



English for University Studies Summer School 2019

Introduction to Academic English

Discussion Questions

1. Is there a difference between being a secondary school student and a university student?
2. What skills are university students expected to have?
3. If you were brainstorming some good study habits, what would you write down?
4. In your opinion, what sorts of things are useful to learn by heart?
5. Do you include extra-curricular activities when you plan your study time?
6. Are foreign languages important when studying at a university?

Introduction Tip: There are different types of introductions: The presentation introduction is about establishing credibility and likability, the student introduction should focus mainly on building rapport and being memorable. This means if you are the student, it is important for you to share **unique information** about yourself that will help the other students (and the teacher) to remember who you are and also to feel like you have something **in common** with them.

In an academic classroom, this usually means sharing a few of your interests. Choose one or two you think others in the class might share but also include one that is very unique to you. So for example, you might share something like, "I'm Lisa, Lisa Marshall and I'm a computer systems major. When I take a break from studying it's to go for a swim or a bike ride, or to go rollerblading with my dog!"

In a classroom, participant introductions could focus on the person's **expectations** and what he or she would like to gain from the seminar. You might say something like this, "Hi, I'm Clair, Clair Hendricks and I'm a student of history. For me, I'd like to learn more about how to deal with academic texts and how to present in English."

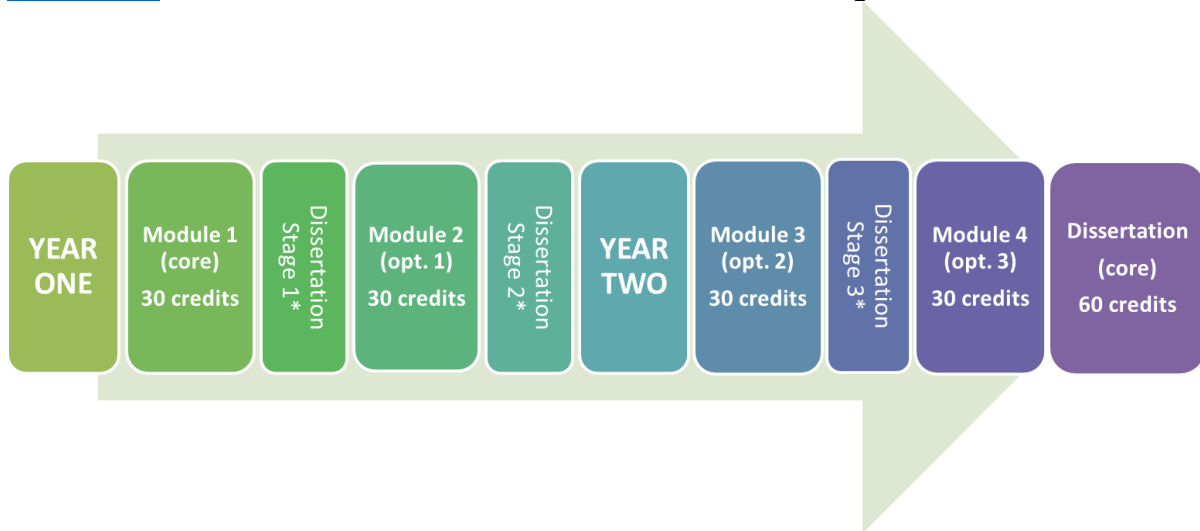
Exercise: In small groups, introduce yourselves and ask some follow-up questions.

Understanding the University Structure

Listening: Find out information about the undergraduate course structure at the University of Western Australia. Note down the most important terms and facts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqvrG9NHdt8>

Speaking: Use the relevant terms and describe the following course structure scheme.



Adapted from University of Leicester <https://le.ac.uk/politics/study/undergraduate>

Reading: Compare information on Masaryk and Oxford Universities.

Masaryk University Brno

Masaryk University Brno was founded as the second Czech university (with four faculties – law, medicine, natural science, and arts) on 28 January 1919 by President T. G. Masaryk.

Today, the university's curriculum is based on disciplines grouped under the faculties of Arts, Social Studies, Law, Medicine, Science, Education, Economics and Administration, Informatics, and Sports Studies.

The university includes a rector's office (the top administrative body of the university), a dean's office (the top administrative body of each faculty), the faculties, and a number of other schools, centres, and institutes.

Students who want to go to university must first pass entrance examinations. If they get a place at the university, they do not have to pay for the teaching – in other words, the tuition is free; some of them can even receive a grant or scholarship to cover living expenses.

Both the Bachelor's and Master's degree models are considered undergraduate programmes, the programmes take three and two years, respectively.

Oxford University

As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, Oxford is a unique and historic institution. There is no clear date of foundation, but teaching existed at Oxford in some form in 1096 and developed rapidly from 1167, when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris.

Oxford is an independent and self-governing institution, consisting of the central University and the Colleges.

Thirty-eight Colleges, though independent and self-governing, form a core element of the University, to which they are related in a federal system, not unlike the United States.

In order to make a competitive application to Oxford, students need to have already achieved, or expect to obtain, A-levels or equivalent qualifications. There are also specific subject requirements for some courses, particularly in the sciences.

University tuition fees are payable by all students studying for a degree, diploma or certificate at Oxford. For most programmes of study, fee rates are dependent on your nationality and country of residence and on the level of your previous study.

Exercise: Write in the form of a direct question. Complete these questions from the answers. You may need to look at the readings again.

1. When _____ ? In 1919.
2. When _____ ? From 1167.
3. What _____ ? Rector's office.
4. How many _____ ? 38.
5. What _____ ? Pass entrance examinations.
6. How long _____ ? Three years.
7. What _____ ? On your country of nationality and residence.

Exercise: Correct the mis-collocations in these sentences:

1. I can't go out because I'm studying. I'm passing an exam tomorrow.
2. Congratulations! I hear you succeeded your exam.
3. You can study a lot of different careers at this university.
4. She's a professor in a secondary school.
5. He gave an interesting 45-minute conference on Goethe.
6. She obtained a degree in personnel management from a private college.
7. When I was 12, we started having French seminars, and I fell in love with the language.

Exercise: Use the information from previous texts, exercises, and your own ideas to create a mind map / word cloud below.



Writing Tip: We mostly use formal language when **writing in academic context**. Think of academic articles, emails or reports. We also use formal language when giving lectures or presentations. The **choice of words, grammar** and tone differs greatly between formal and informal language. In formal situations the language and **tone** is less personal, we do not use casual language or colloquialisms. The tone we use with formal language is a lot more rigid and less relaxed or friendly. The following examples will help you to recognize the informal and formal ways of saying the same:

say sorry / apologize

plus / moreover

just wanted to let you know ... / I am writing to inform you ...

You can call me if you need anything / Please do not hesitate to contact me

Exercise: In this email, find words or phrases that are rather used in informal style. Try to suggest more formal alternatives. Then, rewrite the email.

Hi

I'm writing about the assignment you gave me last week about European Union. You said it had to be handed in at the end of this week but I want to ask if I could have a few extra days as I'm feeling pretty ill at the moment and my doctor says I should rest.

You can call me if you want. My number is 050 570 0070

Thanks a lot

Clark Kent

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