

## ESLA2000: Academic English for International Students

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

*The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognizes and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.*

## OVERVIEW

### Course Description

This course is designed for students in any field or program, who come from a language background other than English. The course focuses on developing students' skills in writing, reading, speaking and listening to academic English. Lectures are designed to address typical issues with which non-native English-speakers tend to struggle, and the content will be customised to some degree to meet the particular needs of the student cohort. The tutorials will allow students to practise their developing language skills and help them deal with a range of typical situations and issues affecting international students.

The course enables international students to improve their English proficiency and thereby supports their learning across all levels of university study.

### Assumed Knowledge

This course is designed for international students with language backgrounds other than English. Native English-speakers are encouraged to enrol in other courses.

### Contact Hours

#### Online

#### Lecture

Online

1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

#### Tutorial

Online

1 hour(s) per Week for 12 Weeks starting Week 1

### Unit Weighting Workload

10

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10-unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider 00109J

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Online</b> Dr Helen Martynyuk <a href="mailto:Olena.Martynyuk@newcastle.edu.au">Olena.Martynyuk@newcastle.edu.au</a> Consultation: by appointment.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences</b> Social Sciences Building Callaghan <a href="mailto:HCISS@newcastle.edu.au">HCISS@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 4985 4500

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic properties of academic language</li><li>• Essentials of sentence and paragraph structure</li><li>• Key aspects of referencing, citations and paraphrasing</li><li>• Constructing persuasive arguments</li><li>• Essay writing</li><li>• Preparing a review of literature</li><li>• Creating and presenting a poster on a chosen topic</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe key properties of academic language.</li><li>2. Construct properly structured sentences and paragraphs in speech and writing.</li><li>3. Cite and/or paraphrase scholarly works in compliance with established principles of referencing.</li><li>4. Develop coherent and evidence-supported arguments.</li><li>5. Create and present a visually effective poster.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Lecture Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All course materials will be provided on the course CANVAS site.</li></ul>

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Tutorial	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to the course Literature Search Strategies	Information Research Skills Tutorials	
2	4 Mar	Evaluating Print and Online Sources	Evaluating Information Using TRAAP Criteria. Tutorial Exercise 1 revision.	Tutorial Exercise 1
3	11 Mar	Acknowledging and Quoting Sources  Paraphrasing: General Advice, Methods and Practice  Summarizing a Text	Practice exercises and topic discussion.  Tutorial Exercise 2 revision.	Tutorial Exercise 2
4	18 Mar	Paragraph Structure Types of Paragraphs	Practice exercises and topic discussion. Tutorial Exercise 3 revision.	Tutorial Exercise 3
5	25 Mar	Academic Writing Principles Avoiding Bias in Academic Writing	Practice exercises and topic discussion. Tutorial Exercise 4 revision.	Tutorial Exercise 4
6	1 Apr	Reading Scholarly Articles  Annotated Bibliography  Strategies for Writing Literature Review	Practice exercises and topic discussion. Tutorial Exercise 5 revision.	Tutorial Exercise 5
7	8 Apr	Poster Presentation Guidelines	Topic discussion. Assignment 1 discussion.	
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>				
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>				
8	29 Apr	Effective Data Presentation	The language of literature reviews	Assignment 1
9	6 May	Toulmin Model of Argumentation  Argument Essay Structure  Thesis Statement	Practice exercises and topic discussion. Assignment 2 discussion.	
10	13 May	Introductory, Counterargument and Conclusion Paragraph Structures	Assignment 2 revision	Assignment 2
11	20 May	Oral Presentation Guidelines	Poster Presentation revision	
12	27 May	Course Revision	Poster Presentation revision	Poster Presentation
13	3 Jun	No class	No class	Take Home Examination

