

Centre for Academic English

Pre-sessional English Programme

Information about the 3-week Pre-sessional English Course Online

Our 3-week pre-sessional English course has now moved online for full-time distance learning for summer 2021. It delivers the same academic content as our face-to-face course. If you are an international student, speak English as an additional language, and have met the English language requirement of your offer for study in October 2021, you are welcome to apply for our online 3-week pre-sessional English course.

Who the 3-week Pre-sessional English Course Online is for

The online 3-week pre-sessional is a preparation and orientation course for undergraduate and postgraduate students who have already met the English language requirement for their degree programme but who recognise the importance of extending and enhancing their academic skills before they begin their first term at Imperial College London.

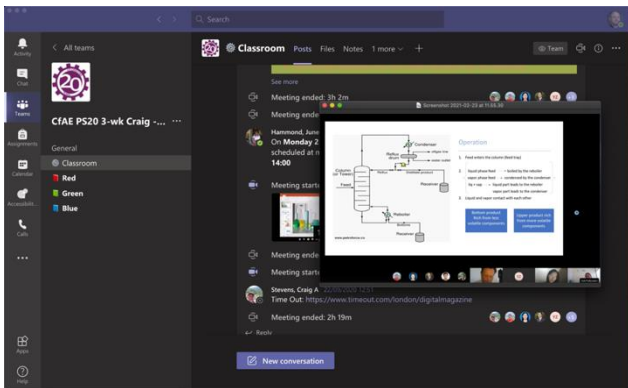
Overview of the Course

The 3-week pre-sessional online is an **academic language and skills course** designed specifically for students studying science, technology, engineering, maths or medicine (STEMM) at Imperial. The course is delivered remotely through Microsoft Office 365, specifically live Microsoft Teams classes. It is full-time and intensive with a weekly schedule Monday to Friday.

Full-time and intensive: There will be **3 hours of daily contact** at specified times for taught sessions, lectures, group activities and 1:1 guidance from teachers. There will also be at least 4 hours' worth of directed private study each day. You will be responsible for achieving the study goals set by your teachers. You may decide to dedicate more time to some of the goals.

Classes are small (approximately 12 students), which allows the teacher to respond to individual needs. As well as language skills classes, students will complete weekly projects. There is no final assessment, but students receive regular feedback; there is also 1:1 guidance from teachers.

By the end of the course, students will have upgraded their written and oral language skills, will have a better understanding of academic conventions and expectations and will be familiar with the information systems and online learning technology at Imperial College. They will be very well prepared to face the demands of their main degree programme.



Live sessions on the Pre-sessional are run through Microsoft Teams.

This application provides a dynamic online learning environment, with break-out rooms, screen sharing, and a chat function, allowing you to interact easily with your teacher and your fellow students.

All sessions are recorded to allow you to review each day's work.

Aims of the course

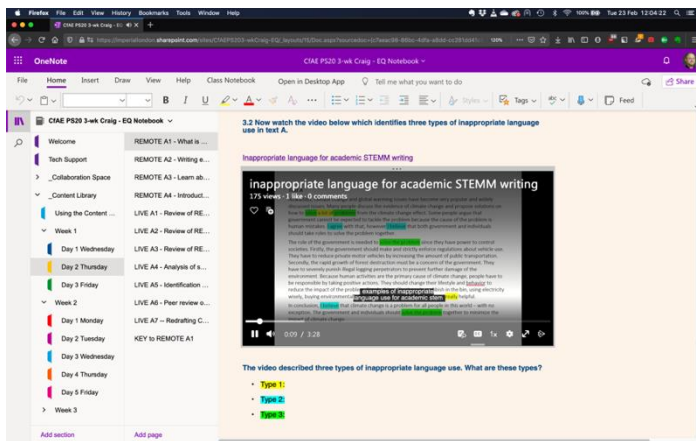
The aims of the online 3-week pre-sessional course are to:

- upgrade and extend students' academic language, spoken and written
- advance students' academic study skills and independent learning skills
- give practise in completing the types of assignments set on degree programmes
- raise awareness of academic expectations at Imperial College London
- encourage students to work collaboratively and with consideration for others from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds
- provide an overview of the wide range of the research conducted at Imperial

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students will:

- be able to communicate more effectively in speaking and writing for academic contexts
- have developed strategies for better understanding lectures and conversations
- have improved their ability to retrieve, analyse and synthesise information from readings
- have developed greater confidence for communication and participation in academic settings
- have developed key competencies for academic study, such as time management, autonomy and criticality



Course materials are delivered through Microsoft Class Notebooks.

Class Notebooks are powerful learning tools. As well as housing text and video materials, they give students a personal workspace to complete exercises, make recordings, and store notes. They also allow collaboration with other students on shared tasks and projects.

All data is stored in the cloud, so there is never a worry about saving your work.

Key Features of the Course

Language Skills	<p>Improving and extending your understanding of academic language and communication</p> <p>Writing a range of practice academic STEM texts and receiving feedback</p> <p>Improving grammar and vocabulary for STEM writing</p> <p>Improving pronunciation and fluency for communication in an international environment</p> <p>Giving a range of oral presentations (including a poster presentation, a PowerPoint presentation, and a seminar presentation) and receiving feedback</p>
Independent Study	<p>Working to complete tasks to improve your language competencies and skills</p> <p>Learning to work effectively to meet deadlines and other targets</p>
Presentations	<p>Speaking at and participating in poster discussions</p> <p>Giving presentations on topics in your field</p> <p>Giving seminar presentations based on your reading</p>
Project Work	<p>Working in groups online to complete tasks and develop teamwork and negotiating skills</p> <p>Investigating the research conducted at Imperial College London</p>
Lecture & Seminars	<p>Listening to a lecture by an Imperial academic to practise taking notes in real time</p> <p>Attending seminars run by Imperial researchers in which they present and discuss their work</p>
Orientation to College	<p>Library induction</p> <p>Familiarisation with software used at Imperial including Microsoft Teams, Class Notebooks and Panopto</p> <p>Learning about your department</p> <p>Practising writing effective emails to lecturers and professors</p>

Sample Timetable

All students will follow the same programme of study during the 3-week online course. The time of delivery, however, will vary depending on your time zone. Live sessions begin each day at 10:00 (London time). Below is a sample timetable to give an idea of how the course is organised.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote Activities (4 hrs either before or after the live sessions each day)	Academic skills practice Personal research project	Academic skills practice Reading for live writing exercise	Academic skills practice Making a video presentation	Academic skills practice Re-drafting writing exercise	Academic skills practice Personal research project
Live Session 1 10:00-12:00 (GMT)	Review of remote activities	Focus on text cohesion	Feedback on writing exercise Library induction	Review of remote activities	Seminars on personal research projects
Break					
Live Session 2 12:30-13:30 (GMT)	Presentations	Live writing exercise	Group project	Meeting Imperial researchers to discuss their work	Feedback

Disclaimer: This is a sample timetable. Courses can change and develop over the academic year. The timetable you follow could differ from the one given. The start time for live sessions is also subject to change depending on the location of students in the world.