

LANGARA COLLEGE

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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

FALL 2011

IE OFFICE: “We’re Here To Help You!” By Susana Orozco Escobell & Tracy Qiang Hua

The International Education Office, which is located at A107, offers many supportive programs and help for international students at Langara College. However, things often go unnoticed by many international students. Let’s hear what students and staff have to say!



Interview with Celine Huang, one of three International Student Coordinators in the IE Office

Q: What are the IE Office hours?

A: The IE Office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, except holidays.

Q: How many international students are at Langara? How many countries are they from?

A: There are over 1100 international students at Langara College, and they come from over 50 countries.

Q: What kinds of services does the IE Office provide?

A: The IE Office provides various services and activities for current students. We offer workshops, and a variety of social and recreational activities on and off campus.

Q: How are these services helpful to international students at Langara College?

A: These services integrate international students into the Langara community and get them involved in what Vancouver has to offer.

Q: Some international students are not able to express their ideas or situations in English very well. How do you assist them?

A: If that happens, the staff in the IE Office will speak slowly and be very patient to try to understand what the students want to express. If more assistance is needed, some of the staff in the IE Office speak multiple languages, and they may be asked to translate. However, whenever possible, the IE Office encourages international students to communicate in English.

Q: I understand that the IE Office promotes cultural events. What are some of the cultural events organized by the IE Office?

A: The IE Office organizes many social and cultural events. The i-Café, for example, welcomes all international students at Langara College and provides opportunities for them to meet with each other, have a good time, talk openly and enjoy free snacks. Also there is a committee that organizes lunch and dinner events to allow international students to try many different kinds of food from other countries, while making new friends.

Want to know what’s going on? Check out the IE News, posters on the IE bulletin boards, IE Events Calendar, IE Facebook page (www.facebook.com/langara/ie), or the online list of events at www.langara.bc.ca/international-education/en/events.html



International Education Office, Room A107

Continued on page 2...

Photos by Tracy

Beneficial Websites by Catherine Shanshan Gao

Have you ever been confused about how to choose courses? Do you feel at a loss when seeing many buses pass by and you do not know which one is the right choice to get to where you want to go? If you are new to Vancouver, you will find there are several websites about studying and lifestyle that are very helpful.



LANGARA WEBPAGES FOR STUDY	
<i>Langara Help & Learning Centres</i> —find learning resources & info on tutoring & workshops	www.langara.bc.ca/student-services/help-learning-centres
<i>Langara Library</i> —access help by assignment or course, research help & tutorials	www.langara.bc.ca/library/

Websites listed are not administered or endorsed by Langara, and Langara is not responsible for their content.

Hopefully, these websites can ease your adjustment and help you start your new adventure here. Most websites can be translated through Google.

Langara has many international students from different countries. You can also get help from them.

Good luck 1st year students!

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES FOR STUDY	
<i>Vancouver Public Library</i> —access subject guides & online research resources	www.vpl.ca
<i>Study Guides and Strategies</i> —find learning guides for a variety of topics	www.studygs.net
<i>SaveONbook</i> —buy or sell new or used textbooks	www.saveonbook.com
<i>The BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT)</i> —see how your courses transfer to other universities or colleges & create your education plan	www.bctransferguide.ca www.educationplanner.ca
USEFUL WEBSITES FOR LIFE IN VANCOUVER	
<i>Translink</i> —learn how to get around in Metro Vancouver using public transportation	www.translink.ca
<i>Food Vancouver</i> —get info about restaurants, foods, festivals.	www.foodvancouver.com
<i>Tourism Vancouver</i> —find things to do & places to visit in Vancouver	www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors
Local classifieds & forums—get all kinds of information: selling & buying, finding housing, job ads, etc.	vancouver.en.craigslist.ca vancouver.kijiji.ca
Local daily deals—get amazing daily deals for restaurants, spas, events and more!	www.groupon.com www.livingsocial.com

IE OFFICE: “We’re Here To Help You!” *continued from page 1...*

Interview with Terry Li, International Student at Langara



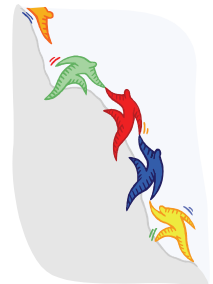
Photo by Susana

Q: Have you ever used the services of the International Education Office? If so, what help did you receive? Do you think the services you received from the IE Office are helpful? Why?

A: Yes! I have sought help from the International Education Office for University Transfer programs. I have also received help from the IE Office with regards to my Study Permit. In addition, the emails the IE Office sends every Friday (IE News) contain interesting and useful information; unfortunately I have not had enough time to attend the events lately.

Q: Have you ever referred friends to the IE Office? If so, what kinds of events?

A: Definitely, I have referred my friends for a lot of things. I have referred some students to the IE Office for information on their classes, and some others for information on how to acquire volunteer experience.





