

## Programme Specification

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**Academic Year: 2021**

### **8808 Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online**

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	Language Training and Testing Center (LTTC) at the National University of Taiwan (NTU) <u>and</u> the University of Southampton [full-time]
Mode of study	5 weeks of full-time study at LTTC Taiwan 6 weeks of full-time study on University of Southampton Pre-sessional 6 online
Duration in years	Not applicable
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
Date specification was written	30/11/2018
Date Programme was validated	
Date specification last updated	

### **Programme Overview**

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Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online (11 weeks) is designed for International students from Taiwan who:

- need to improve their language skills as a condition of entry to the University of Southampton
- or
- have already met the English language conditions for entry to the University, but who want to find out more about the use of English in academic study and expectations relating to academic life in the UK.

If you are an International student from Taiwan, you may complete the first 5 weeks of the Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online programme at the Language Testing and Training Centre (LTTC) at National Taiwan University. You will then go on to join Pre-sessional 6.

<b>PART 1 (5 weeks)</b>	<b>PART 2 (6 weeks)</b>
<b>LTTC (Taiwan)</b>	<b>Pre-sessional 6 University of Southampton online (UK)</b>

Programme web pages:

Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online will:

- help you to develop the English language skills you will need to follow a taught degree programme or undertake research at a UK university
- help you to develop the necessary study skills for effective learning through the medium of English
- give you a chance to adjust to a UK academic environment online before starting your degree programme at the University of Southampton.

Students who successfully complete Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online with the minimum English level requirements (stated in your conditional offer from your admitting Faculty Recruitment and Admissions Team), will have met the English language requirements of the University of Southampton.

### **Special Features of the programme**

ALL Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online will be allocated to subject area study groups when they join Pre-sessional 6. This means that whether you are studying at Southampton Business School or hoping to study Law or Engineering or Art or any degree at the University of Southampton you will study with students from the same Faculty and in most cases similar degree programmes. All Southampton Pre-sessional programmes are designed to prepare you for study in your subject area. Our group system means that you will have the opportunity to meet and work with students who have the same interests as you and will enable your tutor to make the Pre-sessional relevant for your future degree programme.

### **Learning and teaching**

The Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online consists of five core modules: academic reading, academic writing, academic listening, academic speaking and independent learning. During part 1 at LTTC and part 2 on Pre-sessional 6, teaching of key skills will be integrated as much as possible, e.g. with critical reading being an essential aspect of writing.

LTTC (part 1) serves as a preparatory course, familiarising you with important concepts, preparing you for the levels of language and engagement that form essential parts of your Pre-sessional 6 online. You will experience group activities, private study time, tutorials and more traditional language classes across each module.

Pre-sessional 6 online consists of five core modules: Academic Reading, Academic Writing, Academic Listening, Academic Speaking and Independent Learning. You will have approximately 20 University hours per week interacting with Pre-sessional academic staff and/or teaching materials, including live taught sessions, live tutorials, live feedback and small group interactions and a range of recorded material and study tasks. In addition, because this is an academic programme, you will also be expected to carry out further independent study and complete programme assessments.

You will view recorded lectures from University of Southampton academics, which are usually arranged by subject area, such as Business, Engineering or Art and have tutorials with your tutors in which you receive feedback on your learning to help you further develop your language and academic skills.

Written, in-class (during live online teaching) and tutorial feedback will be provided to enable you to identify your strengths and weaknesses and continue to develop your language and academic skills effectively. Your tutors will give extensive guidance, by providing clear advice on where to find reference and source materials. However, a clear feature of university study is that you will learn to take more responsibility for your own learning as the programme develops.

### **Learning activities at LTTC and University of Southampton include:**

- academic writing tasks
- academic reading tasks e.g. identifying reliable sources
- academic oral interactions, including seminar work and presentations
- grammar and vocabulary work
- academic listening and note-taking activities e.g. from lectures or recorded sources
- information gathering activities i.e. research
- tutorials in which you will receive academic advice
- independent learning workshops.

## Assessment

Part 1 of the Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan - Southampton Pathway in Taiwan is preparatory and therefore is not formally assessed. There are, however, formative writing assignments which integrate reading and research skills. Other skill areas are also not assessed, but serve to prepare you for the skills required in the University of Southampton assessments on Pre-sessional 6 online, which forms Part 2 of the Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online.

Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, which include formative and summative language and study skills tasks. Summative language tasks will assess your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding, often asking you to present an argument within a limited period.

Coursework may include tasks such as essays, writing study reports, preparing academic presentations, and for online sessions with tutors. Ongoing coursework tests your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding of academic language and study skills, to work independently, to do research and to construct in-depth arguments over a much longer period.

**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 key aims of Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online are to:

- consolidate and extend your existing English language knowledge and communication skills in order to facilitate under-graduate or post-graduate academic study
- develop the academic study skills required for study in higher education in the UK and familiarise yourself with the learning and teaching strategies used in higher education in the UK
- help you to adapt to life in the UK both within and beyond the academic environment.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

### Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1. The relevant conventions followed in academic English (both written and spoken) e.g. referencing, appropriate formality

A2. What is expected of a student in UK higher education, especially in terms of approach to studying and learning e.g. active and independent learning

A3. How to efficiently identify and use reliable sources appropriate for your discipline e.g. use of library sources

A4. How to understand texts such as journal articles in which writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints

A5. How academic texts are coherently constructed e.g. abstracts

A6. How to read efficiently in order to complete necessary research e.g. skimming and scanning

A7. How to construct an academic essay, or similar piece of academic writing, which involves the use of sources

A8. How to write clear, detailed text supporting your points with academic evidence e.g. in text citation

A9. How to write essays of different styles

A10. How to identify the structure of lectures and produce well-organised presentations e.g. introduction

A11. How to identify the main and supporting points in lectures e.g. signposting language, discourse markers

A12. How to process extended speech and follow complex lines of argument

A13. How to take an active part in discussions and to sustain a point of view e.g. seminars

A14. How to deliver academic presentations e.g. preparation, structure, flow.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Although there are separate modules, Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online language and study skills teaching will be integrated as much as possible. For example, when you join Pre-sessional B at the University of Southampton you will have one tutor who will teach Reading and Writing modules and one tutor who will teach Listening and Speaking modules.

We encourage the use of communicative teaching methods, and this means that any teaching session could include use of each of the four language skills. You further develop your study skills through independent learning workshops and academic advising sessions. You will also attend lectures of academic interest, and all modules use online material.

Depending on the assessment type, written, in-class and tutorial feedback will be provided to enable you to identify your strengths and weaknesses, and continue to develop your language and academic skills effectively. Tutors will give extensive guidance, especially through recommendations of reference and source materials. You will learn to take more responsibility for your own learning as you move through the programme.

### ***Assessment methods***

Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, which include examinations and coursework. Examinations assess your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding, often asking you to present an argument within a limited period of time. Coursework may include tasks such as essays, class presentations, and seminars. These tasks test your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding of academic language and study skills, and to construct an in-depth argument over a much longer period of time.

The assessments you undertake are as per the table below. Formative assessment refers to those assessments for which you will receive feedback, whereas summative assessments count towards your final mark.

Feedback is also provided on your summative researched essay.

Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan - Southampton Pathway online:

Part 1 (LTTC, Taiwan)

Skill (% of final mark)	Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online: Part 1
Reading	Please contact LTTC for further details of formative assessments
Writing	Please contact LTTC for further details of formative assessments
Listening	Please contact LTTC for further details of formative assessments
Speaking	Please contact LTTC for further details of formative assessments

Part 2 University of Southampton online

Skill (% of final mark)	Pre-sessional Course 6
Reading (25%)	<p><b>Total 2 tasks</b></p> <p><u>1 formative task</u> RT1: Reading report (record of reading)</p> <p><u>1 summative task</u> RT2: Reading report (record of reading) (100%)</p>
Writing (25%)	<p><b>Total 3 tasks:</b></p> <p><u>3 formative tasks:</u> WT1: Identifying a topic [NOT SCORED] WT2: Researched writing - full draft [SCORED]</p> <p><u>2 summative tasks:</u> WT3: Researched writing task - full draft (1400 words) (100%)</p>
Listening (25%)	<p><b>Total 2 tasks</b></p> <p><u>2 formative tasks:</u> LT1 (F): Interactive listening task based on academic content</p> <p><u>1 summative task:</u> LT2 (S): Interactive listening task based on academic content</p>
Speaking (25%)	<p><b>Total 2 tasks</b></p> <p><u>1 formative tasks:</u> ST1 (F): Individual presentation task</p> <p><u>1 summative tasks:</u> ST2 (F): Individual presentation task</p>

**Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Recognise and understand academic vocabulary.
- B2. Identify appropriate sources of information for your subject area.
- B3. Locate resources for your subject area online.
- B4. Interpret and analyse a range of information from different sources.
- B5. Extract, paraphrase and synthesise key information from written and spoken sources.
- B6. Express facts, concepts and arguments clearly using appropriate language.
- B7. Understand and present detailed reasoning.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

The structure and content of Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online gives you the opportunity to develop a range of cognitive skills as you are introduced to the academic rigours of higher education in the UK. From the outset of the programme, cognitive skills are developed in communicative learning activities such as seminars, presentations, and discussions. Lectures and other listening activities develop the skills of processing and summarising information (internally and through notetaking and discussion). Critical thinking skills will be developed as you learn how to recognise subjectivity, analyse arguments objectively and to apply these skills in your own work. You further develop cognitive skills through researching and writing essays throughout the programme.

Depending on the assessment type, written feedback, spoken feedback and tutorial feedback is given to help you to identify any gaps in your cognitive skills. This allows you to develop your skills effectively by building on your strengths and/or addressing weaknesses or gaps in conveying subject specific knowledge or processing relevant research.

### ***Assessment methods***

Assessment methods include formative and summative assessments and coursework. Summative and formative assessments, whether written or oral, are designed to test your overall thinking skills in conditions where time and support for reflection are limited, and are designed to replicate real academic situations. Coursework assessment provides formative and summative testing against the intended learning outcomes of the module concerned.

Assessment tasks are directly related to learning outcomes of modules and integrate thinking skills with language knowledge outcomes. For example, a presentation and discussion on a specialist topic tests your ability to think through and organise your material in preparation, and to 'think on your feet' under questioning, as well as testing your topic knowledge, interactive skills, strategic competence, and your linguistic accuracy and fluency.

### **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Produce writing in appropriate academic genres and follow required conventions, including referencing.
- C2. Employ a range of general and academic vocabulary appropriately.

- C3. Apply a range of reading strategies to help you to read efficiently.
- C4. Listen to, understand and take notes from recorded academic lectures.
- C5. Actively participate in small online discussions and tutorials.
- C6. Prepare and deliver oral presentations.
- C7. Work as a member of a team by cooperating with others, negotiating, listening to others in a group, sharing responsibilities & tasks.
- C8. Adhere to guidelines and meet relevant deadlines.
- C9. Set and monitor individual goals, reflect on your own learning and feedback, and have the confidence to seek help when needed.
- C10. Use ICT to produce documents and other material.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Each Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online module (Academic Reading, Academic Writing, Academic Listening, Academic Speaking, Independent Learning) identifies specific linguistic and study / learning skills to be achieved. As the skills are rarely used in isolation, reading and writing modules are integrated within the Pre-sessional 6 syllabus as are the speaking and listening modules.

The Reading and Writing modules are structured to ensure the development of important transferable academic skills for both reading and writing, with tasks set to provide you with practice of the skills being covered in class. Before you arrive in Southampton, the LTTC Reading and Writing modules focus on structuring paragraphs and sentences, ordering and presenting content, developing fundamental reading strategies, familiarisation with academic texts, and how to begin incorporating reading into essays. To aid you in your future studies, when you arrive in Southampton, you will complete an online library induction at the start of the Pre-sessional 6 programme.

The first part of the Reading and Writing modules focuses on how to find information, how to read efficiently and to take notes, how to write structured paragraphs and essays, how to incorporate information from outside sources in the form of paraphrase, summary and quotation and how to recognise different academic genres. The second part of the reading and writing modules aims to develop and refine those skills already learnt and focuses on critical thinking skills, improving accuracy and increasing awareness of academic demands and expectations. These skills are essential for study on future university programmes.

