USF now offers Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs in Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian

TAMPA, Fla. – (September 2010) The USF College of Education recently received approval from the Florida Department of Education to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian for grades K-12 with an ESOL Endorsement.

Dean Colleen Kennedy of the College of Education stated that the MAT Programs “represent a great team effort with the College of Arts and Sciences (World Languages), Secondary Education and the Confucius Institute for the Chinese MAT.” These programs are in addition to our MAT programs in Spanish, French, German and Latin.

"We are so pleased to offer the Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) with K-12 teaching certification in what have been up to now less commonly taught languages in Florida K-12 schools,” said Phil Smith, Ph.D., Foreign Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Education Coordinator for the College of Education. “In the past few years the number of schools that teach Chinese as a foreign language has been increasing significantly in our Florida schools and is projected to continue growing.

“This trend reflects how interconnected our global community really is. The addition of Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian foreign language teaching certification demonstrates USF’s commitment to helping to meet this demand.”

Victor Peppard, Chair of the Department of World Languages, in the College of Arts and Sciences, said the department will provide the language courses for the MAT program.

“There are two major benefits of having these master’s programs,” Peppard said. “The first is that it gives students who want to teach these languages in the schools the preparation and the qualification to do so. The second is, of course, to provide our schools with well prepared and qualified teachers in these key languages.”

Similar to existing MAT programs in Spanish, German, French and Latin, the new languages approved for the MAT automatically provide students with ESOL endorsements.

A first for state of Florida, the USF College of Education is currently the only university to offer the MAT program in Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian. María Crummett, Dean of International Affairs acknowledges the collaborative effort made by the USF College of Education, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Confucius Institute to bring the MAT program to USF.

Boilerplates