

Umbra Institute, Perugia

Effective fall 2006, students at the Umbra Institute will no longer be enrolled in a month of intensive Italian at the Università per Stranieri at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. Instead, Italian language courses at all levels will be offered at the Umbra Institute and will continue throughout the semester. The change was based on a need to assure student progress in the language throughout each student's entire academic program.

The Umbra Institute will continue to use the Stranieri for intensive language programming in the summer and plans to offer the opportunity for intensive Italian for the full semester at the Stranieri with additional oversight from faculty members of the Umbra Institute.



Credit Changes in Ireland

In the fall of 2005, Arcadia University changed its approach to reporting credit for work undertaken at Irish universities which use the ECTS system. Those are the National University of Ireland, Galway; University College Cork and University College Dublin – Arts. This statement describes the approach we used from 2001-02 through 2004-05, explains the problem we encountered and describes the approach now being employed.

When Irish institutions began to express the credit value of their courses in ECTS terminology, Arcadia decided to award three semester hours of credit for each course that carried five ECTS units. We believed this to be a fair and objective equivalence, since the typical Irish course is worth five ECTS units pre semester and a typical course in the United States is worth three semester hours of credit.

The flaw in this approach became evident when we saw that a few students on our programs, despite our admonitions to the contrary, registered for only four Irish courses per semester. While their doing so resulted in a minimal twelve semester hours of credit, a load of only twenty ECTS units falls far short of the typical Irish full load of thirty units per semester.

Effective with the fall semester of 2005, Arcadia has returned to the credit award system that was in place before 2001-02 and will award 2.5 semester hours of credit for each five ECTS unit course. Of course, not all Irish courses carry five ECTS units. The credit "translation" value for all ECTS courses at the three above-named institutions follows:

<u>ECTS Units</u>	<u>Semester Hours of Credit</u>
2.5	1.5
3.0	1.5
5.0	2.5
6.0	3.0
7.5	4.0
10	5.0
12	6.0
12.5	6.5
15	7.5

While we know that this change will ensure that students on Arcadia programs will be meeting minimal Irish academic load expectations for full-time enrollment (they should carry the equivalent of six five unit courses per semester), we understand that it may create credit equivalence difficulties for certain U.S. institutions. We encourage advisors at those schools to contact Tim Barton, Senior Program Coordinator for Ireland [barton@arcadia.edu] to discuss transcripting for their students.

IFSA Grant for West African Ecology and Biodiversity

Arcadia's program on West African Ecology and Biodiversity has received a grant of \$15,000 from the IFSA Foundation. The funds will be used to provide international flight scholarships for students participating in the fall 2006 program.

In its fourth year, the West African Ecology and Biodiversity program offers an excellent opportunity for students interested in biological field research and service learning to gain real world experience in the developing world. A new program feature in fall 2005 was teaching Equato Guinean students English as a second language and presenting in Philadelphia area schools at the end of the program. More information on the program is available at <http://www.arcadiaabroad.com>



Arcadia Receives a Paul Simon Award

Arcadia University is one of five universities in 2006 to receive a Paul Simon Award for campus internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Named for the late Senator Paul Simon, (D – Ill.), the award recognizes innovative and creative campus-wide efforts to become more international institution.

Alliance for Global Education

The Alliance for Global Education, a joint effort of the Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad and the Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University, opened its office in the beginning of February. Information about the Alliance, Janice Levitt, the Director of the Alliance, and the study abroad programs in China which are available for fall 2006 is available at <http://www.alliancegloaled.org>

Staff Changes

John Wells will be leaving the Arcadia after more than five years as Director of Enrollment Management to become the Director of Off Campus Studies at Wells College. The opportunity to direct an office and work in a campus environment is something that John has sought for some time and while we are sad to see him leave Arcadia, we wish him continued success and good fortune his new position.