Direct Questions from COIL Institute Application Webinar Participants

PLEASE NOTE: These questions were taken verbatim from the webinar chat area, and we only edited for clarification purposes, when necessary.

February 10th, 2011.

1. What LMS (Learning Management Systems)/portal might be used for course building and delivery?
   You can develop your course within your LMS, your partner’s LMS, and/or with other online tools. COIL will be able to provide advice on choosing which tools to use within your development process. At the application stage, you may want to indicate what you have available and what you initially envision using for your collaboration.

2. I am an instructional designer for another entity, but a lecturer in English/Rhetoric at the University. Will that work for this project?
   Yes. You will need to clearly define what your intended role within the collaboration will be to ensure that we understand how each role will manifest within the intended course.

3. Should I focus then on bringing on the International Programs person onto the project?
   While we will accept teams of four, we believe that teams of three are ideal. If you feel an international programs person will add expertise to your team, then include them. We encourage teams that exhibit a broad range of skills required for course development and collaboration.

4. If an international partner has a local faculty member or representative in the US, is there funding available for travel within continental US even though they are representing the International partner?
   No, based on NEH guidelines the Institute budget was based on funding only US institutional teams, no funds are allotted for such international team members.

5. How many teams will be accepted into the Institute?
   We expect to accept 20-25 institutional teams in the Institute.

6. How flexible would you be with the composition of the teams? We are thinking on a team of three faculty members in addition to an international person and a tech person. We have already partners.
   We will be open to diverse team compositions. We will only consider teams of four members or less, with no more than two faculty participants; however, if travel costs for additional team members are paid for by the institution, we would consider slightly larger teams, charging only a food and materials fee of $200 for the additional workshop participant.

7. If can’t get to the COIL Conference, will that work against us?
   No. Attendance at the COIL Conference is not a requirement of the Institute at all.
8. Can the team be as small as 2 [members of an American university or college] plus one International partner?
Yes. As long as the team is comprised of individuals who have clearly indicated their expertise and role within the course development process (including the instructional design piece), then each teams’ composition can be unique.

9. If teams are comprised with 3 faculty [members] only, with commitments from IT and international staff to work on is that ok? (2 US faculty and one international or 1 US faculty and 2 international?)
Yes, however, the instructional design commitment needs to be clearly specified in a letter of commitment. This letter should include who from the university will work with your team, in what role, and with what time commitment.

10. Would it be a plus to have two partners from two countries for a 3-way collaboration over one course--we already have this potential?
This certainly would be an interesting (though challenging collaboration). These GNLEs have existed quite successfully before, so make a case for its viability and your application will certainly be seriously considered. It will also be important to confirm the international participants’ ability to join us in NYC or online for the workshops.

11. Is the institute particularly interested in specific international partner areas? For example, I noticed that there are some areas of the globe that seem underrepresented. Would there be an advantage to recruiting partners from those areas?
We have no country preferences; however, we are seeking a diverse applicant pool, so partners from underrepresented areas would be viewed favourably. Your primary concern when selecting an international partner should be based on the student’s optimal learning and the viability of the collaboration.

12. Can the collaboration be totally online for all aspects?
Yes.

13. Will you be looking to ensure that multiple humanities (inter)disciplines will be represented in project?
We are looking specifically for teams and courses that fit into our five disciplinary areas.

14. Is there boilerpoint language for linkage agreements (MOUs) for online collaboration to ensure students at both institutions can take online course through registering at their home institutions?
This is a good question and is something which we will discuss within the Institute. For your proposal we will accept the language you provide.
March 11th, 2010.

15. Can teams have two or three individuals who have experience in all three areas (faculty, instructional design and international programs)?
Yes. See #8 in this document.

16. Can you give examples of projects that you envision for this project?
We expect that eligible projects will be quite diverse; however, for an array of possible variants of previous COIL courses, you may visit the Courses Overview page on COIL website (http://coilcenter.purchase.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=67&Itemid=164).

17. How deeply connected do the courses have to be? Can they interact with some assignments and not others?
There should be a significant component of collaboration between students. Due to semester dates, and separate program and course objectives, you will likely have some components that are for only one set of students, but certainly the collaborative aspect of the course should be paramount to the courses’ objectives.

