

Brief Program Description

This course focuses on academic English and skills while still also working on the grammar and other general English skills needed at this level. The course will cover various common academic topics, and from these build competence in variety of areas. The aim is to equip students with not only the language necessary for their continuing academic studies, but also the other essential competencies such as critical thinking, note taking, presentation skills and referencing. Completion of this course will allow entry into our University Preparation Advanced course.

Admission Requirements

Students must:

- *Reach an IELTS 5.0 (Academic) TOEFL 60 or equivalent or achieve a VGC level 5 or above in VGC's online placement test*

Learning Objectives*

Upon completion of this program the successful student will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- *listen to lectures and take effective notes*
- *read critically with a healthy level of skepticism*
- *write effective essays, arguing a case, supported by reading and empirical evidence*
- *deliver university level oral presentations*
- *participate in discussions and debates*
- *use exam strategies to better their results*

Method(s) of Evaluation*

- *Quizzes*
- *Individual and group presentations*
- *Written papers and essays*
- *Participation and attendance*

Completion Requirements*

Student must attain and maintain an 80% attendance in each course. Student coming in at level 5, need 70% after 12 weeks to move to level 6. Students coming in at level 6, need 75% after 12 weeks in order to progress to a level 7, at which point they will be able to join UP Advanced.

Course Duration

- *Instructional hours: 360 hours (180 per level) plus one to one feedback and presentations*
- *Length of program: 24 weeks (12 weeks per level)*

Homework Hours

- *Students can expect minimum of 8 hours a week*

Delivery Method(s)

Indicate how the program is delivered

- In-class instruction*
- Online Self-study*
- Supervised Group Work*
- Distance education*
- Combined delivery (both in-class and distance)*

Teaching Methods

The course will be a mix of instructor led classes, supervised group/individual work and self study (homework)

Method(s) of student evaluation

Students will be evaluated through a system of continuous assessment of various coursework tasks including in-class quizzes, individual presentations, written papers/assignments, and participation

Required course materials

- Hewings, M. (2012) *Cambridge Academic English Upper Intermediate*. Cambridge University Press

Supplementary Materials

- Blass et. Al (2012) *Grammar and Beyond 3*. Cambridge University Press