

Academic Writing in English

In-person course

Lecturer: Eoin Higgins

Duration: 16 hours

Sessions: 22, 24, 29, 31 October; 5, 7, 12, 14 November 2024 | 17:30-19:30 h.

Classroom: 18.0.A04, Carmen Martín Gaité Building ([Getafe campus](#))

English level required: B2 / C1 (with validation from lecturer)

Credits: 2 cross-curricular credits

A minimum attendance to 6 sessions is required to obtain the credits

Objectives

This short course aims to improve the quality of your academic writing in English and the use of fluent, natural and accurate language. The principal aims are:

- Learn the complex and advanced grammatical structures and general aspects of academic language.
- Learn the specific features of academic vocabulary.
- Identify and analyse issues and most common errors to avoid and/or self-correct them in your writing.

Contents

- 1.- Elements of academic language.
- 2.- Describing figures and tables.
- 3.- Giving definitions.
- 4.- Paraphrasing and avoiding plagiarism.
- 5.- Citing and reporting sources.
- 6.- Paragraph structure
- 7.- Editing
- 8.- Resources for writing

The focus will be on the correct structure and use of English, practising those areas that are particularly difficult for native Spanish speakers, as well as looking at the most common issues for all English learners at this level.

*The course aims to analyse common aspects of academic language across **all** disciplines. Therefore, for reasons of time, it won't be possible to look in detail at subject-specific language.*

Methodology

- Language activities on the use of academic structures and typically difficult areas for learners at this level.
- Active participation is required in the language activities and writing assignments.
- Individual students' work will be analysed and edited.

Independent work offline is mandatory and is aimed at practising the aspects presented in class. (Estimated number of hours: 4)

Course evaluation

- Continuous evaluation based on attendance, participation and work done inside and outside class.
- You must attend 75% of the course for **Pass** grade.
- The final grade will be based on continuous assessment (50%) and practical assignments (50%).
- You will be given one writing task per week to be handed in each week.
- There will be a final longer writing assignment to be handed in no later than 7 days after the course ends.

Bibliography and references

Academic Writing: A Handbook for International Students - Bailey, J. 3rd Edition (Routledge)

Improve Your IELTS Writing Skills - McCarter, S. & Whitby N (Macmillan)

Academic Vocabulary in Use - McCarthy, M. & O'Dell, F. (Cambridge University Press)
Grammar and Vocabulary for Cambridge Advanced and Proficiency - Side, R. & Wellman, G. (Longman)

Check Your Vocabulary for Academic English - Porter, D. (Macmillan)

University of Toronto: Writing

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing>

Using English for Academic Purposes

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm>

Purdue University: Online Writing Lab

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/2/>

Monash University: Academic Writing for Undergraduate Students

<http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/writing/general/academic/index.xml>