Brief Course Descriptions for Academic English Cluster

Unless otherwise stated, every course offers 3 ECTS credits and is graded. P/F stands for ‘pass/ fail.’ Locations are: M for Munich City Campus, G for Garching, and W for Weihenstephan.

C2 Level English Courses

Academic and Scientific Communication

Academic Writing
Consisting of in-class peer group sessions as well as written essays subjected to a series of revisions, students will critically evaluate model essays as well as their own writing to produce texts which reflect the kind of academic writing expected in their field. M,G

Academic Writing Intensive
In this 5 ECTS course students improve their ability to ask creatively, think critically and reason rigorously. This involves questioning claims, assertions and inferences, as well as identifying good and bad writing style. Students write a selection of papers related to their own fields. Each paper is revised at least once. In addition, students learn how to evaluate and interpret written texts of others with a critical perspective. W

Scientific Presentation and Writing
Combining elements of presentation and writing courses, this course covers a variety of communication techniques needed for a successful career in science. Students write and revise various types of texts while learning how to evaluate and interpret texts from others in the class. M

Thesis Writers’ Workshop
Students who are currently writing theses or dissertations in English have the opportunity to workshop texts in small groups as well as to listen to lectures on stylistic guidelines for forceful and clear English writing at a high academic level. M,G 2 ECTS P/F

Thesis Consulting
Thesis writers may now earn 1 ECTS point for attending 10 one-to-one sessions at the Writing Center throughout the semester. You will systematically improve your English writing by regularly workshopping your thesis with the consultants. M,G,W 1 ECTS P/F

Writing Academic Research Papers
In this process-writing course, students will produce an abstract, a presentation and an academic research paper in their area of interest. They will further study academic English to incorporate into their texts discourse markers, topic sentences, good paragraphing and rhetorical structures appropriate to academic English. M

Professional Communication

Advanced Business Communications
Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics covered include: employment trends, business ethics, finance and banking, world markets, project management, and more. Listening and speaking skills, related to these topics, will also be practiced. M

Guided English Self-Study
Students who are doing a massive open online course (MOOC) in their field of studies can get English practice and ECTS credit by doing additional written work. 2 ECTS P/F
C1 Level English Courses

Academic and Scientific Communication

Introduction to Academic Writing
Students will learn to express themselves more accurately and persuasively in written English. The course will focus on creating coherent paragraphs and longer texts of the types expected in academic/scientific writing. Students will also learn to evaluate and interpret the texts of others. M,G

Academic Presentation Skills (C1-C2)
Students can practice for formal speaking tasks in English, such as class presentations, dissertation defenses or conference talks. M,G,W

English for Academic Purposes
Students practice participating in tutorials, writing in academic contexts and presenting a topic from a related field of study so they can function in an English-speaking academic environment. M,G,W

English for Scientific Purposes
Students can practice scientific and technical English through active group discussions and delivery of subject-related presentations. They will expand their scientific vocabulary, their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. W

English Master’s Qualification Seminar
In this seminar you practice speaking and writing skills needed for doing a master’s program. Successful completion provides language qualification for entering an English language master’s program at the TUM, without having to do a TOEFL or IELTS exam.

Professional Communication

English for Architects
This course, tailored to student needs, deals with expanding architectural vocabulary, freshening up on grammar, and developing communicative abilities (speaking and writing) for professional situations. M

English for Automotive Engineers
Grammatical forms are reviewed and practiced with focus on topics of interest for those preparing for professions in the automotive industry. Students can practice written and oral communication skills necessary for business life, emphasizing such skills as negotiating, team collaboration, project evaluation and intercultural communication. G

English for Business Management – Environment and Communication Module
Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics include communication, international marketing, building relationships, success, job satisfaction and risk-taking. M

English for Business Management - Strategies Module
Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics include: advertising, tourism, brands, organization, change and money. M

English for Environmental Engineering
This course, covering English language skills, academic writing skills, environmental and financial vocabulary, together with soft skills, will enable students to develop interdisciplinary competence. M

