

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Academic Speaking		
MODULE CODE	EF 1497	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE		

MODULE AIMS

The aim of this module is to develop students' ability to participate effectively in and lead seminar discussions in English as commonly seen at UK universities. In addition, students will acquire the skills of giving academic presentations using PowerPoint technology. The module aims to develop students' ability to engage in discussion in academic contexts, develop their oral presentation skills and increase their self-confidence.

MODULE CONTENT

The syllabus content includes:

- Introduction to the purpose and practice of seminars
- Language of seminars
- Practice and development of speaking skills through seminar discussion of current topics
- Academic Presentation skills: layout, organisation and language used
- Use of PowerPoint technology to make presentations
- Input on English sounds, word and sentence stress and intonation in English
- Input on and practice of features of connected speech

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. participate appropriately in seminar discussion with confidence and skill while also being able to give opinions clearly and effectively
2. command a range of vocabulary to effectively communicate a variety of spoken language functions as required in academic seminars
3. be able to lead a short seminar discussion on their own
4. make effective academic presentations in English in terms of language, organisation, content and use of technology
5. handle a series of questions at the end of the presentation
6. reflect on own presentation performance and highlight strengths and weaknesses
7. be more aware of their own productive pronunciation features

TEACHING METHODS

The speaking class will use a wide variety of written and spoken recorded material to enable students to practice and improve their speaking skills. Frequent opportunities will be created to practise mini-presentations on topics of academic interest in front of the class and some may be recorded on video for later analysis. Teaching activities will try to simulate real academic environments – seminar discussions, conferences and workshops, so as to give students the confidence and skills required to cope successfully with their future academic course.

The module aims to stimulate an all-round increase in the students' ability to cope with speaking tasks – seminar discussions, oral presentations, questions and answers, etc. The employability skills that the module develops are mainly communication skills, having to do with fluent and accurate oral expression in English, logical and critical thinking skills (the ability to research, organize and produce a PowerPoint presentation), as well as better English pronunciation.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a Lead a seminar on academic topic (50%) and an Oral (Ppt) presentation on academic topic (50%).