ESACb 2024-25
Course Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes

ESACb is specifically designed to cater to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Architecture students, with a focus on developing their academic writing and communication skills in the fields of Science and Engineering.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to further develop academic writing skills, strengthen English language skills in the scientific contexts, improve research and study skills, and increase awareness of contextual considerations in the fields of Science and Engineering.

By the end of the course, students should be able to successfully process academic texts, then use the information to plan, draft, and redraft argumentative essays.

Knowledge and Understanding

Students will further develop the skills of:

- Enhancing writing proficiency with clarity and precision while building a more extensive scientific vocabulary
- Effectively employing objective language in written communication when critically reviewing and evaluating
- Developing the ability to accurately and effectively analyze and interpret data when introduced to academic texts in the fields of Science and Engineering
- Learning to construct and present logical arguments grounded in scientific evidence
- Mastering the logical organization of ideas in writing
- Cultivating critical thinking skills to support claims and acknowledge counterarguments
- Advancing skills in citations, referencing, and avoiding plagiarism
- Understanding the broad concepts of sustainability and ethics and their importance in the fields of Science and Engineering

Intellectual Skills

Students will further develop the ability to:

- Formulate and refine research questions
- Critically read academic literature
- Conduct thorough literature reviews by identifying relevant sources and synthesizing information effectively

Transferrable / Key Skills

Students will further develop the ability to:

- Ask pertinent questions and engage in meaningful discussions
- Practice effective participation in collaborative work
- Promote the provision and reception of constructive peer feedback and reviews
- Develop the capacity to evaluate the strengths and limitations of one's own work, as well as the research of others
- Learn autonomously and reflectively

Technical and Digital Literacy

Students will further develop skills in:

- Proficiency in research technologies
- Use of academic research tools
- Data visualization and representation

Skills and Language in ESACb

Reading	Writing	Listening & Speaking
• Understanding essay questions • Identifying different academic genres (textbooks and journal articles) • Identifying different audience and purpose of academic genres • Identifying the difference between primary and secondary sources • Selecting relevant sources from a reading list • Purposeful reading through skimming, scanning, and surveying texts • Locating salient and main ideas in academic texts • Annotating and writing notes on academic texts • Using structured notes to inform an essay plan • Relating material from one academic source to another • Selecting relevant ideas to use in an argumentative essay • Commenting on the validity and reliability of academic texts • Evaluating evidence in academic texts • Deducing the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary from context • Recording and using academic vocabulary • Recording and using academic collocations • Performing library searches using keywords • Selecting relevant and authoritative sources from library searches • Locating relevant ideas in academic texts	• Writing an extended argumentative essay based on academic sources • Demonstrating understanding of writing purpose and audience • Grouping, ordering and organizing ideas from sources to form a coherent essay plan • Articulating an argument in an essay and supporting it with evidence • Synthesising information from academic sources • Integrating information from academic sources by paraphrasing, summarising, or quoting • Displaying critical thinking in the form of an argument in an essay • Writing introductions and conclusions • Writing key sentences to guide readers such as definitions, thesis and purpose statements, supporting statements, and summary sentences • Making generalisations from evidence • Drawing conclusions from evidence • Using cohesive devices to show logical links between ideas • Commenting on ideas in academic sources • Expressing stance in academic writing • Forming noun phrases • Writing clearly without meaning being obscured • Applying appropriate academic style and register • Citing and referencing correctly in Harvard style • Writing a short argumentative essay under timed conditions based on sources • Proofreading and editing • Applying criteria to writing • Engaging in peer review • Reading, understanding and responding to tutor feedback • Using Turnitin and interpreting similarity reports • Learning reflectively and autonomously	• Actively participating and contributing to discussions • Supporting opinions with ideas from academic sources • Applying appropriate academic style and register • Using collaborative language in discussions (Ask and answer questions, politely disagree, ask for clarification, involve other participants, disagree diplomatically) • Understanding, responding to and developing the ideas of other speakers • Using turn-taking strategies • Take part in tutorials