Fall Events: Mark Your Calendars by Tracy Qiang Hua & Jayoon Lee



Vancouver International Fringe Festival	
Fee	Check the website for more info
Location	Granville Island
Date	September 8 th to 18 th , 2011
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the largest theatre festival in BC • the most international Fringe Fest in North America • over 600 performances by more than 80 groups will be featured • over 30,000 people will be attracted to attend the festival
More info	www.vancouverfringe.com

Vancouver International Film Festival	
Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular ticket price : \$12 • student ticket packs : \$50 for 5 films
Location	Vancity Theatre
Date	Starts from the end of September and ends on October 10 th , 2011
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the five largest film festivals in North America in terms of attendance and number of films • films from over 80 countries • the largest selection of East Asian films screened outside of East Asia • provides the world's largest platform for top Canadian films
More info	www.viff.org

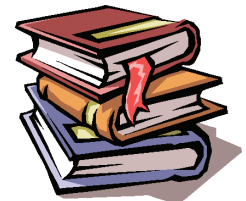


Circle Craft Christmas Market	
Fee	\$12 for adult and \$8 for students, seniors 65+
Location	The Vancouver Convention Centre
Date	November 9 to 13, 2011
Description	A big market with products from over 180 craftspeople.
More info	www.circlecraft.net/page278.htm

Bright Nights in Stanley Park	
Fee	\$8.04 for adults and \$5.36 for children & youth (ages 2-18) & seniors 65+. Children 2 and under are free
Location	Stanley Park
Date	December 1, 2011 to January 2, 2012
Description	Miniature train trip through the forest to watch a great light show with holiday sounds and delicious food.
More info	vancouver.ca/parks/events/brightnights/

Sources: www.vancouverfringe.com, www.viff.org, www.circlecraft.net & vancouver.ca/parks/events/brightnights/

Which Diagnostic Test Do You Need to Take? *By Jayoon Lee*



Students who are planning to register in English, mathematics, chemistry or physics courses need necessary prerequisites. If they don't have the required prerequisites, they must take diagnostic tests. Diagnostic tests assess whether or not a student understands course content. To get more information about diagnostic tests, check this link: www.langara.bc.ca/admissions/diagnostic-tests

Test	Purpose	Format	Fee	How to Register	How to Prepare
LET (English)	Used as a prerequisite for certain courses & programs at Langara, such as English, Biology & Economics	Two parts: 1) reading & summarizing a short passage 2) writing an essay on one of the three topics provided	\$40.00	Three options: • Online at www.langara.bc.ca/continuing-studies/login/ (with your Langara ID & PIN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the guide book, <i>A Guide to the LET – Preparing for the Langara English Test</i>, available at Langara Bookstore • Take a LET Preparation course, available through Continuing Studies (prerequisites apply)
MDT (Math & Statistics)	To determine which Math or Stats course is most appropriate, depending on Students' math abilities	Three different tests: 1) Math Test 1 (algebra; multiple choice) 2) Math Test 2 (algebra & calculus; multiple choice) 3) Stats (arithmetic and English comprehension)	\$42.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person at the Continuing Studies Office • By phone at 604.323.5322 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various recommended books & online practice tests at www.langara.bc.ca/admissions/diagnostic-tests (just click on the appropriate diagnostic test & then on the "Preparation" link)
CDT (Chemistry)	Used as a prerequisite for CHEM 1118 or CHEM 1120	Multiple-choice questions involving basic math skills, chemistry knowledge, problem solving & application of chemical principles	No fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration not required • Show up at a scheduled testing session. 	
PDT (Physics)	Used as a prerequisite for PHYS 1118 or PHYS 1125	Two different tests, both multiple choice			

Cozy and Comfortable Places to Study! *By Dias Herlambang*

Here's what two international students had to say about where they like to study:



Janice Musa

Q: Where are your favourite spots to study on and off campus?

A: On-Campus: Langara Library 3rd floor; Off-Campus: Home.

Q: Why do you like these places?

A: On-Campus: its silent environment makes me focus; Off-campus: it's more convenient for me.

Q: How did you find your favourite on-campus place?

A: On-Campus: based on experience as I wandered around the Langara Library.

Q: How often you study at these places?

A: It depends on my class schedule and how many courses I'm taking.

Q: Would you recommend the 3rd floor of the Library to other students?

A: Yes, since it's a very conducive place to study.



Reinhard Simeon

Q: Where are your favourite spots to study on and off campus?

A: On-Campus: Computer Lab in Building C, level 2; Off-Campus: Waves Coffee at Main Street and East 10th Avenue.

Q: Why do you like these places?

A: On-Campus: Quiet, and not so many people; Off-Campus: Comfortable environment.

Q: How did you find out about these places?

A: On-Campus and Off-Campuses: Through a friend.

Q: How often you study at the places?

A: On-Campus: everyday; Off-Campus: Twice a week.

Q: Would you recommend the places to other students?

A: Definitely, especially the Computer Lab in Building C.

