

# Academic English for STEM

---

## Aims

This short course will help students develop their **spoken academic English** to describe and discuss their academic work in a variety of situations. The course aims to give participants the language, skills and pronunciation practice in order to develop their speaking. Participants will:

- Build confidence in speaking through discussions
- Work on common pronunciation issues faced by Japanese speakers of English
- Learn strategies for vocabulary development

## Outcomes

Participants will:

- Actively take part in an extended seminar-style discussion task about a topical, science-related issue.
- Design, conduct and report on a short survey amongst their classmates.

## Participants

This two-day course is for **non-native English speaking students** who are studying on STEM courses at Nara Women's University. It is anticipated that participants will have a level of English equivalent to a minimum of B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference.

## Schedule

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- 12 hours of synchronous teaching via video conferencing platform (e.g. Zoom)
- 2 lessons per day
  - 07:00-08:30 (UK), 16:00-17:30 (Japan)
  - 09:00-10:30 (UK), 18:00-19:30 (Japan)

## Independent study

Extra independent study is not required as part of the course, although extra learning materials will be provided, both language and skills based, for students who are interested in studying a specific area further.

## Methodology

The tutor will use a communicative approach to language teaching. The teaching methodology gives participants opportunities to learn through connected and purposeful communicative language activities, including collaboration with peers.

**Contextualised and purposeful:** Lesson and learning content makes use of authentic sources to exemplify and explore relevant features of academic English.

**Interesting and relevant:** Activities are designed to be engaging and respond to the level and needs of the participants.

**Interactive and confidence building:** The online lessons are designed to maximise interactions and participation which will give students the opportunity to practice and become confident in using the language studied.

## Scheme of Work

### Speaking

The synchronous lessons will devote a significant proportion of time to improving the students' spoken English proficiency. Students will study asking and answering questions, features of pronunciation, such as weak sounds and linking and functional language for taking part in short academic presentations, including presentation of results, and for taking part in discussions and debates on STEM-based academic topics.

### Listening

Listening activities will help students recognise the authentic use of language features previously studied, and to help improve their receptive ability for authentic spoken English.

### Writing

The course will focus predominantly on spoken English, although there will be a small amount of written practice of grammatical forms and vocabulary to aid the students' spoken production in other tasks.

### Reading

As with writing, there will be some reading activities to present linguistic items for the students to use in spoken production. Features studied will include language for presentations, vocabulary collocations and language for reporting results.

### Feedback

Participants will receive feedback from the tutor after their presentations and discussion task.

## CITE

---

The University of Leicester's Centre for International Training and Education (CITE) is one of the leading departments of its kind. CITE prides itself on its flexibility in working with clients to design and deliver bespoke short courses to meet specific needs.

In 2020 CITE has been at the forefront of developing blended learning options to meet the challenges of a much changed learning environment.

This course will be delivered by experienced tutors from CITE's Insessional language support programme.

### **Dan Jones**

Dan has been teaching for over 20 years including working in universities and colleges in the UK, Thailand, Libya and Japan. He has worked at the University of Leicester since 2009. He is currently the programme director for undergraduate credit-bearing modules. He leads the English Medium Instruction Teacher Development team. Dan delivered the face to face option of this course in 2016.

### **Lee Fairclough**

Lee has been teaching English as a Foreign Language since 2002, including six years working at a language school in the Kansai region of Japan, as well as at language schools in Thailand and Vietnam. In 2011 he began teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP) at an Australian university in Hanoi, before moving to teach at a university in the north east of England in 2014. He has been at CITE since 2017, and throughout the year teaches on and coordinates Pre-sessional and In-sessional EAP modules. His qualifications include a BSc in Molecular Biology, an MA in Education, and the Cambridge DELTA. Lee delivered the face to face option of this module in 2020.