

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	English for IELTS		
MODULE CODE	EF1228	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- The aim of the module is to prepare students effectively for the Cambridge/ESOL IELTS examination, so that by the end of the module they have the necessary language and exam skills to successfully pass the exam with a grade of 6.0 – 6.5 in all components of the academic version of the IELTS exam (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking).
- By developing the students' academic reading, listening, speaking and writing skills, the module also aims to contribute to their academic success on their current or future degree course. In the UK, IELTS Band 6 is the minimum entry requirement for undergraduate study, and IELTS Band 6.5 is the minimum requirement for postgraduate study.
- Whether or not students decide to take the IELTS exam at an IELTS centre of their choice, the module provides invaluable language practice in all the above skills and can make a substantial contribution to the students' academic success on the other modules of their course.

MODULE CONTENT

The module focuses on:

1. Systematic training in each of the 4 papers of the IELTS test: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking;
2. The particular format and requirements of each of the 4 papers;
3. Vocabulary development organized into thematic modules aimed at increasing writing and speaking proficiency;
4. Intensive grammar practice to improve speaking and writing accuracy;
5. Focus on the language of diagrams and graphs; focus on the genre of academic reports for Writing task 1;
6. Focus on the structure and language of argumentative essays for Writing task 2;
7. Interview practice for Speaking Test: general interest and academic topics

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Understand and answer appropriately a variety of question types across the 4 papers of the exam, being familiar with the format of the IELTS test and thus prepared to take the test at an accredited IELTS centre;
 2. Listen to spoken academic English (at natural native speaker speed and displaying native pronunciation features) and answer listening comprehension tasks effectively;
 3. Read a set of academic texts on a variety of topics and answer reading comprehension tasks correctly and within the required time limits;
 4. Understand a set of given data in the form of graphs, diagrams and other types of numerical data, in order to write an effective and sufficiently accurate academic report within given time limits (IELTS Writing Task 1);
 5. **Analyze the requirements of a discussion-type essay question in order to write an effective argumentative essay that responds to the task in an appropriate and relevant way, using language that is sufficiently accurate and within given time limits (IELTS Writing Task 2);**
 6. **Handle a spoken interview with an examiner with confidence and using English language that is situationally appropriate, sufficiently fluent and sufficiently accurate in terms of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation;**
 7. **Use a wide range of English vocabulary and grammar, with increased flexibility and accuracy, in order to talk or write at length about topics of general and academic interest.**
-

TEACHING METHODS

The IELTS module aims to prepare students for the IELTS exam, by giving them the skills required to pass the four IELTS papers at Band 6 or above. Students will be trained for IELTS by using real IELTS material and will be assessed using the publicly available IELTS band descriptors. Face-to-face teaching will focus on all the four skills in turn, starting from thematic units of content, centred around topics of general and academic interest. Particular attention will be given to improving student's oral communication skills, by making them engage in group-work and conducting mock-interviews with one another on given topics. Another major focus will be on improving writing skills. Students will practice two main academic genres: (a) factual, descriptive reports based on analysing and interpreting statistical data; (b) argumentative essays of several distinct sub-types. The module also aims to achieve a significant increase in the range and flexibility of students' vocabulary to enable them to cope effectively with the Speaking and Writing papers.

Assessment consists of an IELTS-type exam paper based upon publicly available past IELTS papers. This involves a Reading paper, a Listening paper and a Writing paper (with two writing tasks, one involving a report on statistical information in the form of a graph or diagram, the other one a discussion/argumentative essay) – all within a time limit of 2:45 minutes – and a speaking interview (11-14 minutes).

The employability skills that the module develops are mainly communication skills, having to do with fluent and accurate oral and written expression in English, logical and critical thinking skills, the ability to analyse mathematical/statistical data and write informative reports, being able to articulate a coherent position on a given topic, and having the necessary skills for communicating effectively in interviews. The module also develops good exam skills, increased confidence and effective presentation skills in interview situations and the ability to perform at a high level under time pressure, in particular the ability to produce a coherent written text or an extended verbal answer to an unseen exam question.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Exam based on past IELTS papers 1-3 (Reading, Listening, Writing) (60%), a Portfolio (20%) and a Speaking test (equivalent to IELTS Paper 4) (20%).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English