

Programme Specification

8313: Pre-sessional for Foundation Year 2021

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Eight weeks of Full Time study
Accreditation details	Not applicable
Final award	Not applicable
Name of award	Not applicable
Interim Exit awards	Not applicable
FHEQ level of final award	Not applicable
UCAS code	Not applicable
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Not applicable
Programme Leads	Nick Barratt, Director of Pre-sessional Programmes Elwyn Edwards, Deputy Director of Pre-sessional Programmes
Date specification was written	16/11/2018
Date Programme was validated	January 2019
Date specification last updated	January 2019

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This eight-week summer programme is designed for students who have the academic qualifications to join one of the University of Southampton's foundation year programmes, but who need an English language level of IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent).

You will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of teaching and learning activities to review, practice and enhance all aspects of your communication skills in English in order to be an effective and successful Foundation student.

You will be expected to demonstrate that you have achieved the level in the assessed tasks you have to complete as part of this programme.

You will have an average of 18 weekly hours of teaching in classes, workshops and tutorials. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles. You will also be expected to carry out further independent study (homework) and complete assessments outside the classroom.

Special Features of the programme

This programme lasts for eight weeks during the summer and the aim is to allow you to improve your English level to the standard required to join your Foundation Year Programme at the University of Southampton in the autumn. This programme focuses on reinforcing your general communication skills in English. It does not include 'academic English' because the specialised forms of English you will need to study at a UK university will be studied on your Foundation Year Programme.

Learning and teaching

This Pre-sessional programme consists of four core modules: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. Although these are defined as separate modules, this is an integrated programme, in which

each skill is taught together. We use communicative teaching methods. This means that your classes will include a range of activities designed to enhance your English language skills.

A range of learning activities will be used on this short programme. These include:

- writing tasks
- reading tasks
- group discussions
- project work
- grammar and vocabulary revision and review
- listening comprehension tasks
- individual tutorials

Assessment

The assessment methods are designed to indicate that your English communication skills have improved to the level needed for you to be a successful foundation year student.

You will demonstrate the improvement in your English language communication skills by completing a range of assessed tasks.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- Improve all aspects of your English language skills to allow you to participate successfully in your Foundation Year Programme alongside students who have already achieved a language level of IELTS 5.5.
- To consolidate and expand your knowledge of English and UK life and culture
- To enable you to benefit fully from the experience of studying at the University of Southampton, initially as a foundation year student and subsequently as an undergraduate.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The English language skills required to be a successful foundation year student.
- A2. Communicate clearly and effectively in written English
- A3. Speak English in a variety of environments ranging from university classes and tutorials to everyday situations such as shops, social venues and the doctors.
- A4. How to listen to maximise your understanding of spoken English in a variety of situations including the classroom, conversations with your fellow student and tutors, broadcasts and films and in everyday situations in the UK.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The communicative style of teaching and the combination of individual and group work will introduce to you to some of the range of teaching methods you will experience in your future studies at the University of Southampton.

Assessment methods

The programme aims to enhance all aspects of your communication skills in English to ensure that you will be equipped linguistically for your foundation programme. Therefore a range of activities and methods will be used to assess your ability.

These will include:

- Writing short essays (maximum 500 words) and magazine articles
- Observed discussions and interviews.
- Listening comprehension tests
- Reading comprehension tests
- Project work

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Participate successfully in all the teaching and learning activities of your foundation year programme.

Programme Structure

The Pre-sessional for Foundation Year Students consists of four modules; Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The programme structure table is shown below

Module Code	Module Title
PRES0055	Listening
PRES0056	Reading
PRES0057	Speaking
PRES0058	Writing

Typical course content

The overall aim of this programme is not only to improve the accuracy of your English, but also increase the confidence with which you use your English. To achieve this you will take part in a variety of classroom activities including individual and group work, role play, discussions and debates. You will use a variety of resources including the internet, broadcasts, books and journals. You will also be encouraged to use your experience of living and studying in the UK as a basis for some tasks and project work.

A key element of this short programme will be the individual feedback you receive from the tutors, which will enable you to build on your strengths and focus on areas of weakness in your English.

Progression Requirements

The Programme follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Pre-sessional Programmes as set out in the University Calendar.

If you complete the Pre-sessional Programme with the minimum English level requirements as set out in your conditional offer from your admitting Faculty Recruitment and Admissions Team, you will have met the English language requirements of the University of Southampton.

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- Library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- High-speed access to online electronic learning resources from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; including laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- Computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- Standard ICT tools such as email, secure filestore and calendars.
- Access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal, which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling.
- Assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- The Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00-08.00) a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

- An academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- Opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- An Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Additional online information and teaching materials on the programme's *BlackBoard* platform, the programme's dedicated *Virtual Learning environment* (VLE).

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report

Career Opportunities

The language skills you acquire and enhance on the Pre-sessional Programme will be valuable in many aspects of your future academic and professional career.

External Examiners for the programme

Name:

1. **Name** Mr Richard Hitchcock
Institution University of Portsmouth

2. **Name** Ms Norlene Conway
Institution University of London

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Appendix 1:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays and assignments, as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Printing and Photocopying Costs		<p>In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays, projects, and dissertations are likely to be submitted online. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit online and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here:</p> <p>A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/</p>
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)		<p>Some modules may include optional visits to a museum, galleries, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.</p>