



Edge Hill
University

The Language Centre, Edge Hill University

Course Description

Pre-sessional Academic English

The Language Centre

The Language Centre is one of 12 departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. It exists to serve the needs of international students whether they come to Edge Hill University to study or whether they come for shorter periods of time during the summer and then return to their home countries. The Language Centre teaches the following languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Mandarin.

The Language Centre delivers a range of English language courses:

- English Language Development
- Pre-sessional Academic English
- In-sessional Pronunciation Lab
- In-sessional English language support (Writing)
- In-sessional English language support (Speaking)
- Academic Writing Clinic

It also delivers the following programmes:

- International Foundation Year (IFP)
- Pre-Masters Programme (PMP)
- MA TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

In addition, bespoke courses can be offered which meet the specific needs of students who come as a closed group.

Pre-sessional Academic English Course

This course runs during the summer period only. It is an 8 week course.

Aims

The main aim of this course is to prepare you for your academic studies at Edge Hill University by focusing on the academic skills and language you need to progress to your degree course or research programme. It also aims to increase your overall proficiency in English so that you meet the requirements for your academic course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you should be able to:-

- Think critically in response to a text and show that you have found your own voice;
- Research a specific area of your target discipline and report your findings;
- Recognise different academic text types and their purposes;
- Use the library and other learning resources at EHU for effective study;

- Have strategies to enable extensive reading and to evidence your reading;
- Use an appropriate formal academic style when writing;
- Formulate, fully support and conclude an argument;
- Plan the structure of a text;
- Apply strategies to avoid plagiarism e.g. paraphrasing, summarising;
- Reference sources in text and in bibliographies;
- Use University facilities for learning independently;
- Present an aspect of target discipline orally to an audience;
- Participate in seminars and debates;
- Take effective notes during lectures;
- Work collaboratively in a group or team situation;
- Practise all four language skills in an integrated manner.

Content

You will study the following components during the course.

1. Preparation for Research (6 hours per week)

You will study academic reading in these classes and focus on articles and texts that relate to your target degree. This will allow you to become familiar with the kind of reading you will have to do when you join your academic course. You will be given a library orientation and learn how to access the resources you need. You will also look at referencing and bibliographies and how to source original material accurately and correctly.

You will also produce an academic project that involves researching an area of interest in your target discipline. You will present this in written form as an extended piece of writing with references. This academic project will demonstrate your research and introduce you to the kind of extended writing that you will need to do in your future studies. You will be given a tutorial time each week and the tutor will check on your progress with the academic project and offer any advice needed.

2. Academic Literacy (6 hours per week)

These classes will overlap a little with Preparation for Research as you will also do some reading. You will focus, however, on Academic Writing, looking at the use of an appropriate academic style, how to structure your paragraphs and how to link your writing so that it flows well. There will also be a focus on how to summarise and paraphrase so that you are able to produce original work. The tutor will encourage you to apply critical thinking to your writing so that it goes beyond being just descriptive.

3. Academic Speaking (6 hours per week)

These classes aim to help you to speak confidently in academic environments e.g. seminars. You will learn how to deliver an oral presentation successfully and how to present arguments in a discussion or seminar.

English Language Entry Requirements

The Pre-session course is open to undergraduates and postgraduates (on taught courses or doing research). The requirement to join the course is that you are

currently half a band lower (overall or in one or two elements) than the IELTS score you need to join your academic course. Look at these examples for 3 students.

Student 1

'I have 5.5 overall in my IELTS and 5.5 in each element. I am an undergraduate and I need 6.0 overall with no element below 5.5'. Can I join the Pre-sessional?'

Yes, you can. You will need to raise your overall level to 6.0 by the end of the course. This means you need to improve in all elements.

Student 2

'I have 6.0 overall in my IELTS and each element is 6.0 except Listening which is 5.5. I am a postgraduate and I need 6.5 overall with no element below 6.0. Can I join the Pre-sessional?'

Yes, you can. You will need to raise your Listening score to 6.0 and your overall score to 6.5 by the end of the course. This means you need to improve in all elements.

