

Study Course Title *Academic English for International Students*

Study Course Code Valo1B25

Credits 4

European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System Credits 6

Total Number of Contact Hours 64

Number of Lecture Hours 0

Number of Seminar and Practical Assignment Hours 64

Number of Hours for Laboratory Assignments 0

Independent Study Hours 96

Course Approval Date 21.12.2020

Responsible Unit Faculty of Humanities

Academic Staff Responsible for Branch of Science Indra Karapetjana

Course Developer Dr.paed., asoc.prof. Monta Farneste

Prerequisite knowledge required for the acquisition of the course corresponds to the study programme admission requirements and the general knowledge, skills and competences obtained at the previous level of education

Study Course Abstract

The course aims at enhancing students' integrated language skills in various contexts related to academic settings, thus enabling students to freely and purposefully use the acquired skills in studies.

Objectives:

- 1) to advance text comprehension skills for information acquisition and analysis;
- 2) to further writing skills;
- 3) to enhance listening skills and academic presentation and argumentation skills;
- 4) to expand academic vocabulary and to promote the accuracy of expression.

Language of instruction: English.

Course Plan

1. Integrated language skills in academic English: characteristics. S6
2. University studies and learning styles. Ability to generalize experience, substantiate achievements, knowledge and skills, identify strengths and weaknesses in the learning process. S4
3. Preparation for lectures, structure of lectures, note-taking during lectures and their organization. S6
4. Higher education and career choice. S10
- Interim assessment 1 (Test: vocabulary and grammar). S2
5. Different types of diagrams, graphs, schemes and relevant vocabulary for analysis and presentation of research data. S4
6. Studies at university in the age of technology and information. S6
7. Gender equality in higher education. Women in science. The project 'A Survey'. S8
- Interim assessment 2 (Test: vocabulary and grammar). S2
8. Financial literacy, personal finance management during studies. S4
9. Key values of academic integrity. Objectivity in the perception and interpretation of information. S4
10. Student exchange programmes in higher education. Study mobility experience: opportunities and challenges.

The project: Stay in Latvia. S8
S – seminar

Characterization of students' independent work organization and tasks

Students' independent work is organized individually and / or in small groups.

Independent tasks:

1. to study the literature related to the topics of the study course;
2. to prepare for seminars;
3. to complete home assignments;
4. to study for interim assessments.
5. to develop a presentation on a study-related topic.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

1. know academic vocabulary acquired during the course;
2. demonstrate an understanding of the structure and culture of academic oral discussion;
3. demonstrate an understanding of the principles of English text organization in academic written communication;

Skills

4. demonstrate reading comprehension skills when reading texts on topics related to academic processes, use the acquired vocabulary; answer questions;
5. express their opinion in writing on topics related to academic processes, summarize information and demonstrate written communication skills in English when developing a logical text;
6. make presentations on academic topics and demonstrate oral communication skills in English, expressing one's views and analyzing other views on academic topics;
7. understand information provided in English on topics related to academic activities in audio and video recordings, prepare questions on what is heard and provide answers.

Competence

8. plan and develop project work, thus confirming social competence and cooperative learning skills
9. obtain, critically select and synthesize information related to the academic settings;
10. use the enhanced integrated language skills and acquired vocabulary for free and purposeful communication in academic settings.

Requirements for Awarding Credits

Interim assessments:

1. Performance in seminars. 30%
2. Two written tests. 40% (2x20%)

3. Final assessment:

Examination: Presentation and discussion 30%

Acquisition of credit points requires active participation in seminars, successfully delivered presentations and successful completion of the interim assessments and final

examination. Students are admitted to the final examination only if all interim assessments have scored positive grades.

Criteria for Evaluating Learning Outcomes

In accordance with Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia and the Decision of the Senate of the University of Latvia as of 29.06.2015. No. 211, at the end of the course, students' knowledge is evaluated on a 10-point scale according to the following criteria: the amount and the quality of the obtained knowledge, acquired skills and competence in compliance with the planned learning outcomes.

