Syllabus
Course description

Course title	Advanced Scientific English
Course code	46002
Scientific secto	L-LIN/12 - English
Degree	➢ PhD MEA - Mountain Environment and Agriculture ➢ PhD SET - Sustainable Energy and Technologies / ➢ PhD ASE - Advanced-Systems Engineering ➢ PhD - Computer Science
Semester	1
Year	1
Academic year	2024/2025
Credits	3
Modular	No

Lecturer	Dr. Graham Burton
Scientific sector of the lecturer	L-LIN/12
Teaching language	English
Total lecturing hours	24
Total exercise hours	6
Office hours	9
Attendance	The course is highly interactive and attendance is therefore very strongly recommended. Attendance on both days of the mock conference is mandatory.
Prerequisite	
List of topics covered	• academic writing and its conventions • linguistic features of academic writing in English • aspects of reading for academic writing • exploiting basic corpus techniques to explore academic language • compiling a corpus representative of academic language use • developing arguments • structure of abstracts • use of English in academic writing for educational research • structuring oral presentations • using effective linking phrases during oral presentations • making effective use of presenting software such as PowerPoint

Specific educational objectives and course description	**Description** This course aims to familiarise PhD students with academic research conventions and academic discourse in English, in both spoken and written contexts. Participants will learn the basic conventions of academic discourse in writing and speech. They will learn to use tools to empirically investigate the genre conventions associated with their disciplinary area and apply these to their own writing. They will also learn to prioritise and synthesise efficiently in order to deliver an oral presentation with a specific time limit effectively. **Objectives** By the end of the course, students should be able to: • identify and apply the conventions of academic discourse with appropriate genre features • use corpus tools to improve disciplinary writing • write an abstract in a way which respects the conventions related to academic discourse and specific disciplinary genre • delivering an effective academic oral presentation in front of an audience

Teaching format	Lecture, workshop, seminar, discussion, individual work

Expected learning outcomes	On completing the course, students are expected to achieve the following outcomes: **Knowledge and understanding** • demonstrate knowledge of spoken and written academic discourse and its conventions • demonstrate knowledge of the structure and language of abstracts **Applying knowledge and understanding** • identify the features of academic discourse in English and apply these in their own oral and written output • work out rules regarding the meaning and use of academic language items through corpus observation • tailor communication through an awareness of audience, purpose and strategy **Making judgments** • think critically about and evaluate the academic conventions in a specific disciplinary area • analyse written academic discourse and evaluate its linguistic and stylistic features in order to evaluate communicative effectiveness

- make informed choices about individual writing and speaking strategies

Communication skills

- discuss aspects of academic culture and academic discourse
- use appropriate register and style in speech and writing
- communicate effectively in an oral academic context

Learning skills

- draw on empirical information to improve English language awareness and competence for academic contexts
- identify a gap in research and present an argument
- use corpus tools at a basic level
- recognise generic patterns and reproduce them in writing and speaking

Assessment	**Abstract**: students will produce an abstract following guidelines provided. **Presentation**: students will deliver a short oral presentation on a topic related to their PhD research
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	- demonstration of active participation during the course - production of an abstract that follows the genre conventions of the specific disciplinary area - delivery of an effect oral presentation respecting the specified time limit at mock conference

Suggested readings	Burton, G. (2011). *Collins Academic Skills Series: Presenting*. HarperCollins. Murray, R. (2011). *How to Write a Thesis*. Open University Press. Swales, John M. & Feak, C. (2009). *Abstracts and the writing of abstracts.* University of Michigan Press. Swales, John M. & Feak, C. (2014). *Academic writing for graduate students: Essential tasks and skills* (3rd ed.) University of Michigan Press.
Supplementary readings	Other relevant materials will be provided during the course.