Did you know that Marquette is home to over 700 students representing 67 different countries? In fact, this past fall was the largest incoming class of undergraduate international students ever! Inevitably, language and cultural barriers can pose unique challenges for international students, but Marquette offers English language learners a wide variety of academic and supportive services, as well as opportunities to learn about American culture and celebrate their own.

The Office of International Education
The OIE offers international students both academic and supportive services, as well as many opportunities throughout the year for fun through intercultural exchange.

The English as a Second Language Program provides Reading, Writing, Listening, and Grammar courses to undergraduate degree seeking students who demonstrate a need for additional language instruction. These classes are intensive for-credit language courses taught by certified ESL instructors and are taken simultaneously with other subject matter areas. Additionally, the OIE partners with the English Department to offer special ESL sections of ENG 1001 and 1002 where topics are expanded to include extra language support and instruction. All of these courses are open to both international students and domestic students who identify as English language learners. Additionally, students can visit the OIE’s website at any time for extra English learning tips and strategies, as well as links to online language resources.

The OIE’s Program Center provides a space for students to gather for curricular and extracurricular international themed events. For example, the Conversation Club meets weekly to discuss American life and culture, share typical American dishes, as well as share favorite foods and customs from one’s home country. Moreover, the center serves as a meeting space for various organizations such as the Saudi Student Union, Hmong Student Association, as well as multiple language exchange clubs such as the Arabic Language and Culture Club and the Chinese/English Language Exchange.

Raynor Memorial Library
English language learners are often challenged by the American library system and western style of research writing. Many of the librarians at Marquette are trained to assist English language learners in selecting topics for academic papers, searching for resources through the Marqcat system, and navigating the library’s stacks. All of the ESL classes work closely with librarians and integrate library skills into the curriculum. Additionally, the librarians have created an English Language Resource Guide, accessible through the library’s search tool, where students can link to a number of ESL grammar and writing websites for self-study or easily locate English language textbooks through the library.

The Ott Memorial Writing Center
The Writing Center is a great place for English learners to get feedback on their writing. In the past, the Writing Center has worked closely with ESL instructors to train tutors to specifically address content and organization problems that are typical of non-native English speakers.
These resources are designed to support the learning needs and personal growth of ESL students and ensure their success at Marquette. Faculty and staff are encouraged to refer students to these resources and are welcome to attend any of the OIE’s cultural events! For more information on serving the language needs of ESL students, please contact Nora Hochstetter in the Office of International Education at 414-288-7002 or nora.hochstetter@marquette.edu.