutional Procedures

The creation of the Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students has been discussed among faculty members since Fall 2017. It was unanimously approved by the Department of World Languages and Cultures on December 6, 2018. The proposed Certificate has strong support from faculty in other units (esp. the professional programs MIAGE (Master of Science in International Affairs & Global Enterprise) and MPA (Master of Public Administration), and the Business School), as attested by the letters of support appended to this request.

Benefits to the University of Utah and the USHE (Utah System of Higher Education)

A Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students will have several beneficial impacts on the University of Utah and the USHE. First and foremost, the Certificate allows graduate students to develop and demonstrate language and culture skills in addition to their regular course of study. This adds value to their degrees and distinguishes them on the job market through further qualifications. The Certificate supports the University of Utah’s efforts to be a leader in global learning and intercultural competence, as spelled out in the Office for Global Engagement’s core values. It also allows the Department of World Languages and Cultures to contribute more broadly to the University of Utah’s teaching mission.

The USHE places great emphasis on the teaching of language and culture, as demonstrated through its K-12 dual immersion programs in a number of languages (for instance, Spanish, French, and Chinese). The Language and Culture Certificate supports this emphasis on language and culture teaching and extends it to the graduate level. It adds to the USHE’s goal of preparing highly skilled graduates for the local, regional and global job market.

The only other University in Utah that offers a Language Certificate is BYU. It serves undergraduate students and admits BYU-students only. With only three required courses, it is less comprehensive than the prosed Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students. <http://cls.byu.edu/programs/certificate/>

Student Need and Demand

A Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students will be of significant interest to graduate students from a variety of disciplines who wish to improve and document advanced language competencies. Over the course of the last decades, Utah has become more culturally and linguistically diverse. Speaking another language and knowing other cultures is now more crucial than ever to success in many fields of employment in Utah and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, foreign language study is on the rise at US institutions of higher education. The proposed Certificate fits this trend by allowing students to demonstrate skills in this area. <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/data-on-display/dod_languages.htm?view_full>.

Labor Market Demand

Provide local, state, and/or national labor market data that speak to the need for this program. Occupational demand, wage, and number of annual openings information may be found at sources such as Utah DWS Occupation Information Data Viewer (jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccinfo.do) and the Occupation Outlook Handbook ([www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)).

Utah is home to many private and public industries, businesses, and NGOs including the LDS Church, and several consulting firms where knowledge of a different languages and cultures is an important asset. According to an article from 2014 in *The Economist*, speaking an additional language on average adds about 2% to earnings over the course of a lifetime: <https://www.economist.com/prospero/2014/03/11/johnson-what-is-a-foreign-language-worth>.

**Consistency with Institutional Mission/Impact on Other USHE Institutions**

Explain how the program is consistent with the institution's Regents-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/ . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/ .

The proposed Language and Culture Certificate for Graduate Students is consistent with the University of Utah's mission to foster student success because it will expand the range of jobs open to graduate students. It is consistent with the mission to generate and share new knowledge, discoveries, and innovations because it increases students’ ability to participate in these endeavors across languages and cultures. It is consistent with the mission to engage local and global communities to promote education, health, and quality of life because students with advanced language and culture training are in a position to contribute more effectively to the well-being of diverse local and global communities. It is consistent with the mission of responsible stewardship of our intellectual, physical, and financial resources because it is a cost-neutral means of enhancing student success through the teaching of languages and cultures.

The program will not be delivered outside the University of Utah's designated service area because all courses will be taught on the University of Utah campus. An exception are those courses taught through the University of Utah’s approved Learning Abroad programs.

**Finances**

What costs or savings are anticipated in implementing the proposed program? If new funds are required, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution

There are neither new instructional costs nor savings associated with this Certificate since it draws entirely from existing courses. The only requirement is the creation of graduate sections in conjunction with existing undergraduate courses. We estimate that administering the program will not place an undue additional administrative burden on the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Advisor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.