

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	ACADEMIC WRITING		
MODULE CODE	EF 1498	CREDIT VALUE	20 CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

The aim of this module is to raise students' awareness of academic writing skills in the UK at Higher Education level and give them the necessary tools to be able to plan, draft and write a coherent and well researched academic essay. The main focus will be on the structure of the academic essay, and particularly on the structure of the argumentative essay. Special emphasis will be placed on teaching students to find, use and acknowledge sources (books, journal articles, and others), as well as on effective paraphrasing and summarizing skills, in order to help them produce original essays and avoid plagiarism. The module also aims to help students develop their presentation skills. It is expected that students will have an IELTS equivalent score of 6.0/6.5 in Writing by the end of the course.

MODULE CONTENT

The module will teach students about the following aspects:

- Various conventions of the academic writing genres
- The logical organization of the academic essay
- Types of academic writing, in relation to different purposes and audiences
- The concept of argument and argumentative writing
- Types of academic essay, e.g. argumentative essays
- The planning and drafting required in the process of writing
- How to write a coherent and clear paragraph
- How to write a clear and informative introduction and conclusion, how to develop an argument within the main body of the essay
- The English language commonly used in academic essays, including specific vocabulary and grammar (passive voice, tense usage, etc.)
- Correct referencing and citation practices
- How to integrate sources into the essay using quotation, paraphrasing and summarising
- How to avoid plagiarism
- How to do library research in order to write on a particular essay topic
- Oral presentation skills

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. plan, draft and write an effective academic essay based on a clear and precise understanding of the essay question
2. display a clear understanding of the concepts of audience and purpose and of a wide range of common academic conventions
3. employ written and spoken feedback to improve the quality of successive drafts
4. produce an appropriate response to the essay question using appropriate academic language and drawing effectively on academic sources (by paraphrasing and summarizing them effectively).
5. have a solid grasp of common grammatical and lexical features of academic writing
6. display an increased level of confidence in handling academic writing tasks, in preparation for their future degree course
7. correctly cite academic sources according to the Harvard referencing system and avoid plagiarism
8. demonstrate effective oral presentation skills

TEACHING METHODS

The students will have access to a wide range of learning and teaching resources, both inside and outside the classroom. Students will work individually and in pairs/groups so as to cover all the skills needed for writing within an academic context. They will also receive two one-to-one 15-minute tutorials in both semesters, to assist them with their first and second essay-draft.

The employability skills that the course develops are mainly communication skills, having to do with fluent and accurate oral and written expression in English, as well as logical and critical thinking skills: the ability to produce an organized and well-structured text and to analyse texts critically. There is also an important focus on (library) research skills, in particular on teaching students how to research a topic and how to integrate bibliographical material into their essay by paraphrasing, summarizing, and citing sources correctly.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a group presentation (30%) and a long essay (70%).