English for Landscape Architects/ Planners
This course is tailored to the needs of landscape architecture/planning and environmental planning students. It will deal with expanding technical/professional vocabulary, reviewing grammar, and developing communicative abilities for professional and academic situations. W
Communication Skills for Medical Practitioners: The Patient Encounter and Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Mirroring the increased emphasis on communication skills training in medicine, these courses aim to develop the English language and interpersonal skills essential to the establishment and maintenance of rapport between doctors and their patients. Emphasis is placed on spoken and non-verbal communication skills, active listening, voice management and cultural awareness. Parallel to the course work, students will have the opportunity to present and discuss topics of their own current medical interest, developing strategies for autonomous and continued learning. Klinikum Rechts der Isar P/F

English for Technical Purposes – Industry and Energy Module
Students have an opportunity practice both written and oral communication skills needed in professional life, among others in reports, presentations, technical descriptions, project proposals and design, and elements of intercultural communication. Grammatical forms, not covered in the Environment and Communication module, will be reviewed and practiced with a focus on topics of interest to students preparing for careers in the business and technology branches. M,G

English for Technical Purposes – Environment and Communication Module
Students have an opportunity practice both written and oral communication skills needed in professional life, among others negotiations, information acquisition, test reports, collaboration and elements of intercultural communication. Grammatical forms not covered in the Industry and Energy module will be reviewed and practiced with a focus on topics of interest to students preparing for careers in the business and technology branches. M,G

Professional English for Business and Technology – Marketing Module
Students have an opportunity practice both written and oral communication skills needed in professional life, emphasizing maintaining relationships, team building and managing conflicts, as well as elements of intercultural communication. Grammatical forms will be reviewed and practiced with a focus on topics of interest to students preparing for careers in the business and technology branches. M,G

Professional English for Business and Technology – Management and Finance
Students have an opportunity practice both written and oral communication skills needed in professional life, among others questioning techniques, negotiating, prioritizing, problem solving and persuading, and elements of intercultural communication. Grammatical forms will be reviewed and practiced with a focus on topics of interest to students preparing for careers in the business and technology branches. M,G

English in Science and Technology
Students will be assisted in practicing scientific and technical English through group discussions and technical presentations. W

Guided English Self-Study
Students who are doing a massive open online course (MOOC) in their field of studies can get English practice and ECTS credit by doing additional written work. 2 ECTS. P/F

Focus on Culture and Communication

Controversial Topics in Science and Technology
In this course, students will improve their English through studying and discussing controversial issues in science and technology. The specific topics will be determined by the students themselves, but they might include cloning & stem-cell research, artificial intelligence, the nature of consciousness, climate change, drones, overpopulation, GMO foods, biodiversity, animal ethics, and paranormal phenomena.
Intercultural Communication
This course should familiarize students with the principal theories of intercultural communication as well as provide a practical toolkit for dealing with intercultural encounters through examining critical incidents (video clips, simulations and discussions). M

English through Cinema – (With a different focus each semester)
Students will watch films with a similar theme and discuss them. They will also choose one or more films to analyze in an extended essay. 2 ECTS. P/F. M

English Total Immersion
Over the course of a weekend, students will have a chance to speak only in English in a variety of contexts. Additionally, seminars will cover such topics as intercultural communication, conference talk and social interaction, emailing, telephoning and more. 2 ECTS. P/F.

Focus on Australia C1 (winter semester only)
This course will cover various historical and cultural factors which influence Australian Identity including Australians at war, multiculturalism, post-colonialism, Indigenous history and identity and Australia’s own cultural cringe. It will also explore, interrogate and bust some of the myths and stereotypes surrounding Australia. M

Introduction to English Pronunciation
This course should improve students’ pronunciation, develop a better understanding of the production of English sounds, and develop fluency and improve intonation through conversational exercises. M

Management and Shakespeare
Building on short readings from Shakespeare (as well as videos), students will understand and practice principles of business management as well as become more sensitive to interpersonal issues. Topics include aspects of leadership vs. management, decision-making, risk, conflict management and the art of successful communication. M

The Science of Science Fiction (winter semester only)
In this seminar, students will read various works of popular science fiction and watch films to consider which scientific and social issues the works address, how accurate or plausible the predictions are, and to evaluate these works from the students’ own perspective. The course requires much reading, speaking, listening and writing. M

