

## SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH (MZ000004)

### 1. language

English.

### 2. course contents

Coordinator: Prof. ENRICO REGGIANI

Year Course: 1<sup>st</sup>

Semester: 1<sup>st</sup>

UFC: 2

Modules and lecturers:

- SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH (MZ000060) - 2 CFU - SSD L-LIN/12 - Prof. Carolina Almici

### 3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Recommended:

- P. Chin, S.Reid and S. Wray, Academic Writing Skills 3, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 9781107611931)
- Hilary Glasman-Deal, Science Research Writing, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Imperial College Press (ISBN 9781786347831)
- M. Stuart, The Complete Guide to Medical Writing, Pharmaceutical Press (ISBN 9780853696674)

### 4. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Knowledge and understanding (Dublin 1):** Students will learn to recognise a scientific text based on its key elements, whether it is in print or digital form in order to effectively analyse and extract key information.

**Applying knowledge and understanding (Dublin 2):** Students will enhance their techniques and skills of writing scientific-based texts. Students will produce scientific-based texts, such as abstracts and critical analyses/reviews of a scientific article in a clear and concise manner.

**Making judgements (Dublin 3):** Students will be guided in identifying the applicable/vital information such as methods, trends, outcomes, etc, found in research texts. The students will be encouraged to evaluate abstracts critically when choosing appropriate Scientific literature.

**Communication skills (Dublin 4):** Students will look at the writing structure and processes (including paragraph functions and sentence structure). Time will also be dedicated to student-teacher feedback on strengths, weaknesses, vocabulary use, pertinent terminology and areas needing improvement of writing.

**Learning skills (Dublin 5):** Students will be guided in defining individual language learning strategies which can be applied in their future academic and professional careers. Students will be assigned periodic tasks to develop analytical and writing skills. Autonomous learning will be fostered through the learning material on the online learning platform Blackboard.

### 5. prerequisites

General English level B2.

## 6. TEACHING METHODS

The Scientific English course comprises whole-class teaching, group work, and individual learning, focussing on the approach of PBL (problem-based learning) which uses real-world problems as a vehicle to promote student learning of concepts and principles.

During whole-class sessions, students will be confronted with various kinds of scientific literature connected to the field of medical scientific research. The specific scientific vocabulary and structures which are typically found in medical scientific writing will be brought to the students' attention. Students will be introduced to the appropriate functions and contexts in which the various structures and the specific vocabulary are used so that they can recognise them and understand them more easily. **(Dublin 1)**

Working in small groups, the students will work on various aspects of scientific medical research texts. By analysing various parts of scientific texts (abstracts, data presentation, presentation of the research results, conclusions) in small groups, the students will learn how to interact autonomously and successfully. **(Dublin 2, 3, and 4)**

Individual learning in the classroom (and at home) helps the students to apply their knowledge of scientific English following their own pace and respecting their learning styles and preferences while achieving a high grade of autonomy which is the base for life-long learning. Through working on authentic scientific research articles, the students will be encouraged to apply the strategies which they have acquired during the course. **(Dublin 5)**

## 7. OTHER INFORMATION

Students are required to consult the course's Blackboard platform regularly, where course-related communications and materials are displayed. Attendance is strongly recommended.

The teacher meets students at the end of each lesson.

Material for autonomous learning is available on the Blackboard page of the course and of the Centre for Self-Study (CAP). At the CAP, students can also structure a personalized study plan with the help of a language advisor. More information is available at the following link: <https://studenticattolica.unicatt.it/servizio-linguistico-di-ateneo-selda-cap-centro-per-l-autoapprendimento>

## 8. METHODS FOR VERIFYING LEARNING AND FOR EVALUATION

At the end of the course there is a written test designed to assess the level of scientific skills achieved by the student. The test is assessed by a pass/fail grade. The final evaluation will take place under the form of a final test based on the programme covered throughout the course.

For the final exam the students will read a scientific journal article of about 5-7 pages (without the abstract). They will have to write:

- the structured abstract for this article (about 200 words)
- a short critical analysis of the article (about 100 words)

## 9. program

Scientific literature:

- types of scientific writing
- critical analysis of scientific articles
- the role and structure of the abstract
- summarising a scientific article

Research methods:

- describing and analysing research methods
- discussing the validity of research results

Research data:

- various forms of data presentation

critical analysis of data presentation

concise summary of data