18. Are you anticipating a 15 week semester for the final course?
In principal, yes; however, we remain open to anything over eight weeks because in some cases the semester overlap between the cooperating institutions may be less than a full 15-week semester.

19. We have three international branch campuses (IBC) that share a curriculum. Is it acceptable/appropriate to imagine the team being comprised of faculty members (one in US, one at an IBC) an instructional designer in US, and the dean of one of the IBCs as the International partner?
Yes – as long as the collaborative courses involve students from different countries – and not just American students studying abroad.

20. Could you envision courses that collaborate with more than one international partner?
Yes. See # 10 in this document.

21. Is there a particular platform, format or system looked upon as preferable? I presently teach online courses using Blackboard. Will COIL fellows be required to use a particular format?
No, however, if you are using a proprietary system, you must be certain that international students not registered as students at your university can be enrolled. Also see #1 in this document.

22. Just to clarify, you mentioned that this institute will focus on humanities projects. Does this mean there will be future institutes that support additional disciplines? If so, when will these be scheduled?
There are no future Institutes planned at this time, but we are developing plans for additional workshops in other areas, so we would be very interested to receive more details about what would be of interest to your institution.

23. **American Universities had to be on a list that you have on your site, but what about international schools, is there a preferred list you have?**  
   No. See #11 in this document.

24. **So no international accreditation has to be determined first?**  
   It is in your best interest to determine the accreditation of your partner institutions. The COIL Institute is not responsible for the international partner school accreditation.

25. **What are the details of financial support for participation?**  
   The Institute will provide each American Institute Fellow, travel and hotel (three nights) in NYC during the fall workshops, and travel and one night hotel during the Capstone conference in 2013, and all additional materials and supplies related to the workshop and online training course. Any other institutional support costs for professional development or release time must be paid for by the participating institutions.

26. **Beyond airfare, what do you see as the "cost" that would need to be covered to have the international partner attend?**  
   The full cost would include travel and hotel costs, plus a small fee of $200 for food and supplies during the workshop participation.

27. **Does the International Partner have to have some sort of equivalency-with-the-U.S. basis, or just accredited in their own country?**  
   That equivalency will be your decision (see #26 in this document), but you might explain your basis for the choice.

28. **Does COIL have specific information about relevant listservs for international partners?**  
   No. We recommend checking and potentially inquiring for partners within your disciplinary listservs.

29. **Are any parts of the late March workshops (conference) going to be shared more broadly?**  
   We plan to have most sessions at the March 2011 COIL Conference archived on the COIL website for later viewing, including the Institute info session. Some sessions may also be streamed. Please check our website for further info.

30. **Is one institution only allowed to have one application/one team?**  
   An institution can submit more than one application; however, these applications will be competing against each other. It may be better to incorporate two courses into one application, as opposed to separately applying.
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31. Will there be financial support for American teams to travel to the NY workshops?
   Yes.

32. Is course development support to be provided by the administration at your home institution?
   Yes.

33. Are you open to an American team that has both a Humanities and Social Sciences faculty members if the emphasis is on the Humanities and the International Partner is Humanities?
   Yes. The NEH categorizes the Social Sciences as a Humanity.

34. I already have an international partner and we are already collaborating with full institutional support on both ends. However, we are looking to expand. Can we still participate in the institute?
   Yes.

35. Based on prior inquiries, how many applications do you expect to receive?
   It is hard to predict how many institutions will follow through on their initial inquiries, but 20-25 applications will be accepted by the Institute.

36. How do you define media arts?
   Very broadly! Any course that studies the use of any media, digital or otherwise, other than writing by itself (literature), will be considered. We also encourage applicants whose courses involve media production, as long as there is a significant reflective or critical element, as in Digital Storytelling.

37. I presume that performance studies and ethnic studies would be a part of the Media Arts and Cultures sections.
   Performance studies certainly would be included. Ethnic studies could also be considered part of Human Societies, depending on the emphasis of the specific course.

38. The Global Learning Community that we are already doing examines cultural diversity on the US-Mexico border and Australia so where do you recommend that we apply? Freshman or Media arts?
   We need to know a bit more of the details of your intended collaboration before we can advise. We encourage you to contact us with your queries and we will get back to you with more definitive answers.