



English for Applied Economics

Course Outline

This is an 80-hour, mornings-only, four-week course for students of Economics. The students will work in a closed group on a range of activities designed to develop their English for Economics studies, extend their academic vocabulary and skills in reading about, writing about and discussing these subjects, while at the same time improving their communicative competence and seminar skills. There are three main strands in the course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- read and summarise short texts on economics topics
- explain a range of economics topics to others
- work in a group to plan and present a poster on an economic sector
- write a short report following appropriate academic conventions
- deliver a coherent 10-minute presentation based on research and/or a survey
- speak more fluently on a range of general and economics topics

1. Academic Reading and Writing Skills for Economics

These sessions will be focused on writing and reading in an academic context, specifically in Economics and related topics. Each session will concentrate on a particular aspect of academic writing and reading, examining samples of academic texts and working on interactive tasks that focus on features of academic discourse. Students will prepare written assignments over the course of the four weeks, putting into practice what they have studied in these sessions. The writing sessions will be linked to the reading sessions and look at areas such as academic style, writing a business report, and interpreting graphs. Reading skills sessions will use authentic texts taken from sources such as the Economist and national newspapers and the sessions will also focus on effective note-taking. Topic areas will include the Scottish Economy, investing in overseas markets, and current news items.

2. Academic Seminar Skills & Poster Conference

These sessions aim to build speaking skills, with a focus on fluency development and confidence in using English. Seminar skills will be developed through language input and practice followed by participation in an academic seminar, and will culminate in student-led seminars. The poster conference is based on the Scottish economy, and will involve research, poster preparation and participation in a poster conference.

3. Academic Research Projects

Students will work in pairs to carry out a research project on a topic related to economics. This will involve background research, questionnaire design, and interviews with members of the public if appropriate. Teachers will guide the students through the process, advising on suitable sources of information and research subjects. Mentors will help with ideas and advice on data collection and delivery of the results. The research projects will be presented in the final week of the course, following input and practice on presentation language and skills in a formal academic setting.



Guided Study

Some guided study opportunities will be available for the students in some afternoons if they would like to do group work on their posters or projects, or individually on academic writing tasks, following guidance from their teachers. *Note, there will not be a teacher present, though mentors may be.* A classroom will be available to the students.

Mentors

A mentor is an English-speaking university undergraduate who works with the students to provide opportunities for the participants to use their English in interaction with English-language speakers of a similar age. Mentors are present for about 15 hours a week in the classroom, at social programme events, and as part of their role, will arrange some informal activities for students to join if they wish. Having access to mentors helps participants to boost their confidence in speaking and listening, and to get advice and information on aspects of British life and culture, student life in Edinburgh, places to go in the evenings and at weekends, and so on.

Feedback

During the course, students will have at least two short small-group tutorials with the class teacher to discuss progress. Students will receive feedback on their language throughout the four weeks. An individual report will be prepared for students at the end of the course and forwarded to their university. Students will also receive a certificate of attendance.

Timetable

Note: Friday of Week 2 is a holiday for the group.

Week 1

Session	9:00 - 10:50	11:10-13:00	14:00-16:00
Mon 11/08	Welcome, Course Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passport checks - IT troubleshooting Tour of campus & local area	Speaking Skills: asking and answering questions	City Tour with Mentors
Tues	Writing Skills 1: Writing a profile	Reading Skills 1: Dealing with unfamiliar vocabulary	Free
Wed	Reading Skills 2: What is Economics? & AWL	Research Project: Introduction	University Central Area Walk with Mentors
Thurs	Reading Skills 3: Scottish Economy Check profile with partner/peer edit	Research Project: Planning & Questionnaire Design	Free Ceilidh (evening)
Fri	Writing Skills 2: Academic Writing Style <i>Submit profile by 5pm</i>	Research Project: Language and Confidence	National Museum of Scotland with Mentors



Week 2

Session	9:00 - 10:50	11:10-13:00	14:00-16:00
Mon 18/08	Writing Skills 3 & Reading Skills 4: The Japanese Economy	Introduction to Poster Conference	Parliament Visit with Mentor
Tues	Writing Skills 4: Describing Trends	Poster Conference Planning	Small-group Tutorials with teachers
Wed	Business Report 1: Introduction/ Understanding the task	Presentation Skills: Handling Questions	Walk to Princes St Gardens & National Gallery with Mentors
Thurs	Poster Conference		Free
Fri	YNU Holiday /No classes		

Week 3

Session	9:00 - 10:50	11:10-13:00	14:00-16:00
Mon 25/08	Business Report 2: Structure and Content	Academic Seminar Skills 1 Opinions and Clarification	Free
Tues	Writing Skills 5: Paragraphs	Research Project: Planning Presentation	Picnic in Holyrood Park with Mentors
Wed	Business Report 3: Language	Academic Seminar Skills 2: Leading a Seminar Discussion	Research Project Planning
Thurs	Writing Skills 6: Hedging Language	Dragon's Den Preparation & Pitching	Free
Fri	Writing Skills 7: Citation and Referencing: Basics	Review/Project catch-up	Free



Week 4

Session	9:00 - 10:50	11:10-13:00	14:00-16:00
Mon 01/09	Business Report 4: Presenting your findings/Q&	Research Project: Presenting Data; PPT Design; Abstract	Free
Tues	Business Report: Peer Review, Editing and Proofreading Workshop	Presentation Skills: Delivery	Small-group Tutorials with teachers
Wed	Research Project Presentations & Business Report: Final Planning & Guidance	Research Project Presentation Skills: Practice	Research Project Practice <i>Submit report 8pm</i>
Thurs	Research Project: Final Presentations		Final activity with Mentor to be decided by group
Fri	Presentations Feedback & Reflection Review Activities Evaluations & Farewell		Free