

Imperial College
London

Centre for Academic English
Pre-sessional English Programme 2019

6-week Course Information



Information about the 6-week course

WHO THE COURSE IS FOR

The 6-week course is for prospective Imperial postgraduate (PG) students who hold a conditional offer and who need to improve their English language proficiency.

If you have not yet met the College's **standard** English entry requirement for your PG course, and you have an IELTS score of 6.0 or 6.5 overall (no less than 5.5 in any element) you should apply for the 6-week pre-session English course.

If you have not yet met the College's **higher** English entry requirement for your PG course and you have an IELTS score of 7.0 overall (no less than 6.0 in any element) you should apply for the 6-week course.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The pre-session is a fulltime, intensive course designed specifically for PG students studying, science, technology, engineering, maths or medicine (STEMM) at Imperial.

The pre-session 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.

You will become familiar with the College, its facilities and the local area and as well as making new friends on the course and the social programme.

By passing both of the end-of-course assessments (the pre-session Test of Written English and Test of Spoken English), you fulfil the College's English Requirement and do not need to re-sit the IELTS test.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

- To prepare you for the study of your science-related discipline through English
- To develop your English language skills to the level needed for College entry to begin your PG course and to fulfil the Imperial College (PG) English language entry requirement.
- To 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 communicative situations
- have developed key competencies for academic study, such as time management, autonomy and criticality

ASSESSMENT AND PASSING THE COURSE

To pass the pre-sessional you must complete all course assignments and class work to the required level and pass the final pre-sessional exams in late September. Passing the pre-sessional course means you will have fulfilled the College's English language entry condition for your degree course.

The great majority of students pass the pre-sessional course and are able to go on to their degree studies. In the case 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

Academic process	Identifying and selecting relevant information from texts Improving grammar and vocabulary for STEM writing Using academic conventions to communicate your understanding in writing
Writing from Sources	Reading STEM texts, extracting key details and producing new text without copying
Specialist Subject Workshops	Reading, understanding and explaining content from your discipline Presenting your subject to STEM students
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	Regular lectures from Imperial academics
Interactive Research Events	Speaking at and participating in poster events and talking with visiting Imperial researchers
STEM-focused assessment	Individual speaking exam (<i>viva voce</i>) on your own subject (50%) Writing from Sources test of written English (50%)

THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME

At weekends 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. We organise a range of activities so that there is something for everyone. Previous events have included:

- Quizzes and games
- Day trips to Oxford and Cambridge
- Walking tour of Westminster
- Trip to a West End musical
- Photo competition
- Pizza Party
- TV and Film Club
- Give-It-A-Go! (Try a new activity or sport)
- Visits to London's museums
- Picnics in the park
- End of course party

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09.15-10.45	Academic Process Grammar for writing Structuring academic texts effectively	ACT Vocabulary study Video: Avoiding plagiarism	Specialist Subject Workshop Reading circle Discussion of technical texts Explaining ideas	Imperial Stars Listening Lecture by an Imperial College academic	Academic Process: Writing Feedback
11.00-12.30	Autonomous completion of tasks (ACT) Language exercises Vocabulary study Preparation for writing	Academic Process: Discussion of plagiarism Selecting information and note-taking	Specialist Subject Workshop Subject-specific language study Defining technical terms Pronunciation	Imperial Stars Lecture Follow-up & Teamwork Study Task	Academic Process: Phrasebank Task Compiling a list of useful academic vocabulary
13.45-15.15	Academic Process: Writing In class writing practice Editing and review	Academic Process: Reading into writing Explaining technical terms Planning writing	Academic Process Writing Report writing from collected data	Teamwork Teamwork Tasks Group work and discussion Negotiating and leadership Publishing as a group	Academic Process: Grammar for writing explaining and defining Write about own key terms
15.30-17.00	[ISS Visa Tier 4 Meeting]	Academic Process: Writing for submission	ACT Preparing for Imperial Stars lecture Vocabulary study		ACT OneNote Journal - Review and reflection Homework: Reading and preparation for following week

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.