

English for Academic Studies 2 (O000131)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 60.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

Offering	Language	Teaching Method	Hours
A (semester 2)	English	practicum	15.0 h
		lecture	15.0 h
		group work	15.0 h
		project	15.0 h
B (semester 1)		project	15.0 h
		practicum	15.0 h
		lecture	15.0 h
		group work	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Dunne, Michael	KR01	lecturer-in-charge
Ozelton, Jonathan	KR51	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

Programme	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology	5	A, B
Bachelor of Science in Food Technology	5	A, B
Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biotechnology	5	A, B
Joint Section Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology, Food Technology and Molecular Biotechnology	5	A, B

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Scientific English, Academic English, Writing, Research Skills, Academic Oral Presentations, Critical Thinking Skills, Group Projects

Position of the course

This course aims to strengthen students' proficiency in academic English, and to begin to develop critical thinking, researching and presenting skills within their specific academic context. It continues from and builds upon the skills developed within English for Academic Studies 1.

Contents

Students are guided through an extended research project, and learn to present their ideas in extended writing, as well as through academic oral presentations. There is a blend of group and individual tasks to supplement the student learning experience. The course is organised into two modules: Guided Research Project (GRP), taking place in two classes; and Academic Presentation Skills (APS), taking place in one longer class. Both classes feature group study sessions and group tutorials to compliment the larger lecture-based classes.

GRP - GUIDED RESEARCH PROJECT

Aims

To equip students with the requisite language and skills necessary for conducting research and for producing a piece of extended writing (a project) in an area relevant to their discipline.

Content

This module involves an integrated approach, with a particular focus on the writing,

research, and critical thinking skills necessary for producing a Research Project. The research project will form the basis for the Academic Presentation, so that students develop their decision-making regarding the development of ideas, the coherence of their argument, and the necessary language to communicate their ideas through both extended writing and academic presenting concurrently.

The following areas will be covered:

- further development of academic reading skills
- examining and selecting different source texts, and organising and prioritising ideas gathered
- a combined process-cognitive approach to academic writing
- developing academic arguments with supporting evidence
- working effectively in groups and sharing responsibility

APS – ACADEMIC PRESENTATION SKILLS

Aims

To equip students with the necessary language, strategies and skills for delivering credible and concise academic-styled presentations suitable for undergraduate studies in engineering and the sciences.

Content

This module focuses on the development of appropriate language, strategies and skills for the effective delivery of academic presentations at an undergraduate level.

The following areas will be covered:

- the reasons for and benefits of practicing academic presentation skills
- the structure of academic presentations and suitable language for each of the different stages
- organizing ideas, giving reasons and developing arguments
- skills for effective public speaking, both verbal (voice projection, intonation, pausing, emphasis) and non-verbal (body language, posture, gestures, facial expressions)
- techniques for effective openings and making an impact
- understanding differences between written and spoken language
- designing and using effective visual aids (slides)
- asking and answering different types of questions during presentations

Initial competences

Students should have gained competency in note-taking, and the ability to paraphrase from academic texts. They should be comfortable with interacting within groups within English-speaking academic contexts. These are the skills gained within English for Academic Studies 1, and this course continues to build on those foundations.

Final competences

- 1 • the ability to search for, evaluate and utilise information from appropriate source materials.
- 2 • an understanding of what is typically expected in research projects at the undergraduate level and the study approaches needed to meet these requirements.
- 3 • an understanding of how to format and structure a research project, including citations and references.
- 4 • the ability to evaluate a wide range of written data and construct a coherent evidence-based argument.
- 5 • the ability to present and communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written contexts.
- 6 • a capacity for effective group-work and sharing responsibility within a team.
- 7 • an understanding of the structure and style of academic presentation structures, and appropriate language.
- 8 • the ability to plan, organize, prepare and deliver credible and concise academic-styled presentations and the ability to present and communicate ideas in a structured and logical manner.
- 9 • the verbal and non-verbal skills involved with presenting effectively and increased confidence in public speaking.
- 10 • a knowledge of the techniques for attracting and maintaining an audience's attention and the ability to formulate and develop rational arguments in order to convince others.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture, practicum, project

Learning materials and price

Additional materials will be provided through the Minerva platform. It is the students' responsibility to download and print-out the texts etc.c.

References

Bailey, S. (2018) Academic Writing: A handbook for international students. New York: Routledge. (ISBN 978-1138048744)

Course content-related study coaching

Counselling is offered to help students process the subject matter and attain the learning outcomes.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination, portfolio

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination, portfolio

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

An exam during the second examination period is possible, but in a modified form. During the second examination period, the portfolio must be re-submitted, and an alternative form of the academic oral presentation must take place.

Calculation of the examination mark

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT - 40%

15% - APS Module

A combination of one group academic presentation and class participation.

25% - GRP Module

A combination of progressive research and writing tasks, and one preliminary draft.

END-OF-TERM ASSESSMENT - 60%

30% - Final Individual Academic Presentation (Oral Examination)

30% - Final Research Project Submission (Portfolio)

Students who eschew period aligned and/or non-period aligned evaluations for this course unit may be failed by the examiner.