

Organisation: Face to face: 30 hours Homework: 30 hours total load: 60 h

Objectives:

- Acquire and develop the academic skills and language required to give an oral presentation in a professional/academic context
- Acquire and develop the academic skills and language required to carry out some basic academic tasks, including an article abstract and a biodata presentation
- Achieve an understanding of basic issues involved in scientific communication

Prerequisites: None

Program: The module “Effective Communication” is a core requirement for students in the MSc programme.

We aim to consolidate academic study skills and in particular equip students with the communicative skills & practices required of a doctoral student and a professional engineer. Practice is provided in the following: oral presentations, academic writing and inter-cultural awareness. This module does include preliminary lectures but the majority of class time is spent on interactive exercises, discussion and hands-on experience.

Preparation and follow-up assignments encourage students to draw conclusions from personal experience inside and outside the classroom.

Content:

Academic writing

- Advice and practice in « academic writing »
- Study of « article abstract » and « biodata » genres, with feedback on assignments
- Study of different academic registers

Oral Presentations

- Preparation and planning a workshop presentation for a mock international conference
- Organisations and delivery of talk, slide design, interaction with the audience, oral presentation techniques
- Styles of presenting: cultural specificities; disciplinary specificities

Intercultural awareness

- Recognizing and dealing with situations where intercultural competence is required, avoiding Misunderstandings. Developing awareness of one's own « cultural identity

Evaluation: Grading is as follows

50% continuous assessment: This includes presence in class, completion of all tasks set, not only participating in exercises (oral presentations etc) but actively preparing for exercises and where necessary preparing outside class time. It also includes the evaluation of assignments set for outside class time (i.e. homework) and actively taking part in feedback sessions and discussions.

Students participate in a panel at a mock conference on different aspects of HCI (groupwork)

50 % final exam: A three-hour written exam on different aspects of the course

Lecturers: Shirley Carter-Thomas, Katherine Maillet

Bibliography & References:

Oral Presentations:

Carter-Thomas, S. 2005. Genre Awareness and rhetorical appropriacy: manipulation of information structure by NS and NNS scientists in the international conference setting. English for Specific Purposes, Vol 24 (1), 41-64
<http://www4.caes.hku.hk/epc/presentation/>

Academic Writing:

Carter-Thomas, S & E. Rowley-Jolivet. 2013. Rapporteur la voix de l'autre dans les articles de recherche en anglais : problèmes et enjeux pour le chercheur francophone.. Peter Lang: 163-184
Swales J. & C. Feak, 2004. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills*, University of Michigan Press.

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