

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Course Syllabus
Fall 2026-27

Foundation in Listening & Speaking for Postgraduate Students

LANG5000

1 credit

Pre-requisites: N/A

Co-requisites: N/A

Name of Course Coordinators: William Lee

Email of Course Coordinators: lcwlee@ust.hk

Office Hours of Course Coordinators: Available by appointment only

Course Description

LANG 5000 is a one-credit course offered to full-time RPG students who have not fulfilled the University's RPG English Language Requirement (i.e. failed to attain Level 4 in one or more criteria in the Speaking Test in ELPA). Most students taking the course are in their Year 1 of RPG studies. Students attend three hours of class and complete up to six hours of out-of-class work, per week. The course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters. Assessment of the course is 100% coursework and on a pass/fail basis. The course focuses on helping students develop their Listening and Speaking skills, thus making it possible for them to cope with the linguistic demands of everyday oral communication in an English-medium university.

Course Content Overview

Pronunciation Skills
1. Understanding use of speech organs 2. Understanding vowels, consonants and syllables 3. Practising short and long vowels 4. Practising diphthongs 5. Practising other onset / final vowels that are commonly mispronounced 6. Practising word stress 7. Practising how to use schwa and weak forms 8. Practising sentence stress 9. Practising phrasing and chunking
Topic Development / Conversation Skills
1. Introducing oneself 2. Describing goals and future plans 3. Giving opinions with reasons 4. Describing a problem 5. Making and evaluating recommendations

6. Making comparison and contrast 7. Organising and signposting ideas 8. Speculating and making predictions 9. Structuring a short talk
Listening to Improve Speaking
1. Listening to authentic speaking samples and comparing pronunciation features 2. Listening to authentic speaking samples and identifying organisation pattern
Learning to Learn
1. Identifying learning needs 2. Identifying useful learning resources 3. Making a realistic and effective learning plan 4. Reporting on learning progress 5. Assessing learning progress

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

1. use accurate pronunciation and appropriate features of connected speech for effective English communication
2. speak about academic and social topics with appropriate and coherent Development
3. listen for phonetic and discursive features in English texts and show awareness of their own development of such in their speaking

Assessment and Grading

First Speaking Assessment	A 3-3.5-minute talk about the importance of the student's field of study and its contribution to society
Independent Language Learning	A Language Learning Portfolio which contains a language learning plan and a 2-minute verbal reports on learning progress
ELPA	Speaking assessment

Assessments

This course is graded pass/fail. You must pass the ELPA speaking assessment in order to pass the course.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs
First Speaking assessment	ILO 1, 2
Independent Language Learning	ILO 1, 2, 3
ELPA	ILO 1, 2

Course AI Policy

Students are encouraged to use AI tools to help with their independent language learning.

Required Texts and Materials

Course materials and additional resources are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.