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assignments 1 and 2	Assignment 1 - Week 8 – 05/05/2024, 11.59pm Assignment 2 - Week 10 - 19/05/2024, 11.59pm	Individual	40% (2x20%)	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Poster Presentation	Week 12 – 02/06/2024, 11.59pm	Individual	20%	2, 4, 5
3	Tutorial Exercises	Weekly, as per schedule, advised on the course website.	Individual	10% (5x2%)	2, 3, 4
4	Examination: Take Home	Week 13 - 03/06/2024, 11.59pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Assignments 1 and 2 (40%)

### Assessment Type Purpose

Written Assignment

Assignment 1 - The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate your abilities to research a topic of study, so you can learn to:

- (1) identify and formulate an inquiry question that defines what you'd like to learn,
- (2) apply your knowledge on reading research that you've learned in class,
- (4) synthesize new knowledge into a written small-scale literature review. (20%)

Assignment 2 - Put into practice writing skills which have been discussed in class. (20%)

### Description

Assignment 1 - Small-scale Literature Review. Students will locate five journal articles on their topic and write a 1200-word literature review on the articles they selected.  
Assignment 2 - Argument Essay.

Students will compose an argument essay that shows their ability to support a claim using analysis, elements of argumentation, and integration secondary sources. This argument will also reflect their ability to identify and assess bias, credibility, and relevance in their own arguments and in the arguments of others, including secondary outside sources.

### Weighting

Both Assignments relate to the study of the same topic of students' choice.

### Length

40% (2x20%)

### Due Date

3200 words (assignment 1-1200 words and assignment 2-2000 words)

Assignment 1 - Week 8 – 05/05/2024 11:59PM

Assignment 2 - Week 10 – 19/05/2024 11:59PM

### Submission Method

Online

Both assignments are to be submitted online via Turnitin.

### Assessment Criteria

Provided on the course website.

### Return Method

Online

### Feedback Provided

Online - within 15 University working days of submission. Assignment 1 - online via Turnitin; written and provided on the item.

Assignment 2 - online via Turnitin: written and provided on the item.

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## Assessment 2 - Poster Presentation (20%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	To develop students' ability to communicate understanding of a chosen topic of study, in a short and concise format.
<b>Description</b>	Students will demonstrate and creatively present their understanding of a chosen topic of their study in a 5-minute oral poster presentation.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	5- minute oral poster presentation
<b>Due Date</b>	Week 12 – 02/06/2024 11:59PM
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online Students will video-record their presentations and upload presentations onto CANVAS as a media file.
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Provided on the course website.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 15 University working days of submission.

## Assessment 3 – Tutorial Exercises (10%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Tutorial / Laboratory Exercises
<b>Purpose</b>	To develop the knowledge and understanding of a range of academic skills required for study at university level.
<b>Description</b>	The following tutorial exercises are designed to help students use library services, develop research skills and learn about the process of searching, choosing, recording and evaluating information for writing a literature review and an argument essay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tutorial Exercise 1 - Evaluating Databases (500 words)</li><li>- Tutorial Exercise 2 - Changing Your Search String (500 words)</li><li>- Tutorial Exercise 3 - Pre-evaluating Sources (500 words)</li><li>- Tutorial Exercise 4 - Assessing Currency of Academic Literature (500 words)</li><li>- Tutorial Exercise 5 – Assessing Website Credibility (500 words)</li></ul>
<b>Weighting</b>	10% (5x2%)
<b>Length</b>	2500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Weekly, as per schedule, advised on Canvas course site.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Provided on the course website.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 15 University working days of submission.

## Assessment 4 - Examination: Take Home (30%)

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Take Home Examination
<b>Purpose</b>	To assess application of principles learnt in the Course.
<b>Description</b>	The examination includes two question types: essay answer (1500 words) and multiple-choice.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	The examination is <b>untimed</b> . The examination is released to students and they complete it and submit it by the specified due date. Students should be able to complete this examination in two hours.
<b>Due Date</b>	Week 13 - 03/06/2024 11:59PM; exam opens at 06:00 AM; exam closes at 11:59 PM
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Provided on the course website
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - within 15 University working days of submission.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

## Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

## Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

## Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

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**Adverse  
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy  
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

**Other Information**

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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