

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	School of Applied Liberal Arts
Programme:	Various MSc Programmes
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Advanced English for Postgraduate Studies
Course Code:	LANG 7100
Total Hours:	200
Timetabled Hours:	39
Guided Learning:	21
Independent learning:	140
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course is designed to enhance students' academic language proficiency and communication skills. It prepares postgraduate students to engage confidently with academic texts and lectures with a technology and business focus while introducing them to key research practices and content relevant to their field of study. Students will develop a strong grasp of research methodologies, evidence-based writing, and critical analysis which are essential skills for success at the postgraduate study level. Through structured writing and speaking tasks aligned with higher education standards, and drawing on principles from established English for Specific Purposes (ESP) programs, the course uses discipline-specific materials to ensure practical, relevant, and meaningful learning.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- To improve academic reading and comprehension
- To develop grammatical, structural and semantic accuracy
- To enhance information search and selection abilities
- To raise awareness of academic ethics and integrity in acknowledging sources and use of AI
- To introduce language skills such as paraphrasing and primary/ secondary citation
- To familiarize students with academic writing requirements such as comparison of views

- To develop critical thinking, reading and writing strategies
- To increase the overall quality of coherence, information structure and reasoning
- To improve listening comprehension and spoken fluency

Programme Outcomes:

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A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by the Registry and found at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced online search strategies to find information from academic databases, and read, select and extract relevant information with the ability to summarise, paraphrase and synthesise information from extended academic texts
- Analyse and critically evaluate cited studies, and acknowledge primary and secondary sources through accurate in-text citations, bibliography/reference list
- Construct and produce a well-organised academic paper, and create persuasive and cohesive logical arguments
- Demonstrate awareness of academic integrity and the ethical use of AI

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

- Bailey, S. (2018). *Academic writing: A handbook for international students*. 5th ed. London: Routledge
- Davies, M. (2022). *Study Skills for international Postgraduates*. 2nd ed. London, New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Hyland, K. (2016). *The Routledge handbook of English for academic purposes*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Lockwood, R.B. (2023). *Making Presentations: What every university student needs to know*. Michigan: Ann Arbor.

- Read, S.H. (2019). *Academic writing skills for international students*. London: Macmillan study skills.

Journals

- <https://library.richmond.ac.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=67604>
- <https://library.richmond.ac.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=66041>

Websites

- Using English for academic purposes for students in Higher Education: <http://www.uefap.com/>
- Manchester University phrase bank: <https://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>
- Academic English online: <http://aeo.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/>
- Reading University lectures with listening practice: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/sacll/EAP/SACLL-Listening.aspx>
- Writing for a purpose: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/writing-purpose>
- Academic Word List, Nottingham University: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/awlhighlighter.htm>

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Change to 4 credits and name change	School Meeting 24 th October 2025	