

Imperial College
London

Centre for Academic English
Pre-sessional English Programme 2019

12-week Course Information



Information about the 12-week course

WHO THE COURSE IS FOR

The 12-week course is for prospective Imperial postgraduate (PG) students who hold a conditional offer and who need to improve their English language proficiency.

Standard Entry requirement: If you have not yet met the College's **standard** English entry requirement for your PG course and you have an IELTS score of 5.5 overall (no less than 5.0 in any element and 5.5 in either writing or speaking), you should apply for our 12-week course. If you have IELTS 6.0 (no less than 5.0 in any element and 5.5 in either writing or in speaking), and you would like to undertake a longer period of study, you are also welcome to apply for the 12-week course.

Higher entry requirement If you have not yet met the College's **higher** English entry requirement for your PG course and you have an IELTS score of 6.5 overall (no less than 6.0 in any element), you should apply for the 12-week course.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The pre-sessionals are full-time, intensive courses designed specifically for PG students studying, science, technology, engineering, maths or medicine (STEMM) at Imperial. It is divided into two 6-week blocks. The second block joins with the 6-week course in mid-August.

The pre-sessionals will introduce you to the academic language, strategies and processes that you will need for studying and conducting research in your own discipline. The course includes classes, workshops, research events, group tasks, lectures by Imperial college academics and guided personal study.

The course is a full-time, intensive period of study.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The first 6-week block aims to:

- introduce you to academic English and the UK academic environment
- help you to improve your academic writing and your understanding of academic technical texts
- improve your fluency and communication skills
- develop the listening skills necessary for academic and everyday situations
- prepare you effectively for the study of science-related disciplines through English
- develop your academic study skills and independent learning strategies

The second 6-week block aims to:

- further prepare you effectively for the study of science-related disciplines through English
- further develop your language skills so that satisfactory completion of the pre-sessionals English course means that you fulfil your Imperial College (PG) English language entry requirement
- advance your academic study skills and independent learning

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- be able to communicate clearly and appropriately for entry to their PG studies in writing and in speaking
- have developed strategies for understanding lectures and conversations
- have improved their ability to retrieve, analyse and assimilate information from readings
- have developed confidence through participation in group activities and a range of situations
- have developed key competencies for academic study, such as time management, autonomy, criticality

CfAE PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH COURSE - SAMPLE 12-WEEK TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.15	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Process</p> <p>How to write captions for science communication logical connections making correct sentences paraphrasing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communicating Science</p> <p>Poster Preparation Reading and note-taking feedback Practice for presenting poster based on a briefing document</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TASK</p> <p>Research Day Museum Visit Find 5 exhibits of interest and take photos of captions (Preparation for Display Case Task and Museum Tour Task)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Process</p> <p>3-minute thesis Introduction to Listening</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communicating Science</p> <p>Researching a topic: Introduction to Briefing Document Group Task Internet Searching Skills Understanding academic integrity Evaluating sources</p>
10.45					
11.00	<p style="text-align: center;">ACT session (Autonomous Completion of Tasks)</p> <p>Scientific Method 2 Listening tasks: Newton's experiment Exploring Vocabulary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communicating Science</p> <p>Paired Poster Presentation Event Reflection: write in journal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TASK</p> <p>Display Case: Caption Writing Using photos of from museum, analyse sentences Extract and use useful verbs for group writing task</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Process</p> <p>Responding to questions Groupwork</p>	
12.30					
1.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Process</p> <p>Scientific Method 2 Writing in class: Newton's experiment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TASK</p> <p>Display Case Group planning: select group topic for public exhibition</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACT Session (Autonomous Completion of Tasks)</p> <p>Finish captions for Display Case</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teamwork</p> <p>Teamwork Tasks: Group work and discussion Negotiating and leadership Publishing as a group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TASK</p> <p>Display Case Event</p> <p>(Set weekend homework)</p>
3.15					
3.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Process</p> <p>Working with notes from reading / listening Language and strategies for Communicating Science</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TASK</p> <p>Display Case Sourcing Objects: Search museum website to find interesting displays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Communicating Science</p> <p>Networking activity Using Cohort Grid and dice, form groups and choose topics</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Social Event</p> <p>Pizza in the Park</p>
5.00				ISS VISA MEETING	

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 above

Information about the 12-week course

ASSESSMENT

There are no formal, summative assessments for the first six weeks. However, you must attend all classes and complete all formative coursework assignments and class work to the required level. We will give you specific guidance on any areas that need urgent improvement to achieve this.

To pass the 12-week pre-session course, you must complete all course assignments and class work to the required level and pass the final pre-session exams in week 12.

Passing the pre-session English course means that you will have met the College's English language entry condition for your degree course and you do not have to re-sit IELTS.

The great majority of students pass the pre-session course and are able to go on to their degree studies. In the cases where a conditional student has a fail grade in a test, a re-sit will be available the following week, i.e. the week before the academic year officially begins.

KEY FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Task based assignments	Display Case group preparation Podcast audio recording Exhibition Road report writing	Hackspace data collection Group Video communication task
Scientific method	Listening to science presented on video; learning associated vocabulary. Explaining key concepts in your own words.	
Communicating Science	Reading STEM texts, extracting key details and producing new text without copying. Negotiating and researching a topic chosen by your group. Presenting your chosen topic at poster and café events.	
ACT- Autonomous Completion of Tasks	Working independently during scheduled sessions to prepare course work	
Team Tasks	Working in groups to complete tasks (e.g. writing for publication) and developing team work skills	
Imperial Stars	Attending live lectures and videos from Imperial academics. Learning about current research at Imperial College London.	
Interactive Research Events	Speaking at and participating in Café Scientific events Visiting and presenting posters	

Information about the 12-week course

THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME

At the weekend and one or two evenings per week, we organise a social programme for you and we encourage you to join in. The programme includes day trips and other activities and is a great way to make new friends and to get to know London and the surrounding area. We organise a range of activities so that there is something for everyone. Previous events have included:

- English tea party
- Quizzes and games
- Give-It-A-Go! (Try something new)
- Day trip to Greenwich
- Day trip to Hampton Court
- Picnics in the park
- Walking tour of Westminster
- Trip to a West End musical
- Photo competition
- Pizza Party
- TV and Film Club
- Visits to Science institutions
e.g. Royal Society, Science
Museum, Wellcome Trust