

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carrie Foote, Chair, SLA Graduate Curriculum Committee

FROM: Enrica J. Ardemagni, Director of Graduate Studies in Spanish
Department of World Languages & Cultures

SUBJECT: Proposal to Change the Curriculum of the MAT in Spanish

DATE: September 11, 2013

RECOMMENDATION

The Graduate Committee of the Program in Spanish unanimously recommends a change in the logistics of how students complete their coursework for the requirements for the Master of Arts for Teachers of Spanish. Instead of *requiring* two five-week summer study programs at the University of Salamanca in Spain, the committee strongly endorses making the Salamanca, Spain component *optional* for students to complete their 36 required credit hours.

RATIONALE

The MAT in Spanish was created to meet the needs of both in-service Spanish teachers and those who wish to become teachers of Spanish. This program originated with discussions through a consortium of universities in the United States who would have the opportunity to send their graduate students to the University of Salamanca in Spain which offers a Masters in Spanish. The consortium universities could choose to send their students for one summer program or two summer programs, as well as complete coursework that would automatically transfer among consortium universities. The second agreement was that students would receive a diploma both from IU and from the University of Salamanca. However, prior to the initiation of the program, instead of a "diploma," the University of Salamanca decided to offer students attending any summer program a Certificate of Completion instead,—, with a list of coursework that had been completed at the University.

Based on this understanding, IUPUI opted to start our MAT requiring that students spend *two* summers in Salamanca, with half of the coursework to be completed in Salamanca and half of the coursework to be completed at IUPUI. From the beginning, Salamanca submitted course syllabi that were given IU numbers and approved through the IU curriculum at all levels. This system was established as a way to simplify the transfer of courses directly from Salamanca by using the IU course numbering system. Working with the IU Bursar, Registrar and the Office of International Affairs, students pay monies directly to IU, and tuition is transferred directly to the University of Salamanca.

At the time the MAT began, the approximate cost for a student attending one summer program was \$2,500, which included tuition, textbooks, and lodging and

food for the entire stay. In addition, we recommended students take a minimum of \$500 for additional expenses. The airfare was additional, and at the beginning of the program a round-trip ticket cost approximately \$800. So total projected costs when beginning were \$3,800. Financial aid could be applied towards the \$2,500, and several scholarship options ranging from \$100 - \$3,000 were available.

In the summer of 2013, the projected cost for the same program had risen from \$3,800 to approximately \$7,500. Out of this, financial aid could only account for \$3,000, but round-trip airfares have skyrocketed. In 2013 students paid \$1,300 to \$1,700, and additional expenses students are now taking amount to about \$3,000 for the five-week program.

PROPOSAL SPECIFICS

As a result of the increased costs for students to attend the Salamanca component of our MAT program, we have seen a decrease in the number of applicants to the MAT, and an increase of students delaying completion of their degrees because they cannot afford the Salamanca component. The WLAC Graduate Committee is thus proposing to make the Salamanca summer program *optional*, with implementation to begin with those students accepted into the program in the Fall of 2014.

Under the current curriculum for the MAT in Spanish, all of the courses taught in Salamanca have IU numbers and could be taught by the current faculty at IUPUI. The Salamanca courses are obligatory, and therefore must be taught here as well. Students would be able to take them in Salamanca or at IUPUI and may take any other graduate courses through IUPUI to add up to the required number of credits. Since its inception, the Program in Spanish has hired three new tenure-track professors, and six additional coursework options have been added to the MAT coursework that would be available for students to take to complete their required course of study.

Originally the MAT also required students to write a thesis. In 2010 the WLAC Graduate Committee proposed making the MAT Thesis optional, offering students the choice to write the thesis or take an additional six credit hours to complete their 36 required hours. Since this proposal's approval in March 2010, the Program in Spanish has added an extra course offering per semester to offer the additional six credit hours students would need to complete their program. Students choosing to complete the total number of credits at IUPUI, could do so by taking three 3-credit courses for four semesters.

FACTORS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

Benefits to the both WLAC and the School of Liberal Arts will remain. Students who enter the MAT will still have the option of completing two summers or one summer in the Salamanca program, and thus receiving the Certificate from the University of Salamanca. The optional summer(s) in Salamanca will open the door to more

students who may wish to apply to our MAT program, but who cannot afford the study abroad option.

For students who may wish to have the international experience, Salamanca will still be an option, and credits from Salamanca will continue to transfer in based on the IU enrollment and transfer agreement.

Since our university will still keep ties as a consortium university with the University of Salamanca, those students from other consortium universities who may wish to take a course at IUPUI will have automatic transfer access.

By providing a choice of the international or non-international option, the MAT in Spanish should be more attractive to a larger pool of applicants. By providing a choice of summer options in Spain, the MAT in Spanish will acquire greater flexibility since they will have more than a single path towards completion of the degree, and the requirement of having to spend too expensive summers in Spain will no longer be an impediment for those students who cannot afford this option.

This flexibility has the potential to lead to a stronger retention rate and to increased graduate rates within a reasonable time frame for the students. This will further enhance the reputation of the MAT in Spanish at IUPUI and will help meet the needs for better qualified teachers of Spanish in the state of Indiana.

CONCLUSIONS

Prior to preparing the current Proposal to the MAT in Spanish, the Director of Graduate Studies met with Dr. Sherry Queener of the University Graduate School for consultation. Her recommendation was to move forward with the proposal, assuring that it pass through all levels of approval necessary. She agreed that continuing to offer the Salamanca option keeps the original attractiveness of our MAT program, but does not detract from those who cannot afford the program. Given our increase in faculty and in course offerings, and considering that all the original coursework was completed according to the IU curricular requirements, we request approval of our proposed change of making the summer Salamanca study optional rather than obligatory.

Approved by WLAC Faculty September 13, 2013