

## **LANG 5001 Postgraduate English for Engineering Research Studies (1 credit)**

### **Course Information**

**Course description** (from PG catalog): This course aims to help research students in engineering communicate their research effectively. It highlights the characteristics of academic discourse, and provides training in the production of research-type documents, including abstracts, journal papers and theses. The course also gives extensive practice in the presentation and seminar skills necessary for academic study. Students who fail to fulfill the spoken English language requirement of the University are advised to take LANG 5000 before enrolling for this course (for students admitted in 2009/10 and onwards). Graded P or F.

**Students** mostly:

- study for an MPhil or PhD degree in engineering
- take the course in their first year but can take it any time before graduation

**Offering pattern:** The course is offered in fall and spring semesters through biweekly 90-minute classes.

### **Corequisites**

Students admitted with any IELTS band below 6 (or equivalent) must also pass LANG 5000 before graduation.

### **Exemptions**

The course leader may exempt students who meet all or most of the exemption requirements.

### **Course Aims**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply appropriate methods such as summarizing and paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism in their research writing.
2. Identify the organization, conventions and functions of different sections of a research paper or thesis.
3. Structure a research paper or thesis appropriately in line with the accepted norms of the field.
4. Produce a critical review of the literature for their research.
5. Explain their research effectively in an oral presentation to a mixed audience.
6. Lead, and actively participate in, academic seminars and contribute to the discussion as well as participate in self-assessment, leading to autonomous learning.

## Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Purpose	ILO
Students work in groups to choose a controversial engineering topic or issue which is of public interest. They deliver a group presentation and lead a seminar on their topics.	This assignment may help students become confident and convincing presenters by planning and delivering a technology forum for an engineering-disciplines audience.	ILO6
Students write an introduction to, and a critical literature review for, their MPhil/PhD research. Those without a research topic yet may write a general review of a technical area of interest.	This assignment may help students when they come to write a critical review needed in, for example, the introduction to a journal article, the introduction to their dissertation, or an annual summary of their graduate work.	ILO 1, 2, 3, 4
Students deliver a presentation on their research projects for a mixed audience, including research students from different engineering disciplines.	This assignment requires students to explain their research comprehensibly to a mixed engineering-disciplines audience. The purpose aligns with an increasing need for researchers to present their work to wider audiences at conferences, for funding applications, etc.	ILO5

## Course Content

### Part 1 Academic literacy skills

- Effective Reading
- Academic Writing
- Summarizing, Paraphrasing and Referencing

### Part 2 Research writing

- Introduction & Literature Review (Parts 1, 2, 3)
- Describing Methods
- Writing up Results
- Discussing Results and Drawing Conclusions
- Abstract Writing (Parts 1, 2)

### Part 3 Presentation skills

- Leading a Technology Forum
- Holding a Seminar
- Research Presentation Skills (Parts 1, 2)