

# Linguistic Diversity at Mason: Supporting Students in and Beyond the Classroom

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## Ideas generated during the discussion

Classroom strategies for working with multilingual/international students:

- Slow down!
- Use accessible speech – make sure to explain idioms/cultural references
- Group-pair-share
- Preview topics and questions
- Write down key concepts, ideas, terms
- Include visuals
- Make slides available
- Record lectures so that students could listen to at their own pace
- Break down instructions into steps to ease comprehension
- Use examples related to other countries, international businesses, etc.
- Be ready to explain concepts in multiple ways
- Ask specific open-ended questions instead of “Is it clear?”
- Have multiple assessment modes
- Use interactive online tools to check comprehension (e.g., Kahoot, Pollev)
- Do discussion boards online before discussing information in class
- Have multiple drafts to encourage revision
- Encourage peer review for writing assignments
- Be aware of cultural backgrounds of students
- Remember that language proficiency is not an indicator of intellectual abilities

Resources to help students with their writing and language:

- The Writing Center (see the handout on specific programs for multilingual writers)
- INTO Learning Resource Center
- [Valuing Written Accents](#) website
- INTO Mason courses
- Online resources (see the handout on different online tools)
- Community ESL classes (off campus)