Photos by Dias

Langara College Services “Don’t Miss Out on These Services” By Jiaqi

Do you know what services our College provides? Do you know what the LSU is or how you can get help when you get sick? How can you get assistance if you study late at Langara? Where can you find a free tutor? If you cannot answer the above questions, maybe it is time to explore our College!

LSU—Langara Students’ Union



www.lsu.bc.ca photo

Location: the Students’ Union Building (SUB) is located in the center of the campus connected to Building C.

Main Services:

- Free Student Agenda / Handbooks
- Free Hot Water Service and Microwaves
- Tax Return Preparation (minimum \$25 fee)
- Locker Rentals (\$16 or \$17 plus tax including an \$9.00 deposit)
- Book Binding Service (fee \$1—\$3, depending on size of job)
- Bike Repair Shop

For more information, go to www.lsu.bc.ca

Health Services

Location: Room B101

Main Information:

- Open Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm (closed from 12:00pm to 1:00pm for lunch)
- No charge for most services with the use of a BC Care Card
- Available with an appointment to see either the doctor or the nurse
- A limited number of over-the-counter medications
- Psychologist and Psychiatrist (appointments available)



Photo by IE Staff

For more information and a list of services, go to www.langara.bc.ca/student-services/health-services/index.html

Writing Centre

Location: Room C210

Hours:

- Monday: 10:30-4:20
- Tuesday: 9:30-5:20
- Wednesday: 9:30-3:20
- Thursday: 9:30-3:20
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday: CLOSED



Main Services:

- Tutoring - free one-on-one tutoring on a drop-in basis
- Workshops on demand - form a small group (4-6 students), chose a topic and talk to a tutor to set up a workshop

For more information, go to www.langara.bc.ca/student-services/help-learning-centres/writing-centre/index.html

Safe Walk Service

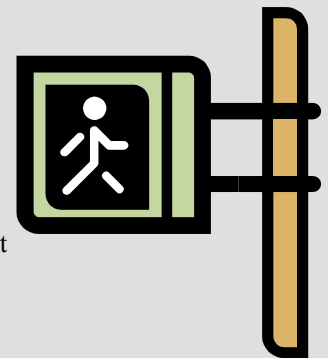
Location: College Security Office at the exterior northwest corner of A Building (across from the Bookstore)

Main Information:

- A college security guard escorts groups of students to the parking lots
- Monday to Friday, starting at 6:00pm
- Runs every half hour
- Last group leaving at 10:30pm with one additional departure at midnight
- To use the Safe Walk service outside of scheduled times, you can call 604.562.1011

For more information, go to www.langara.bc.ca/campus-facilities/security/safe-walk.html

For more information about these and other student services, go to www.langara.bc.ca/student-services/



“Did You Know?” by Thorsten Gohl

Studio 58



Studio 58 began as a small theatre arts course in 1965. It is now regarded as one of the best theatre programs in Canada. There are actually two separate programs, one for production and one for acting. First term production students also begin in the acting program. Professional directors and designers are hired to provide guidance to the students. All shows are open

to students and the general public. General ticket prices are \$10-20. Preview shows are usually free for people with valid student ID cards.

Entry into the program is highly competitive, with interview and auditions taking place all across Canada. Each semester there are 300 applications for only 16 spots.

More information:
www.langara.bc.ca/studio58

Fun fact: Studio 58’s name comes from the room number where the theatre is at, 058 in A-Building!



Sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studio_58
www.langara.bc.ca/studio58

Admiral Don Juan de Lángara

The College takes the name from the neighbourhood in which it is situated here in Vancouver. This area was named after Spanish Admiral Juan de Lángara (1736–1806).



During Lángara's period as Inspector-General and Secretary of State of the Spanish navy, explorers came to the coast of what is now British Columbia, and, in the records of some of the Spanish Explorers, they named a number of coastal features in British Columbia and Alaska. This includes a group of islands at the mouth of Fraser River. Captain George Vancouver adopted the name Langara I on his 1793 chart.

Sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langara_College
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_de_Lángara

Editors' Words

First of all, I would like to thank the International Education Office for giving me such a great opportunity to be one of the editors of the newsletter. Dias, Elaine and I put our best foot forward to create the substance that would help international students at Langara College. And of course, the Fall edition of the i-etc would not be possible without wonderful contributions from other contributors. I hope this edition is accessible to you all.

- ANCHI LIN



From left to right: Anchi, Dias, & Elaine
Photo by IE Staff

Hello everyone! I hope you all enjoy reading this Fall edition of i-etc! It’s been such a pleasant experience making this newsletter and I hope you find this edition is fun and helpful because that’s really our objective. Thank you for reading!

- DIAS HERLAMBAQ

Being an editor has been a dream since I was little, but after I came here and live a life as an international student, I thought that dream would never come true. Now, looking at the i-etc we created, I really would like to thank IE office for giving me such a great opportunity, and it is a wonderful journey to work with all of you.

- ELAINE LIU