



Student Success International Programming for Term Break

Practice everyday language and connect with other international students during term break. Conversation leaders and staff from the Student Success Centre will walk you through strategies to improve your English language skills using films, poetry and language building games in interactive, small group sessions.

[View all upcoming workshops and register »](#)

Feb 16: 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Online

Getting Together: Term Break International Student Sessions-Opening Speakers

During the February term break (Feb. 16-17) the Student Success Centre is offering workshops and discussion groups for undergraduate and graduate international students. As well as an introductory keynote address from Student Success and the Graduate Student Association on Tuesday, Feb. 16, each day will include facilitated sessions to practice and improve your English language skills, meet other international students, and lift your spirits as we consider themes of hope and resilience.

You can register for each session individually through the Student Success Centre Events calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>).

Opening speakers: Mary Zhang (GSA VP of Student Experience)

Roxanne Ross (Director, Student Success Centre)

Jennifer Parsons (Academic Development Specialist for International Students)

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Feb 16: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

International Student Workshop TED talk and Discussion: Why we laugh

In this fast-paced and enjoyable TED talk, cognitive neuroscientist Sophie Scott leads the audience on an amusing, fact-filled journey through the science of laughter. What makes us laugh and why?

Facilitator Angela Parsons.

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>



Feb 16: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

International Student Workshop: Improving Language Skills through Journaling

Session 2

Getting Together: Term Break International Student Sessions

Journaling can be an effective active language learning technique. In this session, we will discuss strategies and best practices for language improvement through journal writing.

Facilitator Jennifer will then lead you through a series of enjoyable exercises and reflections to get you started on your English language-building journal.

Facilitator: Jennifer Parsons

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Feb 16: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Online

International Student Workshop: Language through the Arts

Session 3

Getting Together: Term Break International Student Sessions

Language Through the Arts

The fundamentals of strong writing are the same for every genre, whether it be poetry or academics. Although it may seem counterintuitive, learning how to write different genres increases fluency by allowing participants to exercise skills that might otherwise go neglected. This session will look at erasure and other generative literary techniques that will broaden your language skills, while also creating playful opportunities for conversation. Facilitator Marc Lynch.

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Feb 17: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Online

International Conversation Group: Documentaries and Discussion

Session 4

Getting Together: Term Break International Student Sessions

Documentaries and Discussion: Nature Protected by Women: Akashinga and the Black Mambas

There are female ranger units that are transforming the way elephants and rhinos are protected in Africa; these brave women are battling illegal poaching, but are also making a positive difference in their communities. In this session, we will watch short documentaries and interviews with members of these groups. Facilitator Tania Baxter will lead a discussion on the various methods employed by these groups and their impact on conservation and the local communities.

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>



Feb 17: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Online

International Conversation Group: Films and Discussion

Film and Discussion: “The Present” (Frey, 2014); “Purl” (Pixar, 2018)

Participants will present a film review based on one of two short film choices. There will be a conversation on universal themes found in both films as well as story telling techniques and devices. A handout will be made available to structure the discussion. Facilitator Angela Parsons.

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Feb 17: 3:00 p.m to. 4:30 p.m. Online

International Conversation Group: Language-building Games

Getting Together: Term Break International Student Sessions

Language Building Games

In this session, we will be playing language-based games tailored to you and based off popular titles, such as Chameleon. This session will provide you an opportunity to practice new vocabulary and converse with others in a semi-competitive but play-oriented format. Facilitator Marc Lynch.

Register: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>