

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



The College

ACADEMIC ENGLISH

700056/900021

2021



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	January 2021
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Western Sydney University The College
Nirimba Education Precinct
Eastern Road
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Postal address:

PO BOX 224
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Phone: (02) 9852 4488

Fax: (02) 9852 4480

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Unit name	ACADEMIC ENGLISH
Unit number	700056/900021
Coordinator	Maria Charalambous
Session	2021.1
Handbook summary	This unit is designed to improve English proficiency for overseas and local students who wish to progress to university studies. In particular, the course aims to help students access the conventions of academic English by focusing on attitudes to knowledge, the ways in which ideas are structured and presented and surface language correctness. In addition, the course encourages students to develop strategies to maximise their learning and to reflect on their own learning styles.
Credit point value	10
Prerequisite/s	None
Corequisite/s	None
Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with	N/A
Assumed knowledge	None
Unit level	700056 – Diploma level 900021 – University Foundation Studies
Attendance requirements	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
Enrolment restrictions	None

Learning outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an ability to critically read, analyse and make meaning from academic texts 2. identify and summarise the main points of arguments 3. locate and cite arguments and evidence using the conventions of academic research 4. produce a well-structured, logical, coherent and cohesive response to writing tasks using appropriate academic language structures, and 5. work effectively in a small group learning environment
Unit content	<p>In this unit students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critically reading and interpreting academic texts • summarising and paraphrasing arguments and evidence • conducting and presenting the results of academic research • synthesising information from multiple sources • using evidence to support an argument • referencing skills • using cohesive devices in academic writing • using arguments, counter-arguments and refutations in persuasive-analytical essay writing • planning, drafting and re-drafting essays, and • academic language skills
Mode of delivery	This unit consists of six hours of face-to-face teaching per week plus online activities via the unit's vUWS site.
Online learning requirements	None
Essential requirements	<p>Essential text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no set text for this unit — all resources are available in vUWS. <p>Further resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan, B 2009, <i>Study skills for business and management students — case studies, exercises, tips and self-assessment tools that will help students with their personal and professional development</i>, Open University Press/McGraw-Hill Education, Berkshire, UK. (eBook) • Belmont, W & Sharkey, M 2009, <i>The easy writer: formal writing for academic purposes</i>, 2nd edn, Pearson Education, Australia. • Brick, J 2006, <i>Academic culture: a student's guide to studying at university</i>, Macquarie University Press, Sydney. • Hay, I, Bochner, D & Dungey, C 2006, <i>Making the grade: a guide to successful communication and study</i>, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Melbourne. • Hunter, I 2008, <i>Write that essay: a practical guide to writing better essays and achieving higher grades</i>, McGraw-Hill, NSW. • Kirton, B & McMillan, K 2007, <i>Just write: an easy-to-use guide to writing at university</i>, Routledge, NY. • Levin, P 2004, <i>Write great essays! A guide to reading and essay writing for undergraduates and taught postgraduates</i>, Open University Press, Maidenhead.

- Murphy, R 2004, *Essential grammar in use*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
 - Oshima, A & Hogue, A 2006, *Writing academic English*, Pearson Longman, NY.
 - Swales, John M, 2012 *Academic writing for graduate students: essential tasks and skills*, 3rd edn, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
 - Turner, K et al. 2009, *Essential academic skills*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
 - Ur, P 2009, *Grammar practice activities: a practical guide for teachers*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
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ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

Task	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed	Mandatory task
1. Essay a. Research essay plan — 350-450 words (15%) b. Research essay — 1000 words (20%)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4	Yes
2. Research report — 1200 words a. Abstract, introduction, discussion (Individual - 28%) b. Questionnaire, methodology and results (Group - 7%)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Yes
3. End-of-session exam — 2 hours (plus one hour to upload the Response Book via Turnitin)	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Yes
TOTAL	100%		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

In order to transition to university, each course may require a different minimum English result and a minimum GPA [Grade Point Average]. To identify these requirements for each course, please refer to the prospectus: http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/thecollege/media/documents/pdfs/The_College_Prospectus_2016_Edition_2_April.pdf (pp. 40–42) and/or organise a meeting with the First Year Experience Coordinator.