UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

Key Information

Module code ISSU0003  
Taught during Session Two: 22 July - 9 August 2019  
Module workload 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours  
Module leader James Sinclair-Knopp  
Department Centre for Languages and International Education  
Credit 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US  
Level Level 1, first year Undergraduate  
Pre-requisites Standard entry requirements  
Assessment Researched essay (30%)  
Presentation & Q&A (35%)  
Final examination (35%)

Module Overview

The course will cover linguistic structures (a variety of styles and registers from a range of academic authentic material). Various transferable skills will also be developed.

Week One:

Reading and Writing
- Identifying text organization: paragraphs, introductions, conclusions
- Selecting sources for research essay writing
- Academic vocabulary
- Grammar for academic writing (as appropriate)

Speaking and Listening
- Self introductions
- Seminar discussions

Week Two:

Reading and Writing
- Academic conventions; referencing styles
- Plagiarism (how to avoid it)
- Synthesizing sources
- Summary writing
Speaking and Listening
• Note-taking skills: identifying main ideas; specific information
• Seminar discussions (continued)
• Short presentations
• Pronunciation of key terms, numbers, etc.

Week Three:
Reading and Writing
• Academic style and register
• Proof-reading and peer review
• Final review and assessment

Speaking and Listening
• Short presentations (continued)
• Final review and assessment

Module Aims
This module aims to familiarise students from other learning cultures with the conventions of academic English and to give practice in their use. Skills in academic reading, writing, speaking and listening will be developed through exposure to a variety of academic texts and lectures, active participation in seminars and presentations, and a series of writing tasks.

For both writing and speaking, attention will be given to linguistic structures of relevance to academic study, as exemplified in model texts. At the same time, a focus on register and style will encourage students to differentiate successfully between the expectations of formal writing and speaking contexts, leading to the independent production of a fully referenced academic essay and individual presentation. In the course of the module, transferable skills in research, synthesis, communication and critical thinking will also be developed.

Teaching Methods
Students are taught in interactive groups. A variety of teaching and learning methods are applied to develop competence in academic English. Students can expect a balance of receptive (reading, listening) and productive (speaking, writing) skills. Suitable authentic academic written and spoken material will be exploited in class, with the opportunity for self-study support.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:
• Be better able to understand and use theories and conventions of written academic literacy
• Be better able to use rhetorical and logical strategies to express ideas effectively in writing
• Develop their own voice and position themselves in texts
• Employ relevant strategies for distinct tasks, ranging from giving presentations to preparing coursework for undergraduate study

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Assessment Methods

- 1,500-2,000-word researched essay (30%)
- 10-minute presentation & 5-minute Q&A (35%)
- Final examination: reading and writing (35%)

Key Texts