

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

### Basic Course Information

1. Institution: Nottingham Trent University
2. School/Campus: School of Arts and Humanities
3. Course: Pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes
4. Modes of Study: Full time

### 5. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The pre-sessional English for Academic Purposes (PEAP) course is a one-module course which develops the language and academic skills needed for international students whose first language is not English to meet the requirements for entry to NTU undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses.

The module aims:

- to develop the necessary academic language proficiency for university study.
- to develop the necessary academic study skills, including taking responsibility for your own learning, and working independently and in groups;
- to make you familiar with the academic culture and practices of higher education in the UK, including the way that university work is assessed, the reasons for the ways in which we refer to the work of other writers, and British cultural notions of the roles of teachers and students.

### 6. Course outcomes

Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:

- read a range of academic texts with purpose, speed and understanding, using effective and flexible reading strategies appropriate to reading purpose.
- write a clearly written and organised essay under timed conditions in response to a given essay question.
- research, plan, draft, proofread, edit and submit a well-structured, well-presented, focused and coherent argumentative essay, using standard citation and bibliographic conventions.
- deliver academic presentations using academically appropriate style and register and comprehensible and appropriate pronunciation.
- recognise the purpose and structure of a lecture and follow the main points of content and stance, using visual components of lectures such as handouts and slides, and your own notes.

Skills, qualities and attributes. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- work independently and in groups to research an academic topic and summarise and synthesise information into a coherent, well-structured and logically argued academic presentation.
- respond appropriately to set essay questions and prepare for essay examinations
- locate, select, summarise, paraphrase and synthesise relevant information from a variety of academic sources.

### 7. Teaching and Learning Methods

The course is taught through interactive language lessons where students are active participants. We make frequent use of pair and group work so that students can share ideas and help each other. Some activities are student-led, and directed independent study is also important. Teachers make regular use of online recordings of academic lectures and presentations.

### 8. Assessment Policy and Methods

End-of-course tests are used to give an independent measure of your language proficiency in reading, writing and listening. The group presentation provides an authentic context for assessing your academic speaking abilities. The coursework component is important in addition to the writing test, because many university assessments assess your work by coursework rather than exams.

### 9. Course structure and curriculum

The course consists of a single taught module.

The course exists in varying versions, which differ in length. There are 30, 20, 15, 10 and 6-week versions. You will be admitted to a version of the course dependent on their existing level of English.

### 10. Admission to the course

Admission to the different versions of the course is dependent on your English language level:

Current IELTS	TOEFL (iBT)	Pearson Test of English (Academic only)	IELTS Requirement		
			IELTS 6	IELTS 6.5	IELTS 7
5.0 with a minimum of 4.0 in each skill	54 with at least: Reading: 4 Listening: 9 Speaking: 16 Writing: 13	38 with at least 36 in each skill	10 weeks	15 weeks	n/a
5.5 with a minimum of 4.0 in each skill	64 with at least: Reading: 4 Listening: 9 Speaking: 16 Writing: 13	46 with at least 36 in each skill	6 weeks	10 weeks	n/a
6.0 with a minimum of 4.0 in each skill	76 with at least: Reading: 4 Listening: 9 Speaking: 16 Writing: 13	54 with at least 36 in each skill	None	6 weeks	n/a

6.5 with a minimum of 4.0 in each skill	83 with at least: Reading: 4 Listening: 9 Speaking: 16, Writing: 13	62 with at least 36 in each skill	None	None (but some Schools may require 6 weeks if less than IELTS 6/TOEFL 24 in Reading and writing)	10 weeks
<p><b>11. Support for learning</b></p> <p>You will be given an induction at the start of the course, and will be offered regular one-to-one tutorials with your class teacher, which will cover pastoral as well as academic issues. The course leader and deputy course leader are available to you for pastoral and academic advice. You will be able to use the facilities of the Language Resource Centre and the library for independent language practice.</p>					
<p><b>12. Graduate destinations / employability</b></p> <p>The PEAP course is preparing students for academic courses of study rather than directly for employment, and the focus is on developing academic skills. However, these academic skills are also valuable in employment. As well as improving your general communication skills, the tasks which you will complete on the PEAP course are designed to help you to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent, critical thought and problem-solving abilities, and self-directed learning.</li> <li>• The ability to find and evaluate data</li> <li>• The ability to use information technology effectively</li> <li>• Time management and team working</li> <li>• The ability to evaluate your own progress, and to give and receive feedback effectively.</li> <li>• An international awareness, based on respect for social and cultural diversity, human rights and dignity.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>13. Course standards and quality</b></p> <p>Course standards and quality mechanisms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an external examiner</li> <li>• regular staff-student course committee meetings</li> <li>• written end-of-course feedback from students and staff</li> <li>• observation of teaching using nationally agreed professional criteria</li> </ul>					
<p><b>14. Assessment regulations</b></p> <p><b>This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its Academic Standards and Quality Handbook).</b> Any course-specific assessment features are described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late submitted coursework will not be marked.</li> <li>• Re-assessment for referral will be at the next available assessment point in the year.</li> <li>• Referral marks will not be capped.</li> <li>• Students who have passed the Certificate may be allowed to resit assessments or retake the course for the purpose of achieving the progression mark set by the university.</li> </ul>					

- The following grading scheme will be used for the PEAP course. The pass mark for the Certificate is 50%. Different progression marks may be set by the university as conditions of progression on to other particular courses.

Grade	Class		Award Classification	Grade Point
Distinction	First	A1	Exceptional Distinction	16
		A2	High Distinction	15
		A3	Mid Distinction	14
		A4	Low Distinction	13
Commendation	Upper second	B1	High Commendation	12
		B2	Mid Commendation	11
		B3	Low Commendation	10
Pass	Lower second	C1	High Pass	9
		C2	Mid Pass	8
		C3	Low Pass	7
Narrow Fail	Third	D1	High Fail	6
		D2	Marginal Fail	5
		D3	Mid Fail	4
Overall Fail	Fail	F1	Low Fail	3
		F2	Fail	2
		F3	Final Fail	1
	Zero		Zero	0

#### 15. Additional Information

The course is accredited by the British Council (current accreditation dates November 2017 – March 2022).

Any additional information: