

University Preparation – Intermediate

Program Description

This Intermediate University Preparation Course is designed for students who want to study at a Canadian or American university. Students in this course are expected to have already attained intermediate-level communication skills, and they will benefit from a combination of language instruction and academic skills instruction. Vocabulary in this course tends to be academic in nature and students are required to analyze information critically. This course places a great deal of emphasis on extensive university-style reading, writing, and analysis. This course is intended to provide a foundation for students who wish to transfer into the Advanced University Preparation Course.

Admission Requirements

Completion of level 4 and placed by internal placement test

Assigned Text(s)

Hewings, M. (2012). *Cambridge Academic English Upper Intermediate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press *If you already have the required course material please contact VGC*

Supplementary Texts

Academic Connections 3, Pearson Longman 2010

Academic Connections 4, Pearson Longman 2010

Longman Academic Reading Series 4, Pearson Longman 2013

LEAP (Learning English for Academic Purposes) Reading and Writing, Pearson Education 2012

Program Duration and Structure

This program takes 16 weeks to complete with 21 hours of study per week. 18 hours are in a core class, based on the course content below. Three hours per week are taken in a non-assessed elective class, working on a particular weakness. Students may change these electives every two weeks in consultation with their core class teacher. The total number of hours for this program is 336. Students may also purchase an additional 6 hours per week of non-assessed plus classes if they choose to.

Homework Expectations

Minimum five hours per week. To get the most from this course and to ensure you pass your level, additional reviewing and self-study is recommended. For every block of classes you should spend 30-45 minutes reviewing the materials.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be better able to:

- listen to lectures and take effective notes.
- analyze and evaluate sources, recognizing fact, opinion, agenda and implications.
- read critically with a healthy level of skepticism.
- conduct quantitative research, analyze data, report and discuss findings.
- come to conclusions based on observation and evidence.
- write effective essays, arguing a case, supported by reading and empirical evidence.
- avoid plagiarism and use APA and MLA referencing conventions.
- participate actively in discussions and debates.
- give oral presentations.
- use Microsoft Office for research, writing, referencing, data analysis and presentations.

- interact politely with teaching staff and fellow students.

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of their classes.

Assessment

Assessment occurs in 4 week cycles where students are evaluated through quizzes, essays, presentations and the IELTS practice exam, as well as homework and participation. Level 5 students move to level 6 when they achieve an average of 70% over an 8 week term. Level 6 students move to level 7 when they achieve an average of 75% over an 8 week term, at which point they are eligible to move to University Preparation Advanced

University Preparation – Advanced

Program Description

This Advanced University Preparation Course is designed for students who want to study at a Canadian or American university. Students in this course are expected to have already attained high-level communication skills, particularly for reading and writing. Vocabulary in this course tends to be very advanced and students are required to analyze information critically. This course places a great deal of emphasis on extensive university-style reading, writing, and analysis.

Admission Requirements

Completion of University Preparation Intermediate, or completion of level 6 and placed by internal placement test or IELTS 6.5 (in all bands)

Assigned Text(s)

Hewings, M. and C. Thaine. (2012). *Cambridge Academic English Advanced*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Supplementary Texts

Learning English for Academic Purposes, Pearson Education 2012

If you already have the required course material please contact VGC

Program Duration and Structure

This program takes 16 weeks to complete with 21 hours of study per week. The total number of hours for this program is 336. Students may also purchase an additional 6 hours per week of non-assessed plus classes if they choose to.

Homework Expectations

Minimum five hours per week. To get the most from this course and to ensure you pass your level, additional reviewing and self-study is recommended. For every block of classes you should spend 30-45 minutes reviewing the materials.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be better able to:

- Listen to lectures and take effective notes
- Analyze and evaluate sources, recognizing fact, opinion, agenda and implications
- Read critically with a healthy level of skepticism
- Conduct quantitative research, analyze data, report and discuss findings

- Come to conclusions based on observation and evidence
- Write effective essays, arguing a case, supported by reading and empirical evidence
- Avoid plagiarism and use APA and MLA referencing conventions
- Give oral presentations
- Use Microsoft Office for research, writing, referencing, data analysis and presentations

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of their classes.

Assessment

Assessment occurs in 4 week cycles where students are evaluated through quizzes, essays, presentations and the IELTS practice exam, as well as homework and participation. Student pass UP Advanced when they achieve a 75% average over an 8 week term.