

Frequently Asked Questions.

? What is COIL?

Collaborative International Online Learning (COIL) projects virtually connect two or more classrooms across the globe. COIL aims to enhance dialogue and collaboration between people and classrooms. COIL provides peer to peer experiential learning opportunities with a focus on teamwork. COIL meets Sheridan's goals to build students' global outlook and fluency through curricula internationalization. It offers new modalities for international mobility that are more inclusive and accessible.

Other Names for COIL: COIL is also called (or is similar to) Globally Networked Learning (GNL), Virtual Exchange, Virtual Mobility, Telecollaboration, Teletandem, and Global Learning Virtual Experience.

? How does COIL work?

Two (or more) instructors based in different cultures and/or locations collaborate on the project design, development of materials, and shared learning outcomes with activities promoting interaction and collaboration between students. COIL projects are carefully designed to encourage students to work, collaborate and learn from and alongside each other. It is important to incorporate virtual social and cultural programming within a COIL project.

? How long is a COIL project?

COIL projects vary in length from a module to a full course. However, it is recommended that a COIL project lasts between 4-8 weeks.

? What are the benefits of COIL?

Benefits for Students

- Engage in conversations with global peers.
- Learn about their discipline from another perspective.
- Develop digital literacy skills and competencies for working virtually.
- Encourage appreciation of diversity and multiple viewpoints.
- Prepare for physical mobility and/or increase interest in study abroad.
- Offer an international experience to those who do not have the opportunity to go abroad.
- Offer opportunities to develop rich cultural connections.

Benefits for Faculty

- Offer an opportunity to collaborate with international partners.
- Provide professional development opportunities.
- Be informed of discipline knowledge, practices, and pedagogies in international contexts.
- Create opportunities for international connections that could translate to further collaborations (e.g., research).
- Enhance internationalization of curricula.

? **How can we manage different time zones?**

Communication between classrooms could be asynchronous, synchronous, and/or hybrid to accommodate different time zones.

? **How do students interact with each other?**

Students can use videoconferencing such as Teams or WebEx or any platform of their choice. They can also use chat platforms such as WhatsApp for group discussions. As for project collaboration, they can use Google Docs, Padlet and other platforms of their choice.

? **What are the resources available for students engaging in a COIL project?**

Students engaging in a COIL project have multiple resources available to guide them through the process and provide them with the support needed to succeed. Visit the Student COIL Libguide for more information.

? **Can I incorporate COIL into an existing course?**

Yes! Actually, COIL is typically embedded into pre-existing courses or modules. It does not involve offering new courses, but rather redesigning (part of) an existing course with your partner. COIL modules generally enrich and extend existing course learning outcomes, rather than introduce new outcomes to a course.

Disciplines

COIL projects can be implemented in any discipline, subject or course, yet most COIL projects are interdisciplinary.

? **How do I find my international partner?**

- Some Faculties already have partnerships in place (Mobility, Research, Virtual Exchange, COIL). Connect with your dean/associate dean for support.
- Some instructors are able to identify partners from their own professional and academic networks.
- SUNY COIL, through ImmerseU, provides access to profiles of COIL instructors around the world. Visit the ImmerseU platform, create your account, upload your profile information, and connect with more than 600 members worldwide. Here is a step by step guide to create your profile. Contact SPARK for support.
- Visit COIL Connect to browse a list of institutions engaged in COIL, once you identify an institution of interest, connect with the SPARK team to explore available options within that institution.
- SPARK supports faculty/staff members in identifying potential partners.

? Are instructors responsible for preparing their own materials?

Yes, instructors are responsible for preparing their own project materials in collaboration with their partner instructor. Please reach out to the Sheridan Centre for Academic Excellence (SPARK) if you need support in designing activities and assessment tools.

? How can we address language challenges?

Language fluency of teachers and students in each cohort should be discussed and agreed upon ahead of time. While it is expected that one group will usually have home language advantage, it is important that language support services are available.

? What resources are available to support my COIL project?

Sheridan has many resources to guide you through the COIL project from planning, to delivery to post delivery of the project. To access those resources, information, guidelines and more, connect with the SPARK team.

? What type of support can I get from the Sheridan Centre for Academic Excellence (SPARK)?

The Sheridan Centre for Academic Excellence (SPARK) is here to support you in making your COIL experience a success. The SPARK team offers the following types of support:

Educational Technology & Instructional Design

SPARK has a variety of resources and programs to support faculty in educational technology and instructional design. Faculty can register for workshops as part of the Digital Learning and Innovation Program, or they can opt for the self-directed approach and visit our Teaching with Technology webpage. Faculty will find a variety of resources/tutorial content on the website that can get them started in areas such as:

Virtual Classroom Tools - Bongo, Teams etc Creating video assignments using Kaltura Creating interactive digital content If you have additional questions or require more specialized support, such as creating immersive experiences or designing COIL course assets or activities, please reach out to the SPARK team.

? How can I align my existing course learning outcomes to a COIL project?

- Determine at least two or more existing learning outcomes for your course that could be met with a COIL project you intend to build.
- Include an evaluation component for the COIL project that aligns to your course evaluation matrix and will assess your selected course learning outcomes.
- Consider if you will still be able to cover all your course learning outcomes throughout the term if you undertake a COIL project, depending on its length of time.

i To learn more, enroll in the [COIL 101](#) module by connecting with the [SPARK](#) team.