Writing Tutorial for Multilingual Students

**What is it?**

It’s a semester-long Writing Center program that pairs multilingual students one-on-one with specially-trained peer writing consultants who will meet with them weekly throughout the semester. Consultants will work collaboratively with students at various stages of the writing process, helping them with assignments for their writing-intensive GE and major classes as well as providing them with consistent, focused support in their development as writers. As part of the program, students will set goals for themselves as writers and evaluate their progress with the help of their consultant throughout the semester.

The Tutorial is student-driven, meaning the students themselves, rather than the consultants, are primarily responsible for determining the direction and focus of these sessions based on their current writing projects and the individual writing goals that consultants will help them create and evaluate throughout the semester.

Consultants in the program will receive special training on best practices for working longitudinally with multilingual writers, including how to support them in specific and culturally sensitive ways according to their individual writing needs and strengths.

**Why?**

When it comes to writing support, BYU’s 1,000+ second-language and multilingual students need

- **Focused Support:** help designed especially for them, with their unique language needs and strengths in mind

- **Longitudinal Support:** consistent help over time -- structured opportunities to develop their skills

Starting Fall 2021
This Tutorial was designed to provide more equitable support for language-minoritized students at BYU. Students who participate in the tutorial will:

- Strengthen their writing skills
- Increase their confidence in their writing abilities
- Enhance their ability to set, evaluate, and reach writing goals
- Progress toward greater academic achievement
- Build a sense of belonging, as developing a relationship with a paired consultant provides an opportunity to be seen, heard, and supported by a peer

We invite all multilingual undergraduate students to participate, especially if and when they’re enrolled in writing-intensive GE or major courses.

How students join the program:

Students can join the Tutorial either on their own initiative or after being referred to the program by an instructor, TA, advisor, etc. To join, the student can either contact Katie Watkins directly or fill out the sign-up form available on our website (see below), which will trigger Katie to contact them. If desired, referring parties can contact Katie directly and ask her to reach out to the student.

Refer students to me!
Or contact me with questions:

Katie Watkins
Multilingual Writing Guide/Associate Manager
katie_watkins@byu.edu
801-422-9784

Sign-up form: https://rwc.byu.edu/multilingual-tutorial-form/

Katie will coordinate with the student to create a writing plan, pair them with a consultant, and set up a consistent weekly time for them to meet with their paired consultant.
Who counts as a multilingual student?

Any student in a language category other than traditional native English speaker falls under the multilingual umbrella. In designing this program, we’ve chosen to use this term on purpose (instead of ESL, L2, or second-language) to avoid stigmatizing students and to cast a wide net, encompassing more than just traditional, international ESL students. Here are some examples of students who would be considered multilingual:

- International ESL students
- Domestic ESL students: recent immigrants to the US, including those who attended some or all of high school here
- Generation 1.5: students who migrated to the US as children and learned English as a second language while still very young
- Students who were born to immigrant parents in the US and grew up in linguistic enclaves
- Students who primarily speak a language other than English at home

Is the Tutorial only for multilingual students?

Yes. Currently, we can only offer this program to multilingual students. We welcome all students, regardless of language background, to come to the Writing Center for regular one-on-one consultations with a peer writing consultant. If they wish to, students not eligible for the official Tutorial can create their own longitudinal experience by signing up for a session each week with the same consultant.

If you have questions about whether this program is a good fit for a specific student, we encourage you and/or the student to reach out to Katie.

For regular sessions, visit rwc.byu.edu
Does the Tutorial serve graduate students or only undergrads?
Currently, the Tutorial serves only undergrads. In the future, we hope to expand the program to include graduate students as well. Right now, as with all students, graduate students seeking writing help are invited to come to the RWC for one-on-one consultations with a peer writing consultant.

Can a student join the Tutorial at any time during the semester?
Yes! While we encourage students to join the Tutorial early in the semester (ideally at the start) in order to access as much longitudinal support as possible, students are welcome to join at any time and referring parties are invited to send them our way at any point in the semester.

How is the Tutorial different from a regular writing consultation?
The Tutorial has much in common with our regular one-on-one consultations: meaningful collaborative experiences with a peer consultant, help at any stage of the writing process, student-led support, etc. However, there are a couple key differences:

- Consultants receive an additional level of training in facilitating the tutorial and working longitudinally with multilingual writers.
- The Tutorial provides consistent, longitudinal support, including goal setting and evaluation and help working through multiple drafts with the same consultant.

Can students in the Tutorial also schedule regular consultations?
Yes! We want to emphasize that the Tutorial is not the only support we at the RWC offer to multilingual students -- it’s simply one extra option available to them in the spirit of offering equitable support. Students are welcome to schedule regular consultations at any time, including while participating in the Tutorial.
Can first-year composition students participate in the Tutorial?

While we are open to exceptions, this program is designed for students transitioning out of first-year composition (ELANG 150 or Writing 150) where they (ideally) already receive high levels of focused writing support. (For example, the Writing Center positions course-embedded consultants in ELANG 150 classes, so students there already have access to focused, longitudinal writing help.) Therefore, we generally don’t recommend that students take the Tutorial while they’re in a first-year composition course. Please reach out to Katie with any questions related to whether the Tutorial is a good fit for a student.

Can students take the Tutorial more than once?

Yes. Students can participate in the Tutorial during multiple semesters. We anticipate many students taking the Tutorial three times: in the semester right after first-year composition, in the semester they take advanced writing, and in an additional semester when their coursework is particularly writing-intensive. Katie can help interested students figure out what resources are available to them as writers and make a plan for when participating the Tutorial will work best for their needs. (Note: We can’t guarantee that students will be able to stick with their same consultant throughout more than one semester of the Tutorial.)

Again, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Katie Watkins with any questions you may have about the tutorial.

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