

Gap Semester Programme ACADEMIC SKILLS

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

Objectives

This course equips students with the skills and tools required for undergraduate studies and academic research. Students become familiar with scientific and academic language and practice, gain an understanding of the functioning, grounding of academic disciplines, and explore the ethical limits of different disciplines. Different approaches to research are covered, from the analytical to the critical.

Students are encouraged to practise core skills such as academic writing, presentations, project planning and time management while developing more complex skills, such as critical thinking, reflective practice analysis and assessment.

The course aims to enable students to excel academically, creatively and personally during their undergraduate years.

Learning Outcomes

General:

- Develop capacities and strategies for independent learning including becoming actively responsible for the learning process, developing the ability to self-assess progress and manage time.
- Enhance teamwork skills by adopting a collaborative methodology to complete tasks, projects and presentations.
- Understand the requirements and structure of academic programmes.
- Adapt to working in an international context, understanding the intercultural make-up of the class / group and developing empathy.
- Critically evaluate the skills and approaches required in different contexts.
- Use different media to support learning, communication and presentation skills.
- Incorporate feedback and assessment from professors and peers to enhance learning.

Specific:

- Understand the role of Higher Education and its function within society.
- See Higher Education as part of continuous professional and personal development.
- Find and develop learning strategies to maximize performance.
- Be familiar with current digital platforms and their value for students.
- Be able to conduct different types of academic analysis.
- Apply different analytical and synthetic methods in different fields of study.
- Be prepared to apply qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.
- Reflect on learning experiences and styles and be able to adapt to different situations.
- Develop and plan different stages of a research project.

Programme

Week 1. - Higher Education and You

Week 2. - The European Context

Week 3. - What to expect at University: teaching and learning

Week 4. - Digital tools for Higher Education

Week 5. - Enquiry, research and interpretation

Week 6. - The planning process, project and time management

Week 7. - Research Methods

Week 8. - Written communication

Week 9. - Oral communication

Week 10. - Review and reflection

Week 11. - Assessment and feedback

Week 12. - Presentation

Week 13. - Final assessment

Approach

The course is built around the skills and knowledge required for success in Higher Education. Lectures, classroom discussions, experimentation and practical tasks are used in a model that values student partnership, enquiry and promotes collaboration. Throughout the course, students apply the theoretical input to a variety of projects to be presented and evaluated. Students demonstrate their understanding of academic skills and that they can apply them in their chosen field of study through presentations, papers, assessment and analysis.

Assessment criteria

25% Continuous assessment

25% Presentations

25% Research Paper

25% Participation and class activities

Bibliography

VVAA, (2016) Student Development in College: Theory, Research and Practice, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass.

Arthur, Nancy (2004), Counseling International Students: Clients from around the World, London, Routledge.

Richek, Margaret Ann (2010), The World of Words: Vocabulary for College Students, Hampshire, Wadsworth Publishing.

Turabian, Kate (2007), A Manual for Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, (7th Edition).