Focus on the U.S.A. (summer semester only)
This course you can prepare for studying or working in the United States and increase your awareness of cultural differences you can expect to encounter in dealings with US Americans. We will discuss life in the United States of America focusing on several prominent threads which permeate American society and which underlie some of the major differences which set American culture apart, such as Americans’ attitudes toward freedom, the pursuit of happiness, patriotism, nature, religion, and cultural diversity

Transatlantic Relations: Current Affairs in the U.S. and the E.U.
In this course we read about and discuss currents events regarding relations between the E.U. and the U.S.. Expect to read a substantial amount and practice written and oral communication needed in professional life as well as questioning techniques, problem-solving and persuading. G

B2 Level English Courses

Academic and Scientific Communication
Basic English for Academic Purposes
Students receive a chance to begin practicing participating in tutorials (speaking and expanding active vocabulary/academic vocabulary), writing in academic contexts and presenting a topic from their field of study. M,G
*Introduction to Critical Thinking and Science Writing*

This course develops both critical thinking and scientific writing skills. Critical thinking has been central to intellectual pursuits since Socrates elaborated the method 2,500 years ago and is a disciplined process of actively conceptualizing, analyzing and applying information. Rather than merely understanding information, students on this course will learn to question and critique scientific writing before applying concepts to their own fields. To this end, students will encounter a variety of critical thinking models and techniques. The course also familiarises students with the formats and conventions of English-language scientific texts, e.g. articles, reports and theses, and enhances their mastery of key components of academic writing, e.g. style, grammar, register and argumentation.

**Professional Communication**

**Basic English for Business and Technology – Domestic Module**

Topics covered in this course, for example product branding and advertising, relate to the business world. Oral and written communication skills needed in professional life will be introduced, as well as aspects of intercultural communication skills needed, too. Verb forms and grammatical structures will also be included. M,G,W

**Basic English for Business and Technology – Global Module**

Topics covered in this course, for example international markets and competition, relate to the business world. Oral and written communication skills needed in professional life will be introduced, as well as aspects of intercultural communication skills needed, too. Verb forms and grammatical structures, not covered in the Domestic Module, will also be included. M,G,W

**Basic English for Business and Technology – Materials and Design Module**

Technical topics related to projects, designs, engineering disasters, materials and more will be explored. Oral and written communication skills, as well as elements of intercultural communication, necessary for professional life will be practiced. Verb forms and grammatical structures not covered in the Systems and Design module will also be reviewed. M,G

**Basic English for Business and Technology – Systems and Planning Module**

Technical topics related to systems, processes, safety, and more will be explored. Oral and written communication skills, as well as elements of intercultural communication, necessary for professional life will be practiced. Verb forms and grammatical structures not covered in the Materials and Design module will also be reviewed. M,G

**Basic English for Landscape Architects / Planners**

This course is tailored to the needs of landscape architecture/planning and environmental planning students. It will deal with expanding technical/professional vocabulary, reviewing grammar, and developing communicative abilities for professional and academic situations. W

**English for Business Management – Communication Module**

Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics include communication, international marketing and job satisfaction, which will be addressed with reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. M

**English for Scientific Purposes**

Students practice scientific and technical English through active group discussions and delivery of subject-related presentations. W

**Introduction to English for Automotive Engineers**

Grammatical forms are reviewed and practiced while focusing on topics of interest for those preparing for professions in the automotive industry. Students can practice written and oral communication skills necessary for business life, emphasizing such skills as negotiating, team collaboration, project evaluation, and intercultural communication. G
**Jobline (Blended Learning) B2-C1**
A combination of classroom activities and online self-study, students will gain practice in describing job advertisements and company requirements, writing CVs and cover letters. They will also practice face-to-face and telephone job interviews. M
2 ECTS. P/F.

**B1 Level English Courses**

**English Grammar in Use**
This course provides a review and practice of basic structures of English with a focus on listening and speaking. M

**English Grammar Compact**
This course provides a quick overview of the main tenses (past, present, future, etc.) and verb forms (e.g. modals), differentiating which tenses are used when. M

**T for 2**
Lower-level speakers are given the opportunity to practice speaking tasks in an informal environment through meeting with their tandem partner and attending a bi-monthly class session. 2 ECTS. P/F. M