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## MEMORANDUM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Elle".

<b>ATTENTION:</b>	Senate Committee on University Priorities
<b>FROM:</b>	Elizabeth Elle, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
<b>RE:</b>	English Language and Culture (ELC) Conditional Admission Pathway (SCUS 23-25)
<b>DATE:</b>	March 2, 2023

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 2, 2023, gives rise to the following recommendation:

### Motion

That Senate approves the three-year pilot Undergraduate Conditional Admission Pathway Program for international application effective January 2024.

Date: October 28, 2022

To: Elizabeth Elle, AVPLT  
Tom Nault, Registrar

From: Julia Denholm  
Dean Lifelong Learning

**RE: Pilot: Undergraduate Conditional Admission Pathway for International Students**

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The English Language and Culture (ELC) program is proposing a three-year pilot of an undergraduate conditional admission pathway program. This program would offer admission to undergraduate studies for international applicants who are currently overlooked because they have yet to attain the necessary language proficiency requirement.

The admissions office reports that the files of approximately 700 applicants annually are not reviewed because those applicants do not meet SFU's English language competency requirement. These are students who apply to SFU despite there not being a conditional admission pathway in place.

Under the terms of the proposed pilot, international applicants who meet/exceed all admission requirements other than the English Language requirement would be admitted to undergraduate studies conditional upon successful completion (80%) of ELC's Low Advanced level. We anticipate attracting approximately 20 students per term for the duration of the pilot.

### **Background**

Since 1995, Lifelong Learning's English Language and Culture program has provided English language skills training to students for whom English is an additional language (EAL). The ELC program immerses learners in both the English language and the Canadian university environment, acculturating them to SFU and post-secondary learning in Canada before they enter credit studies.

On May 25, 2021, Senate approved that a grade of 80% in the English Language and Culture (ELC) Program's Low Advanced level satisfies the English language competency requirement for undergraduate admission to SFU.

This has provided an additional option for EAL students and has opened an avenue for SFU to recruit and grant conditional admission to international students of excellent academic standing who fall short of the University's English language competency requirement. To meet the literacy requirement, students admitted via the pilot program would need to complete FAL.

### **Purpose of the Conditional Admission Pathway Pilot**

As the Provost reported to Senate on October 3, 2022, the number of new international undergraduate student registrations for fall 2022 is down 11%, or approximately 90 students. The proposed pilot is one means of responding to this decline.

If successful, the pilot pathway will help the university achieve the following goals:

- Advance SFU's strategic vision's foundational principle of internationalization
- Increase and diversify SFU's international population
- Bring SFU in line with other institutions who have this conditional pathway
- Bring SFU potential additional revenue
- Prepare students for Foundations of Academic Literacy

The proposed three-year pilot will enable ELC and the university to gather evidence of student performance as they move from ELC to undergraduate studies. Measures to be assessed include student time to admission, success in year one, and success beyond that. Should the program move beyond the three-year pilot phase, student time to completion could also be tracked and assessed.

### **Conditional Admission Pathways in other Universities**

The following table shows that several British Columbia degree-granting institutions offer an EAP program that is, like SFU's, articulated to the BC Council on Admission and Transfer's (BCCAT) EAP IV. Most of these institutions have conditional admission pathways and many, like SFU, have pathways into year two of university studies.

The table also includes the conditional admission pathways in place at two of the three other Navitas-partner institutions in Canada. Currently, the English Language and Culture program at SFU works closely with Fraser International College to support international students whose goal is to complete their undergraduate studies at SFU.

**Table 1 - Environmental Scan of Universities in British Columbia and other Canadian Navitas Pathway schools:**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>EAL Advanced Level</b>	<b>BCCAT Articulation</b>	<b>Meets Undergraduate Language Requirement</b>	<b>Conditional Admission pending language upgrade</b>	<b>Existing Pathway with Credit Studies leading into Year 2</b>
SFU - ELC	Low Advanced	EAP IV	Yes	No	Fraser International College (Navitas)
UBC - ELI	600 (lower advanced)	EAP IV	Yes	Yes	Vantage College
UVic - ELC	University Admission Preparation (UAP)	EAP IV	Yes	Yes	University Pathway Program
TRU - ESL	ESAL Advanced Academic Preparation Certificate	EAP IV	Yes	Yes (Arts, Business, Fine Arts, Sciences)	None
UNBC	No current program	NA	Will Accept EAP IV for Admission	NA	NA
Royal Roads - GLLC	English for Academic Purposes 3 (EAP 3)	No	Yes	Yes	Transfer Preparation Program
Capilano University	English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	EAP IV	Yes	Yes	Some (Business Administration, ECCE, HCA)
University of Manitoba - ELC	Intensive Academic English Program (IAEP)	Not BC institution	Yes	Yes	International College of Manitoba (Navitas)
Toronto Metropolitan University – Real Institute	ESL Foundation Program	Not BC institution	Yes	No	Toronto Metropolitan University International College (Navitas)
Wilfrid Laurier	Laurier English and Academic Foundation (LEAF) Level 5	Not BC institution	Yes	Yes	Wilfrid Laurier International College (Navitas)

## **Conclusion**

Piloting a conditional admission pathway into undergraduate year one offers an opportunity to test drive a potentially valuable addition to current SFU international student recruitment and admission practices. Via this pathway, the university could attract academically excellent international students whose applications are currently unreviewed. By tracking student progress and success, the ELC program and university will be able to assess the impact of providing a made-at-SFU opportunity to students who otherwise are looking elsewhere for their English language instruction.

## **Appendix A or just notes not to be included in final document**

### **Resources and Revenue**

The admissions office will need the resources to review the 700 or so applications per year that are currently not looked at.

It is worth noting that these applications are coming in despite there being no conditional admissions pathway available; if the pathway is improved the number of applications would very likely increase.

The salary of a full-time APSA Grade 8 position begins at \$64,973, approximately \$79,462 per year including benefits.

The salary of a full-time CUPE Grade 6 position begins at \$42,964, approximately \$55,423 per year including benefits.

As for the recruitment costs for this program, ELC's Marketing Coordinator is part of SFU's recruitment network and a training session for recruiters to have an overview of ELC's program would not take more than a couple of hours.

ELC and the SFU recruitment team have already met several times in 2022. The existence of a conditional admission pathway will assist SFU recruiters in promoting their own programs.

The tuition for the ELC full-time eight-week Low Advanced level portion of this pathway is \$3,450.00 (\$3,200.00 + \$250.00 non-refundable application fee).

We estimate that around 70 students per year would take this pathway, generating a revenue of \$241,500 for ELC, which does not differentiate between domestic and international students.

The potential revenue from 70 international students taking a four-year general degree program at SFU is \$8.56m, including potentially \$2.14m generated from year one, which SFU does not receive in the FIC model.