



## THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

### Network of English Language Enhancement

#### COURSE SPECIFICATION

**Name of the course**

Speaking - B1

**Course description**

This course focuses on developing speaking skills. It will provide you with an opportunity to improve speaking in a variety of everyday and work-based situations.

You will be familiarized with the basic concepts of communication, fluency, grammar and vocabulary for the spoken mode. You will develop these concepts through practice activities with each other and to an audience.

Your course tutor will guide you through useful material to enhance speaking and give constructive feedback on the given tasks.

This course is ideal for people who deal with the public in English. It is aimed at students who have [B1](#) (i.e. intermediate level) of English.

You will be expected to commit to four study hours a week for ten weeks.

**Course rationale**

AKU employees are expected to be able to speak in English. They often have to communicate with foreigners, clients and colleagues in English. Evidence indicates that there is a need for a Speaking course because many colleagues at AKU do not have the confidence or required competency to function effectively in English.

This course aims to enhance the course participants' speaking skills to the level where they can function in English at a B1 level.

**Course structure and content**

You will be expected to commit to studying four hours a week for ten weeks.

In addition to the face-to-face classes, you will learn using web-based teaching materials, interactive activities and assigned readings.

Course topics will include the following:

- introductions and greetings in English in different contexts
- dealing with questions and complaints
- participating in discussions in English

- giving a short talk in English

You will also give a short presentation in the final week of the course.

### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of this course you are expected to be able to:

- speak English fluently at a B1 level
- perform and respond to basic language functions, such as information exchange and requests, and express opinions and attitudes in a simple way
- make appropriate use of English language while speaking
- attend to pronunciation difficulties which cause severe strain on the listener
- understand the basics of conversational English
- initiate, maintain and close short face to face conversations and discussions
- give short comprehensible talks on general topics.

### **Course delivery**

This is a blended course, which means that it will involve face to face sessions as well as online teaching and learning. It will be delivered face to face in the classroom setting and online using the AKU VLE( Virtual learning environment).

Your course tutor will provide feedback on your class participation as well as online tasks and activities.

### **Course assessment**

Your performance will be measured by your participation in the weekly activities and by the standard of your course assignments.

To be eligible for a Certificate of Participation, you must complete 90% of the activities in the course and submit the course assignments.

For this course, you will have three separate speaking assessments. One will be in pairs where you will be asked to engage in a conversation in the given setting and roles; the second will be in groups where you will be given a topic for discussion; and the final assessment will be based on a short individual presentation.

At the end of the course you will receive a Performance Report. This will specify whether you have met the course learning outcomes.

### **Course evaluation**

You will be asked to share your experience of the course by completing an online end of course survey. ELE\_net will use your responses to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the course. The success of the course will be measured by the activity levels of course participants so your participation will be closely monitored and reported on.

### **Course participant agreement**

You can expect ELE\_net to:

- provide clear information about your course and about our expectations of what you need to do in order to complete the course successfully

- provide high standards of teaching, support and guidance in order to complete this course and enhance your English language skills
- monitor your progress and provide feedback on your performance and level in a timely manner
- ask for your feedback on the course

ELE\_net expects you to:

- take responsibility for your own learning
- actively participate in your course, ensuring you spend the required time in weekly self- study
- complete coursework and submit assignments by the stated deadlines
- participate in feedback activities designed to enhance the quality of the course