Type of Assessment	Learning Outcomes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Performance in seminars	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Test 1	X		X	X	X		X			X
Test 2	X		X	X	X		X			X
Examination	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Course content

1. Integrated language skills in academic English: characteristics.

The role of academic English in studies. The role of grammar and vocabulary in academic communication. Studies at the University, University of Latvia, its faculties and study programmes.

2. University studies and learning styles. Ability to generalize experience, substantiate achievements, knowledge and skills, identify strengths and weaknesses in the learning process.

Reading: keywords in the text, decoding meaning from context, reading strategies: scan and gist reading. Listening and speaking: asking for help. Writing: organizing ideas, linking words. Grammar and vocabulary: grammar in context, noun forms, - ing forms, present simple, if clauses; collocations

3. Preparation for lectures, structure of lectures, note-taking during lectures and their organization.

Listening and speaking: talking about products; listening comprehension. Writing: writing strategies. Grammar and vocabulary: vocabulary in context; emphasis.

Consolidation: project 'Studies at University' project

4. Higher education and career choice

Reading: understanding essay questions; identifying the relevance of the text.

Listening and speaking: presentation skills; checking comprehension. Writing: paragraph structure in academic English. Grammar and vocabulary: present perfect, simple past; word families; quantifying expressions; noun phrases.

Interim assessment 1 (Test: vocabulary and grammar)

5. Different types of diagrams, graphs, schemes and relevant vocabulary for analysis and presentation of research data.

Reading: approaches to reading for an essay and note taking. Listening and speaking: describing trends. Writing: a short report; giving advice; asking for advice. Grammar and vocabulary: past perfect, past simple; words and phrases to describe statistics.

6. Studies at university in the age of technology and information.

Reading: interactive reading; reading for key ideas. Listening and speaking: text planning; expression of opinion. Writing: drafting and building arguments. Grammar and vocabulary: vocabulary to describe frequency, prepositional phrases; word building; noun phrases; reporting words.

7. Gender equality in higher education. Women in science.

Reading: discussion of the text 'Women scientists in history'. Listening and speaking: listening for gist/key ideas and detail. Grammar and vocabulary: signposting language in lectures.

Consolidation: The project A Survey (theme chosen by a student).

Interim assessment 2 (Test: vocabulary and grammar)

8. Financial literacy, personal finance management during studies.

Reading: reading for key information and concepts; defining terms. Listening and speaking: describing a process in a presentation. Writing: drafting and revising content. Grammar and vocabulary: expressing different levels of certainty; expression of belief and probability; vocabulary associated with planning.

9. Key values of academic integrity. Objectivity in the perception and interpretation of information.

Reading: close reading for key ideas; analysing information in more complex texts. Listening and speaking: agreeing and disagreeing. Writing: paraphrase. Grammar and vocabulary: modal expressions; relative clauses; verb and noun collocations.

10. Student exchange programmes in higher education. Study mobility experience: opportunities and challenges

Reading: text organization and reading for relevant information. Listening and speaking: closing presentation. Writing: planning an essay; creating bibliography. Grammar and vocabulary: reduced relative clauses; word building; participle clauses; compound words.

Compulsory Reading List 1. Hewings, Martin (2012) Cambridge Academic English.

An integrated skills course for EAP. Upper -intermediate. Student's Book.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

2. McCarthy, M. and O'Dell, F. (2008) Academic vocabulary in Use. Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press.

3. Thain, Craig (2012) Cambridge Academic English. An integrated skills course for EAP. Intermediate. Student's Book. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Further Reading List

1. Deuter, M. et al. (eds) (2002) Oxford Collocations Dictionary: For students of English. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

2. Farneste, M. (2012) The Academic Essay as a Basis for Research Paper Writing. Riga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds.

3. Foley, Mark; Hall, Diane. (2012) MyGrammarLab Intermediate B1/B2 (Longman Learners Grammar), Pearson Education.

4. McCarthy. M. (2001) Test your English Vocabulary in Use: upper-intermediate. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Periodicals and Other Sources

The Baltic Journal of English Language, Literature and Culture (BJELLC)

<https://www.bjellc.lu.lv/>