ONLINE COURSES IN ENGLISH, CO-SPONSORED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL,
TO CELEBRATE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANGUAGE CENTER AT UCI

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

For: The provision of academic services as invited British faculty partners in online courses of the Universidad de las Ciencias Informáticas (UCI), from Havana, Cuba

Date: October 14, 2020

1. Background

1.1. Description of the Universidad de las Ciencias Informáticas (UCI)

UCI is located in Havana and is specialized in IT-related areas of knowledge. Its foundation was a strategic milestone to foster research and innovation in order to strengthen Cuban software development industry. It is based on a study-work educational model with direct academy-

industry relations due to the conception of an intra-university industry for software development; thus, its high social impact.

The postgraduate education system is wide and varied. It includes a PhD Program in Informatics and master's programmes in Advanced Informatics, Software Quality, IT Project Management, Applied Medical Informatics and Virtual Education. More information: www.uci.cu

UCI is the permanent venue of the National Distance Learning Centre (CENED), which provides a solid platform and guidance for this modality in Cuban higher education.

1.2. Rationale

The development of distance and blended learning has been a priority for the Ministry of Higher Education in Cuba (MES) for many years. In current times, the lockdowns in response to COVID-19 have interrupted conventional schooling with nationwide school closures in Cuba, as in most countries, and distance education has become a lifeline, since universities need to replace face-to-face courses with online learning, and develop alternative education opportunities.

In this context, UCI is developing a series of initiatives to foster our resilience to the new scenario and is currently increasing the number of courses offered online. At the same time, the institution is aiming at continue enhancing international collaboration and professional development of our academics.

Collaboration between British and Cuban academics has a long history in Cuba. The British Council has, for many years, supported collaboration with British experts in different areas of the didactics of English as a Foreign Language and in educational policies for this language. In this new era, new ways to ensure and renew our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals together must be found. Undoubtedly, online collaboration is a cornerstone, as well as the insertion of training in English for Specific Purposes to foster the use of the language in different areas of knowledge.

2. Introduction and specifications

2.1. Introduction

The Department of Postgraduate Education at UCI, in collaboration with the British Council team in Havana, would like to request a quotation for the provision of academic services by university faculty in short online courses for postgraduate students in all of Cuba. The courses will be taught by Cuban professors from UCI and other Cuban universities, and professors from UK are welcome to become invited faculty partners.

2.2. Specifications

2.2.1. The technological platform for the courses will be Moodle (https://aulacened.uci.cu), and will be available for application by professionals from all over the country.

2.2.2. One British faculty partner will be selected for each course.

2.2.3. The time expected to be devoted by each expert is approximately 20 hours.

2.2.4. The titles and dates for the courses are listed below.

Universidad de las Ciencias Informáticas (UCI),
Carretera a San Antonio de los Baños Km 2 ½,
Torrens, Boyeros, La Habana, Cuba.

- *Introduction to academic writing in English* (November 9 through 28, 2020)
- *The use of ICT in distance education* (November 9 through 28, 2020)
- *Application of multicriteria decision analysis in academic contexts* (November 9 through 28, 2020)
- *Fundamentals of English language assessment and testing* (February 1 through 21, 2020)

2.2.5. the responsibilities of the British faculty partners will be the following:

- collaborate with teachers in the design and delivery of the courses. Participation in the delivery of the courses will consist in two (2) or three (3) videoconferences (1 hour each) for each course
- contribute materials and educational resources related to the topic of the course
- contribute guidance for professional development of teachers

2.2.6. Submission of proposals

Applicants are invited to submit their quotation proposals, together with a curriculum vitae, no later than October 25, 2020. They should be addressed to escuelaposgrado@uci.cu.

2.2.7. An award will be based on:

- Expertise in the subject of the course.
- Competitiveness of the cost against the other submissions.

This initiative promotes the emergence of a collaborative relationship in each of the themes concerned that can be sustained in the future.

3. Quotation Validity

Quotations must remain open for acceptance by UCI for a minimum of fifteen days from the date that it is issued to the University in response to this requirement.

4. Payment

The British Council will pay correctly addressed and undisputed invoices within 30 days of the Invoice Date sent by the awarded faculty.

5. Disclaimer

By issuing this RFQ, UCI is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with applicants.

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