

Αρ. Φακέλου: 03.01.002.003.004.004.001

Foundation Course in English Language for Entrance to Higher Education Institutions in Cyprus

Course Overview

The English Language Foundation Course is designed to prepare international students for successful entrance to Higher Education Institutions in Cyprus by enhancing their language proficiency. This course focuses on developing the students' English language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as building their academic language and communication skills required for successful study in a Higher Education Institution.

Course Objectives

1. Attain proficiency in all language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
2. Develop academic vocabulary and language necessary for Higher Education studies.
3. Enhance communication skills for academic and social interactions.
4. Gain confidence in participating in class discussions and debates and presenting academic topics.
5. Improve critical thinking and analytical skills through reading and writing tasks.

Course Duration: Two semesters (13 x2 =26 weeks – 416 hours)

Course Content

Module 1: Introduction to the language expectations of the course and Academic Environment

In this module, students will become familiar with the language expectations, which include understanding the main ideas of texts, engaging in discussions on a wide range of topics, and expressing feelings and opinions with clarity. They will gain a clear understanding of the language skills they need to achieve and the expected competencies in listening, speaking reading and writing. They will also receive an orientation to Higher Education life and academic culture, including academic integrity, research ethics, and time management. Special emphasis will be placed on developing effective study skills and strategies, note-taking skills, organizing study material and utilizing academic resources available on campus and online.

Module 2: Listening and Speaking Skills Development

Students will work on enhancing their listening and speaking skills through various interactive activities. They will learn how to use the language fluently, accurately and effectively on a wide range of general academic, vocational or leisure topics. They will learn how to understand spoken language on both familiar and unfamiliar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life. They will learn how to understand the main ideas of propositionally and linguistically simple speech on both concrete and abstract topics delivered in a standard dialect. They will listen to authentic academic lectures, debates, discussions and presentations, and practise summarizing and discussing the main points. They will learn how to identify speaker's viewpoints, attitudes, mood, tone as well as information content. They will engage in role-plays and group discussions to improve their fluency and accuracy in spoken English. Students will develop their public speaking skills through individual and group presentations. They will practise summarising and paraphrasing information and expressing their opinions and ideas clearly and convincingly. Special attention will be given to pronunciation, intonation, and appropriate use of formal and informal language.

Module 3: Reading Skills Enhancement

This module will focus on improving students' reading skills. Students will read a variety of academic texts, such as research articles, essays, and literary pieces, to enhance their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. They will learn how to analyze and interpret texts, identify main arguments, and draw basic conclusions. They will learn strategies how to extract key information, and making inferences from different texts. They will learn how to recognize a text that provides factual information and when it seeks to convince readers of something. They will learn how to recognize different structures in discursive text: contrasting arguments, problem-solution presentation, and cause-effect relationships. They will learn how to obtain information, ideas and opinions from sources within their field. They will develop strategies for efficient reading and effective note-taking.

Module 4: Writing Skills Enhancement

This module will focus on improving students' writing skills and developing academic writing skills. The writing component will involve developing academic essays, reports, and summaries while adhering to academic writing conventions, such as proper referencing and citation styles. They will learn how to write clear, well-structured and detailed texts on a variety of subjects related to their field of interest, synthesing and evaluating information and arguments from a number of resources. They will develop writing skills for formal essays, reports, and critical analyses. They will learn how to write

an essay or report that develops an argument systematically with appropriate highlighting of significant points and relevant supporting details and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion. They will learn how to convey information and ideas on abstract as well as concrete topics.

Module 5: Academic Vocabulary and Language

Building a strong academic vocabulary is essential for success in Higher Education studies. Students will expand their vocabulary related to various academic disciplines, including sciences, humanities, and social sciences. They will develop a high lexical accuracy. They will also learn to use complex grammatical structures accurately and effectively. Special attention will be given to the appropriate use of language for different purposes, such as making hypotheses, expressing opinions, and discussing cause and effect.

Module 6: Language Practice and Application

This module will provide opportunities for students to practise and apply the language skills they have acquired in real-life academic and social situations. Students will engage in role-plays, and discussions. They will also participate in collaborative projects and oral presentations, which will strengthen their teamwork and presentation skills. They will learn how to express themselves confidently, clearly and politely in a formal or informal register and contribute to group discussions.

Assessment and Evaluation

Throughout the course, students will undergo continuous evaluation of their language skills through regular quizzes, tests, and assignments. Formative assessments will be conducted to monitor their progress and provide timely feedback for improvement. The students will be required to take one of the approved exams by the Council of Ministers and succeed the level required for each of these approved exams as set and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Students attending classes in person (in Cyprus) who fail to pass any of these approved exams will not be allowed to repeat the foundation year and they will have to leave the country. This rule does not apply for the online foundation course for students who follow the course from their home country (Distance Learning).

Course Material

Comprehensive textbooks

Authentic academic material including research papers, articles and lectures

Online language learning platforms providing interactive exercises and self-study resources

Attendance

Classes will be held either in person or online (Distance Learning) and attendance is compulsory.

Enrollment to the course

Students are required to have a Certificate of English Language proficiency at least equivalent to level B1 of any specific examination and grade approved by the Council of Ministers. Regarding the online foundation course (Distance Learning), the Certificate of English Language proficiency is not required.

Teaching Staff Qualifications

Teachers delivering the Foundation course should be qualified English Language teachers holding a BA and an MA degree in English Language.