

**Subject title:** Presentation Skills for Research Students

**Subject code:** ELC6001

**Credit value:** Nil

**Pre-requisites:** Nil

**Contact hours:** 26

## **Objective**

This subject aims to develop the spoken English language and communication skills required by research students to present their research projects effectively in academic contexts.

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the subject, students should be able to present their research to academic audiences in research-related contexts such as conferences and vivas through

1. planning, organising and delivering effective oral presentations, and
2. reporting and defending their research.

To achieve the above outcomes, students are expected to use language and organisational structure appropriate to the context, select information critically, justify various aspects of the research, present and support stance and opinion, and analyse the impact and significance of the research.

## **Content**

The content is indicative. The balance of the components, and the corresponding weighting, will be based on the specific needs of the students.

### **1. Planning and organising presentations**

Identifying purposes and audiences; selecting and organising information and ideas; using appropriate organisational patterns.

### **2. Using visual aids in presentations**

Analysing the characteristics of different types of commonly-used visual aids; selecting visual aids; planning and preparing visual aids; describing graphics; practising the techniques of using different visual aids.

### **3. Delivering presentations**

Using transitions; signposting the presentation; selecting appropriate register; employing non-verbal interactive strategies; handling questions.

## **Teaching and learning approach**

The study method is primarily seminar-based. Activities include teacher input as well as individual and group work. Students will be provided with opportunities to practise

giving oral presentations related to their research. Through practice supported by video-recording, students will learn to evaluate their presentations and obtain advice on presentations related to their research. Students will be referred to information on the Internet and the ELC's Centre for Independent Language Learning.

Learning materials developed by the English Language Centre are used throughout this course. Additional reference materials will be recommended as required.

### **Assessment**

Continuous assessment: 100%

Students' oral skills are evaluated through assessment tasks related to the learning outcomes. Students are assessed on the fluency, accuracy and appropriacy of the language used in fulfilling the assessment tasks, as well as the selection and organisation of ideas.

### **Indicative references**

Cauldwell, R. (2002). *Streaming speech: Listening and pronunciation for advanced learners of English* (2nd ed.). Birmingham: Speechinaction.

Hancock, M. (2003). *English pronunciation in use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jay, A. and Jay, R. (2000). *Effective presentation*. London: Prentice Hall.

Madden, C. G. & Rohlck, T. N. (1997). *Discussion and interaction in the academic community*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Reinhart, S. (2002). *Giving academic presentations*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.