

CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES (CES)
FOUR YEAR EVALUATION
-SUMMARY-

The Center for European Studies (CES) was created in August 2003 upon receipt of a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) award from the federal Department of Education.¹ In August 2006 the Title VI status of the CES was renewed and it was granted “comprehensive” status including significant Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) resources for graduate student funding through the FLAS fellowship program. It is currently one of just ten Europe/West Europe Title VI National Resource Centers in the country.

As a Title VI Center, the primary goal of the CES is to assist in the development of area and language skills among the country's best students through fostering a rich academic and cultural environment including language and areas studies courses, related degree options and study abroad opportunities. To accomplish this goal the CES provides a wide array of research and teaching opportunities to faculty members from across the university. In keeping with the broad goals of the Title VI program, the CES also plays a critical role in fostering greater international awareness in the broader community through educational programs for state and local government, business organizations, K-12 students and teachers, the media and the general public.

Despite its comparatively brief existence, the CES has been able to make significant progress in establishing the University of Florida as one of the country's foremost centers of Europe-related teaching and scholarship. The success of the CES can be attributed to its accomplishments in the development of new Europe-related academic programs, organization and funding of a wide selection of programmatic activities and its ability to support both faculty and students in their Europe-related research and teaching endeavors.

Academic Programs

Since its creation in 2003 the CES has created two new undergraduate certificate programs (European Union Studies, East Central European Studies), two new undergraduate minors (European Union Studies, East Central European Studies), as well as a new graduate certificate (Modern European Studies). The center was also active in the development of the proposed International Studies Major (European Track) recently approved by the University Curriculum Committee. To support these new certificate and degree initiatives the CES created 25 new courses (through the UCC1 process) and funded the development of an additional seventeen new courses and the enhancement of twelve existing courses to include a substantial European component through its annual course development and enhancement grants to faculty members. The Center also supports the development and teaching of several ‘Foreign Language across the Curriculum’ (FLAC) 1-credit course units annually.²

As the most established of the center's academic programs EU Studies has the highest level of both current enrollment and recent graduates. As of May 2007, the Center expects that 16 students will have completed the minor and 24 the certificate. There are an additional 10 students who have officially registered for the minor and 13 for the certificate.³ The graduate certificate in Modern European Studies, which was officially approved in Fall 2006, already has 8 students enrolled.⁴

¹ Both the original Title VI grant and the subsequent renewal in 2006 were awarded to Amie Kreppel who was the PI of both grant proposals and serves as the current director of the CES.

² These are 1-unit courses that are taught in a foreign language and substantively linked to standard 3- unit subject area courses.

³ Another 74 students are currently “unofficially” pursuing either the certificate or the minor (meaning that they have contacted CES and expressed interest and are taking the courses, but have not yet filed the appropriate forms).

⁴ The East Central European Studies Program was formally approved in March 2007 and as a result does not yet have any students officially enrolled. However, the Center notes that student interest has been high and there are currently more than 40

Additionally, the CES developed and currently administers (in conjunction with UFIC) four new summer study abroad programs in Brussels, Belgium; Salzburg, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic and beginning in summer 2007 Kraków/Wrocław, Poland. These study abroad programs support the CES minors and have already provided the opportunity for more than 100 students to study in Europe.

Programmatic Activities

The CES organizes and co-sponsors a large number of both academic and non-academic public activities. These include research talks and presentations by national and international guest speakers, academic workshops and conferences, art shows, film screenings and a wide variety of training seminars for K-12 teachers, the business community and government agencies (among others). Between 2003 and 2007 the Center organized an average of five seminars or guest speakers per year and co-sponsored another 28. During the same period the CES organized or co-sponsored 16 major workshops and conferences.

CES program activities targeted at off campus communities include an annual intensive summer institute on foreign language pedagogy for K-12 teachers from across the state, seminars on doing business in the European Union for small and medium sized businesses and a wide variety of public events highlighting the art, film, music and cultures of Europe. In all the CES organized or co-sponsored more than 80 public events of this sort reaching literally thousands of people across both Florida and the nation.

Support Initiatives

To fulfill its primary goal of supporting Europe-related research broadly defined the CES provides a variety of grant opportunities for UF faculty and students. Faculty members may apply for annual research and travel grants, as well as course development and enhancement grants. Graduate students are provided substantial funding opportunities through the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program annual and summer fellowships as well as the recently introduced 'Special Topics in European Studies' program, which funds advanced graduate students to develop and teach their own courses. Additional support is provided through graduate student summer research and travel grants. Undergraduate students may also apply for CES summer study abroad grants.

In total the CES has awarded more than 30 course development, enhancement and/or teaching awards as well as 19 faculty and 24 graduate research and travel awards and more than a dozen undergraduate study abroad grants since 2003. Overall, the CES has provided over \$170,000 in grants to UF faculty and students since 2003.⁵

Funding Summary

The CES receives a large portion of its funding from the US Department of Education, with significant additional external resources coming from the Commission of the European Union. Substantial internal support for the CES is provided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Division of Sponsored Research and the Office of the Provost of the University of Florida.

The CES has been awarded a total of more than 2.5 million dollars in external grants since 2003 and received an additional \$468,000 in matching support from the Division of Sponsored Research. Between 2003 and 2006 the Office of the Provost provided approximately \$150,000 in support and has committed to a contribution of \$15,000 per year between 2006 and 2010.⁶ In addition, between fall 2003 and spring 2007 the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has contributed approximately 1.1 million dollars in salary and \$215,000 in OPS and OE support to the Center.

students taking courses toward the completion of the ECES minor.

⁵ This total includes grants awarded during Spring 2007 for disbursement during summer 2007.

⁶ Additional support from the office of the Provost is provided in the form of tuition waivers for FLAS recipients.