Student 3

'I have 5.0 overall in my IELTS and each element is 5.0. I am an undergraduate and I need 6.0 overall with no element below 5.5'. Can I join the Pre-sessional?'

No, you can't but you may be able to in the future. You will need to raise your overall level in all skill areas first by studying general English before you re-sit the IELTS test. You will need at least 5.5 overall to join the Pre-sessional, which means you need to improve all elements of the test.

Timetable

This course has 18 hours per week of classes and this includes a tutorial. Classes take place every morning from 0930-1100 and 1130-1300 and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1400-1530.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0930-1100	Preparation for Research (Academic Reading)	Academic Literacy (Academic Writing)	Preparation for Research (Academic Reading)	Academic Literacy (Academic Writing)	Academic Speaking & Listening Oral Presentations
1100-1130	Break	Break	Break	Break	
1130-1300	Preparation for Research (Academic Reading)	Academic Literacy (Academic Writing)	Preparation for Research (Academic Reading)	Academic Literacy (Academic Writing)	Academic Speaking & Listening Oral Presentations
1300-1400	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1400-1530	Private Study/library	Academic Speaking & Listening Seminars & Discussions	Private Study/library	Academic Speaking & Listening Seminars & Discussions	No lesson Independent study
1530 onwards	Independent study	Independent study	Independent study	Independent study	

Levels

The course is aimed at Upper Intermediate – Lower Advanced students. Students entering the course will have an IELTS score within the range of 5.5 – 6.5 overall depending on whether they are undergraduate or postgraduate students.

Independent Study

Outside of class times, you may use the library and other learning facilities on campus. There are open access computer suites across the campus and there are many computers in the Hub that you can also use. You will be asked to produce an academic project on an area related to your target discipline so you will need to carry out some research in the library or using computers before you write your final draft.

Assessment

You will have a series of assessments throughout the course and your tutor will give you all the details you need when you join the course. We will award marks (out of 100, which are then converted to a banding system similar to the IELTS (i.e. 0-9) for each skill at the end of the course based on your performance in this series of assessments. We will also award marks for your academic project and your individual oral presentation. Successful completion of the Pre-sessionals means that you have scores that are equivalent to the English language entry requirements for your department. You need to match these scores. If you successfully complete the Pre-sessionals, you will automatically progress to your main course.

Reports

We will write a report at the end of the course and this can be sent to your home address or collected. The report will comment on your progress and your attendance on the course. We will also inform your target department of your exit band scores by sending scores to the International Office, who will then pass them to departments.

Certificates

You will receive a certificate when you complete the course.

Class size

The maximum class size is 16 students.

Age of students

18 years or more.

Minimum period of study

8 weeks. Each year the course runs from mid-July to the end of the first week in September. This course only runs once per year.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be arranged for you by the International Office. Please visit their website for more details of Edge Hill's residential accommodation.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/international/accommodation/

Social Programme

The social programme, including visits to other areas or towns, is arranged by the International Office. Please visit their website for more details.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/international/support/while-you-are-here/?tab=social-activities

Sports Facilities

Edge Hill has a Sports Centre offering a wide range of sporting activities which are open to you.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/edgehillsport/

Booking your place on the Pre-session course

If you want to join our course, you can apply through the International Office. Details of how to apply can be found on their website.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/

Some frequently asked questions....

Q: Do I need to re-sit the IELTS test at the end of the course?

A: No, the Language Centre assesses you using its own system of assessment and writes a report about your progress on the course.

Q: Do I need to buy any course materials?

A: No, the Language Centre will give you all the materials you need.

Q: What does the word Pre-session mean?

A: It means 'before' you join your main course (or before the main session). It is a term used all over the UK in all universities but it is quite difficult to understand. Think of 'session' as being your period of study.

Q: Will I get any support in English language when I start my main course?

A: Yes, the Language Centre will continue to support you and you can attend classes free of charge. These are called 'In-session' classes! You can find further details of In-session via the following link.

www.edgehill.ac.uk/efl/insessional-support/

Contact Details

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