Frequently asked questions

What is the Academic Success Programme?

The Academic Success Programme consists of workshops and online support in academic English. It is designed to support students and staff of the University of Manchester, regardless of what their mother tongue is.

What is the difference between pre-sessional courses and the Academic Success Programme?

Pre-sessional courses (in academic English) are designed for international students hoping to progress onto a university programme. Successful completion of a pre-sessional course usually indicates that the student's English language level has been raised to that required by their School. Pre-sessional courses are open to the public, are full-time and attract a weekly tuition fee. Upon successful completion, a pre-sessional student will receive a course report.

The Academic Success Programme is open to all students who are currently studying at the University of Manchester. It aims to take your Academic English beyond what you have already learned, and to support you during your main course, so that you can succeed in your assignments. The Academic Success Programme workshops are free of charge to students and are not open to the public. We do not formally assess you and we do not issue certificates of attendance.

Are workshops online or on-campus?

Our aim is to provide a choice of on-campus and online workshops. Online workshops are marked as such on the website.

How do I join Academic Success Programme workshops?

Visit www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme, select 'Workshops' and type the name of your degree programme into the 'View our available workshops' box. Click on the purple button with 'Explore your School's workshops for ….' and view the timetable, which will be available from mid-September. Find a course you are interested in, and note the time and location.

Semester 2 courses will be made available closer to the end of Semester 1. We offer specialised support with dissertation writing and repeat some of the Semester 1 workshop blocks.

What happens during a workshop?

During the workshop, you will be asked to register your attendance via a QR code or hyperlink at each workshop you attend. The tutor will also share another QR code with a link to enrol on our Canvas site, where you will find the materials and other resources.

How big are the classes?

The number of students attending our workshops can vary from week to week, but the maximum class size is determined by the size of the classroom; this is usually 50 students.

What happens if the class I want is already full?

If an on-campus class is already full, the tutor will put a sign on the door, which will state that the class is full, and there will be a QR code to our website, where you can look for alternative courses and times. We recommend that you arrive early to avoid missing out.

In Semester 2, we aim to repeat some of the Semester 1 workshops as well as run additional workshops (e.g. Writing Your Dissertation).

Where can I find timetable information?

Follow the steps described under 'How do I join Academic Success Programme workshops?' Note that our website is updated on a regular basis.

How many Academic Success Programme classes do I need to attend?

We repeat a number of our workshops each week to allow students to fit in classes around their academic commitments. You only need to go to one class of each skill (academic writing, academic grammar, academic speaking) per week, but note there are two blocks of workshops for each skill.

Do I have to pay for the Academic Success Programme?

No, the workshops are free of charge to all University of Manchester students, staff and visiting fellows.

Will I earn any credits / get a certificate for attending the Academic Success Programme?

No, the Academic Success Programme is a support service and is not formally assessed. You will not receive credits for attending the workshops. Certificates of attendance are not issued, although we keep a log of student attendance for statistical purposes and to inform school administrators/personal tutors of attendance, should they require this information.

Will attending the Academic Success Programme workshops help me with my academic application?

Although we are happy to provide whatever information we can on the University Centre for Academic English's Academic Success Programme, we are unable to advise or assist prospective students with their academic application. Prospective students should contact admissions staff in their destination School for guidance at the application stage.

By passing these courses, will I satisfy the condition of my academic offer?

The Academic Success Programme is for students *who have already met their destination School's minimum language requirements*. Unless stated otherwise by your School, attendance on these courses is voluntary: the courses are not formally assessed so they cannot be passed or failed.

I am a visiting researcher / international member of staff – can I take Academic Success Programme workshops?

Yes, you're welcome to join.

Do classes continue throughout reading week?

Please check www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme for the timetable.

Can you proof-read / correct my assignment for me?

Unfortunately, we do not offer a proof-reading/correction service in the University Centre for Academic English. However, we do offer Academic Writing Tutorials, and you can find out how to register by visiting our website:

https://www.ucae.manchester.ac.uk/study/academic-success-programme/academic-writing-tutorials/

Should I take one of your full-time English language courses to improve my English?

No, for two main reasons: (a) your academic commitments will not allow you enough time to attend a full-time English language course and (b) the University Centre for Academic English's full-time courses are designed for *pre*-registration students seeking University preparation and to bring their IELTS / TOEFL score up to their destination School's minimum entry requirement so they would not be pitched at the level you require.

I would like to participate in a foreign (e.g. German, Spanish, Chinese, etc.) language course – how do I join?

Information on LEAP foreign language courses can be found at https://www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/study/university-language-centre-leap-courses/ .