Support for CSM international graduate students in

- improving communication skills
- preparing technical papers and oral presentations in a concise, professional style
- actively contributing to group discussions and teamwork
- understanding and meeting expectations at CSM
- having productive appointments with advisors
- resolving conflict
- giving and accepting feedback
- networking with other students to share strategies for success

SYGN503 Integrating into the CSM Community is offered as a 1-credit hour course in professional skills, specifically designed for the CSM international graduate population. (During fall semesters, the class meets 1 hour per week; during spring semesters, the short course is condensed into half the semester and meets for one 2-hour session per week). If you have questions, please contact dwitters@mines.edu

(comment from a PhD student in her third year)

I really wish I had taken this class when I first started at CSM. I learnt so much about what to expect from people at CSM and more importantly what they expect from me. If you want to get better at academic writing, develop professional skills, communicate effectively with the academic and industry communities, politely handle school/industry related conflicts, then I’d definitely recommend this class. This course felt like a break from rest of the classes, more like a chance to share ideas with other graduate students from different departments. It’s a relief to learn that you are not alone in this journey here at CSM.

Instructor: As adjunct faculty, Diane Witters has extensive experience working with CSM graduate students. She teaches technical writing and coaches students in oral presentations and other professional skills through the Center for Wave Phenomena in the Department of Geophysics.