SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH (A002225)

1. language

English

2. course contents

Coordinator: Prof. Enrico Reggiani

Year Course: I

Semester: 1

UFC: 2

Teachers: Simon Graham Lewis, Jennifer Kate Elizabeth Stripe, Anita Taylor

3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended:

-Stephen Bailey, Academic Writing, A Handbook for International Students, 5th ed, Routledge (ISBN-10 1138048747)
- P. Chin, S.Reid and S. Wray, Academic Writing Skills 3, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 9781107611931)
- Hilary Glasman-Deal, Science Research Writing, 2nd 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 plenary sessions combined with group, semi-individual and individual student-centred learning opportunities using the approach of PBL (problem-based learning) which uses real-world problems as a vehicle to promote student learning of concepts and principles.

Students will read and discuss a range of scientific literature connected to the field of medical scientific research. The specific scientific vocabulary and language 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 writing (abstracts, data presentation, presentation of the research results, conclusions) in small groups, students will learn how to interact autonomously and effectively. (Dublin 2, 3, and 4).

Individual learning in the classroom and at home helps the students to apply their knowledge of Scientific English while achieving autonomy. 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. FURTHER INFORMATION

Course attendance is obligatory.

For any queries, please contact Ms. Gerit Berger (gerit.berger@unicatt.it)

8. METHODS FOR VERIFYING LEARNING AND FOR EVALUATION

For the final exam, the students will read a scientific journal article of up to eight pages (without the abstract). They will have to write the structured abstract for this article (about 300 words).

Assessment: pass/fail ("idoneità").

9. program

Scientific literature:

- types of scientific writing
- critical analysis of scientific articles
- the role and structure of the abstract and scientific article
- useful language in summarising and paraphrasing

Presentation skills:

- reading and academic discussion
- analysis and research through a PBL scenario
- group, individual and semi-individual research
- presenting and discussion of findings in a PBL session
- useful signposting language

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

Research data:
- various forms of data presentation
- critical analysis and summary of data presented