



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Network of English Language Enhancement

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Name of the course

Introduction to Academic Writing - B1/B2

Course description

This course will provide you with a brief introduction to academic writing, enabling you to gain an awareness and understanding of some key features of this kind of writing.

We will introduce the main features of academic writing; content, organisation, and language. You will develop some proficiency in a few key areas of 'academic' grammar, learn about the stages in academic writing, and produce a piece of writing of your own.

Your course tutor will provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of your writing and individual guidance on how you can improve further.

This course is ideal for 1st year undergraduate students at AKU who need support in developing their academic writing skills. It is aimed at students who have [B1/B2 level of English](#).

You will be expected to commit to three hours a week for four weeks. You will be able to complete in your own time.

Course rationale

Academic writing at university is very different from other types of English writing you may have done in the past. This course will introduce some of the key writing skills you will need in order to succeed in your academic studies at AKU.

Something all AKU students have in common is that English is the language of study. Because English is not the first language for nearly all AKU students, studying in English can be very challenging. Writing in an appropriate academic style can therefore prove very challenging for many students.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- identify the features of good academic writing
- demonstrate understanding of and apply the principles of effective paragraph structure
- demonstrate some proficiency in key areas of academic grammar
- define terms such as coherence and cohesion and demonstrate your understanding of them when constructing paragraphs

Course structure and content

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

You will learn using web-based teaching materials, interactive activities and assigned readings.

You will submit a writing task in the final week of the course.

Course topics will include the following:

- introduction to main features of academic writing
- paragraph structure
- using examples to support written statements
- academic grammar
- creating cohesion in your writing
- the writing process

Course delivery

This is a self-study course. It will be delivered online using the AKU VLE so you will be able to access the course materials at your convenience. Your course tutor will provide feedback on your writing submission in the final week of the course.

Course assessment

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

To be eligible for a Certificate of Participation, you must complete 80% of the activities in the course and submit the course assignment.

You will be asked to submit a short piece of academic writing in the final week of the course which will be assessed by your online course tutor. Your assignment should demonstrate that you have satisfactorily achieved the learning outcomes stated above.

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