

Fall 2018 Global Bridge iFIG FAQs – For Academic Advisors

Who is eligible for the iFIG program?

First-year international students who enter with an IBT TOEFL score below 88, and are placed into **5 or more AEIS courses** by the AEIS Placement Test (Accuplacer).

What is a Global Bridge iFIG?

The Global Bridge iFIG Program ensures that students are enrolled in the AEIS classes they need their first year, and are making progress in meeting university graduation requirements.

- For each iFIG, a cohort of international students are enrolled in two* AEIS courses fall and winter term, a General Education course, and a 1-credit elective College Connections course.
- Spring term the cohort of students are enrolled in two* AEIS courses, and select their own General Education courses. There is no College Connections course offered.

*For students who test in to only 5 AEIS courses, they will have one term where they are enrolled in only one AEIS course.

Global Bridge iFIGs are an opportunity for international students to connect their English learning coursework with core education classes, as well as build academic skills to thrive in their studies throughout their time at the university. The added advantage of Global Bridge iFIGs is that **AEIS instructors tailor instruction in their courses to support the General Education class**. Students will see the immediate relevance of the work they are doing in their language classes and connect it to the content they are learning in the general education course.

The **College Connections courses are customized to rapidly introduce non-US students to the culture, resources and requirements of US higher education** at the UO. All of this is housed in our First-Year Interest Group Program, which draws First-Year students of all origins into similar enriching curriculum designed to accelerate students' integration into the university and launch them on a trajectory toward success.

Can other international students enroll in the program?

Yes, other incoming international freshmen can enroll in the iFIG on a space available basis, with approval from an Academic Advisor. Students given approval can be directed to the FIG Program to discuss their iFIG options and be enrolled.

How many iFIGs are available?

There are six iFIGs:

- Two with Business/Economics courses
- 1 with the Chemistry sequence, beginning with CH 111
- 3 with a focus on General Education

Additional details available online:

<https://fyp.uoregon.edu/2018-19-global-bridge-ifs>

Do the iFIG courses count toward an undergraduate degree?

Yes, all iFIG credits count towards degree requirements. The AEIS courses and the College Connections course are elective credits.

Does the iFIG comprise a full academic schedule? Should students add other courses?

iFIGs in fall and winter term are 13 credits, which meets a minimum full time schedule.

Students can add 1-5 credits in fall and winter term, such as a math class (based on placement test results), and/or a physical education course. Students should consult with an Academic Advisor before adding additional courses.

Spring term students will select their own General Education Course(s) to create a full time schedule. We recommend students meet with an Academic Advisor to aid in course selection.

What if a student wants to switch their iFIG?

During fall term, students are allowed to switch in to a different iFIG. Changes are allowed through week 1 of classes. **During ISO (on 9/17) the FIG Program will have staff available to help students make changes in the Knight Library from 11-4.** After 9/17, students can change their iFIG by coming to the FIG Program Office in 107 Oregon Hall or by seeing an AEIS Advisor. Space in each iFIG is limited, so ability to switch is based on availability.

During winter term, students are allowed to switch their iFIG, but must complete a petition form that has to be approved by both AEIS and the FIG Program. Students can be directed to the FIG Program for the petition. No changes are allowed spring term.

What should I do if I have questions about the Global Bridge FIG program?

For general questions about the program, you can contact Tom Tasker from AEIS ttasker@uoregon.edu or the FIG Program Director Amy Hughes Giard agiard@uoregon.edu

What should I do if a student I am advising seems to have a legitimate reason to want an exemption from this program?

It depends on the nature of the student's reason for wanting an exemption.

- If a student wants an exemption because they feel they were wrongly placed into a full load of AEIS courses (i.e. they believe they have the English proficiency necessary to be successful at UO), the AEIS Advising Office can assist. They can be contacted at aeisinfo@uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-2936.
- If a student wants an exemption because the program might impede their specific academic plans, the student should be directed to the AEIS Advising Office. They can be contacted at aeisinfo@uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-2936.
- If a student wants an exemption for other personal circumstances (e.g. they plan to take winter term off to go home for Chinese New Year), International Student and Scholar Services can assist. They can be contacted at intl@uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-3206.

