

Academic Success Programme (Open)

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, whether or not English is their first language. It was formerly known as the In-sessional programme.

Should I attend the Academic Success Programme workshops?

No-one is born speaking academic English – native and non-native speakers have to learn it. We would encourage you to try a class and find out for yourself what you think. In welcome week we run a series of taster classes to give you a flavour – see our website www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme for details. We do not require you to take any kind of test before attending our workshops.

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 (see <http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/preessional-english/>). The student receives a transfer report upon successful completion of the course.

The **Academic Success Programme** in academic English is open to all students who are currently registered on a course at this University. It aims to take your Academic English beyond what you learned on pre-sessional, and to support you during your main course so you can succeed with 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 your workshops remote (online) or on-campus (face-to-face)?

During 2020-2021 we ran all of the Academic Success Programme online. For 2021-2022, our aim is to provide as much choice as possible in terms of remote (via Zoom) or on-campus workshops, following University policy and UK laws on social distancing and face-to-face contact. However, if this advice changes, we may need to move on-campus classes to remote delivery.

How do I register and attend the Academic Success Programme workshops?

In Semester 1, visit www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme to view the timetable - available in early September. Click on a course to register and login with your University username and password. Once you have done this you will receive a confirmation email containing further information.

Information re: Semester 2 will be made available closer to the end of semester 1, but the registration process is basically the same. We offer specialised support with dissertation writing and repeat some of the Semester 1 workshop blocks.

How do I attend the Academic Success Programme workshops?

We aim to add the workshop to your My Manchester timetable, but note that this will not always be possible, especially if you sign up just before the workshop. However, you will get an email detailing the day, time and Zoom location/building and classroom. You should keep this email as it will help you find the right class.

During the workshop, you will be asked to register your attendance at each workshop you attend. This is so we can get an idea of which students are attending the Academic Success programme, and so understand how to help them with academic English.

For online workshops, you will need to use a version of Zoom where you have signed in with your University of Manchester email address. For on-campus workshops, you may be asked to complete a short online survey to confirm your attendance, which will be accessed via a QR code, or fill in a paper attendance sheet which will be circulated.

What happens if the class I want is already full?

Our workshops run in blocks of four – in other words, there is one workshop per week, on the same day at the same time, every week for four weeks. The workshops usually start in the first teaching week of each semester, with another start date in Week 5. So if the block you would like is full, you should be able to sign up for a later start date. Note that you can take the blocks in any order. In Semester 2, we aim to repeat some of the Semester 1 workshops as well as run new workshops called Writing Your Dissertation.

Where can I find timetable information?

www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme. Note that this page is updated on a regular basis as new workshop dates are added.

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) 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.

Does it matter if I vary class attendance to fit in with my academic work (e.g. go to Monday academic writing one week and to Thursday academic writing during other weeks)?

We understand that you may have varying academic commitments throughout the teaching session. However, if you are going to change class in Semester 1, please inform us by emailing academicsuccess@manchester.ac.uk quoting your student number.

If I no longer wish to attend a class, should I inform you?

Yes, especially in Semester 1. If you are going to stop attending a class, please inform us by emailing academicsuccess@manchester.ac.uk

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 also 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 registering for the Academic Success Programme workshops help me with my academic application?

Although we are happy to provide whatever information we can on the University Language Centre'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 can.

Do classes continue throughout reading week?

Yes.

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

Unfortunately we do not offer a proof-reading/correction service in the University Language Centre.

Should I do 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 Language Centre'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 <http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/learn-a-language/>