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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 question creatively, think critically and reason rigorously. This involves challenging 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 from a critical perspective. W

Intensive 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

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

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, are also 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

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C1 Level English Courses

Academic and Scientific Communication

Academic Presentation Skills (C1-C2)

Students practice formal speaking tasks in English, such as class presentations, dissertation defenses or conference talks. M,G,W

English for Political Science

This course prepares students to read and understand political science texts in English. The texts will primarily be from the fields of political theory, comparative politics, and international relations. Additional learning materials related to current affairs will be selected by the students, who will also make presentations to practice their persuasive skills. M

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 as well as their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. W

English for Sports

What are the physics of a Cristiano Ronaldo free kick, the chemistry of Maria Höfl-Riesch's skis, the biology of a LeBron James slam dunk, the engineering of Lewis Hamilton's F1 car, and the psychology of Serena Williams' decades-long dominance of tennis? The Science of Sports allows students to improve their English by studying and discussing questions like these. Specific lesson topics will be chosen by students themselves, who will lead portions of certain classes by presenting on topics of their own choosing. Students will speak and write about sports-related science and engineering with greater fluency and confidence and broaden their English vocabulary in these areas.

Introduction to Academic Writing

Students learn to express themselves more accurately and persuasively in written English. The course focuses 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

Gateway to English Master's

Controversial Topics in Science and Technology: Gateway to English Master's

Students 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 some of these areas: cloning & stem-cell research, artificial intelligence, the nature of consciousness, climate change, drones, overpopulation, GMO foods, the future of energy, biodiversity, animal ethics, paranormal phenomena. Class time will be largely dedicated to presentations, discussions, and debates. The course emphasizes expanding vocabulary and spoken fluency but will also help students improve their writing skills and gain some of the skills necessary for the English language classroom. M

Critical Approaches to Media: Gateway to English Master's

From youtube stars to fake news, from cyberbullying to online dating, from Instagram to Netflix, the range of media people consume / create knowingly or unknowingly affects their outlook on the world. This course will look critically at many aspects of media as it operates in the contemporary world and will include lively discussions. Students will be expected to engage with a wide variety of media ranging from print to audiovisual and respond critically in writing and orally. G

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English for Academic Purposes: Gateway to English Master's

Students practice the skills needed for doing a master's program by participating in tutorials, writing shorter and longer texts in academic contexts, and presenting a topic from a related field of study so they can function in an English-speaking academic environment. 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. M,G,W

English for Civil Engineering: Gateway to English Master's

This course, covering English language skills, academic writing skills, together with soft skills, will enable students to develop interdisciplinary competence. Students of Civil Engineering have priority by registration. M

English for Environmental Engineering: Gateway to English Master's

This course, covering English language skills, academic writing skills, together with soft skills, will enable students to develop interdisciplinary competence. Students of Environmental Engineering have priority by registration. M

English for Geodesy: Gateway to English Master's

This course, covering English language skills, academic writing skills, together with soft skills, will enable students to develop interdisciplinary competence. Students of Geodesy have priority by registration. M

Professional Communication

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 Architects

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

English for Automotive Engineers

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

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, from chapters 1-6 of the book, include: advertising, tourism, brands, organization, change and money. M

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English for Business Management – Trends Module

Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics, from Chapters 7-12, include: Companies and cultures; Human Resources; Competition; Outsourcing; Leadership; Ethics. M

English for Landscape Architects

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

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

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 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

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

Focus on Culture and Communication

English through Cinema – (With a different thematic focus each semester)

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Students will watch films with a similar theme and discuss them. They must demonstrate familiarity with the films viewed by being able to summarize main plots and to put them into the context of the culture or thematic focus. 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 be held covering 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

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

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

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

Transatlantic Relations: Current Affairs in the U.S. and the E.U.

In this course we read about and discuss current 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

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B2 Level English Courses

Academic and Scientific Communication

Basic Academic Writing

Students receive a chance to work on basic writing in a variety of academic and non-academic contexts in order to gain confidence in writing and to expand active academic and non-academic vocabulary.

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 approximately 2,500 years ago and is a disciplined process of actively conceptualizing, analysing and applying information. Rather than merely understanding information, students 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. M, W

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

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Basic English for Architects

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

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 Business Management – Finance Module

Authentic texts and case studies from the fields of business and economics form the basis of the course and exercises. Topics include Management styles, Team building, Mergers and acquisitions, Raising finance, Customer service, and Crisis management, 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 Conversation Partners Program

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

English Grammar in Use

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