The Listening and Speaking modules are also integrated and are structured so that you focus on developing your listening and speaking skills simultaneously. Activities include preparing for and attending a weekly lecture in which you learn to listen effectively and to take appropriate and useful notes while listening; these notes are used later in classroom discussions. Your speaking skills are further enhanced through the development of your presentation and seminar skills. You will also focus on improving your pronunciation. All these skills are highly transferable.

The Independent Learning module supports the Academic Reading, Academic Writing, Academic Listening and Academic Speaking modules and is designed to equip you with the transferable study skills that you need to be successful in your future studies. The module is designed to work in partnership with the reading and writing, and listening and speaking syllabi.

In short, all the skills you develop on Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online are transferable to your future studies and employment if you are in an English-speaking environment.

### ***Assessment methods***

The effectiveness of your communication, learning and research skills is tested through both assessed coursework and examinations, which involve writing of different kinds, group and individual projects, oral presentations and other interactive tasks.

Your use of ICT implicitly contributes to your assessment since it is a necessary condition for presenting much of your work.

## Programme Structure

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Module Title	Module Code
Academic Listening	PRESXXXX
Academic Reading	PRESXXXX
Academic Speaking	PRESXXXX
Academic Writing	PRESXXXX
Independent Learning	PRESXXXX

### Typical course content

Pre-sessional LTTC-Southampton Pathway Part 2 (Pre-sessional 6 online) consists of five modules: Academic Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Independent Learning. All modules are designed to contribute towards an improvement in your overall language ability, your academic communication and study skills, and enable you to meet the language entry requirements for your degree programme, which are almost always higher than the language entry requirements for Pre-sessional.

The Academic Reading module will focus on developing criticality in reading and how you approach research. The module will ask you to reflect actively on what you are reading and researching and demonstrate that you understand appropriate and inappropriate sources and explain your thought processes when undertaking reading and research. We would expect students to move from a limited understanding of research expectations at a UK university to a genuine understanding.

The Academic Listening module will encourage you to engage in listening from day one. This will involve listening to and engaging with peers and teaching staff and other members of the University community. You will listen to regular lectures on relevant subject related topics and develop your skills so that you can understand key points and relevant detail.

The Academic Speaking module will develop your ability not only to prepare and deliver formal academic presentations, but it will also develop skills of interacting with peers and teaching staff in seminar discussions and tutorials, and also less formal group work and classroom discussion. A key feature will be building confidence and fluency.

The Academic Writing module will develop your writing skills in a variety of academic contexts. A key focus will be on researched writing skills and how to convert reading into writing, but the module will also develop your core communication skills in written form with an emphasis on coherence and cohesion in writing and an understanding of structure from sentence to paragraph level and beyond.

The Independent Learning module is a key aspect of University of Southampton Pre-sessionals. It is designed as a non-assessed addition to your study package and has a focus on developing study skills at a very functional level. This could anything from accessing University services and further discussion of academic skills to a more informal discussion of any part of the student experience. This has been identified as a special feature of Southampton Pre-sessional programmes by students and by external examiners.

### Progression Requirements



The Programme follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Pre-sessional Programmes 2020.

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**

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- 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.
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- The University provides:
- library resources, including e-books, online journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up to date; together with guidance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- 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 online tools such as email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal
- IT support through a comprehensive website.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling.
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries
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- The Students' Union provides:
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
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- Associated with your programme you will be able to access:
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- an induction to the programme
- a dedicated integrated Blackboard site for the programme
- a dedicated Pre-sessional student hub Blackboard site
- regular access to the dedicated academic skills team for advice and conversation
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### **Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning**

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

- completing online student evaluation questionnaires at the end of the programme
- completing a feedback questionnaire sent by the Students' Union

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
- a national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

## Criteria for Admission

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The minimum English level requirements for Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online will depend on the entry requirements for your chosen degree programme stated in your conditional offer from your admitting Faculty Recruitment and Admissions Team. For Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online this will typically be 1.0 IELTS band below entry for your chosen degree programme.

## Career Opportunities

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The communication and research skills you will develop on Pre-sessional LTTC Taiwan-Southampton Pathway online are highly transferable. The increased ability to work with peers, express ideas and understand complex language should mean that future career opportunities will be enhanced.

## External Examiner(s) for the programme

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<b>Name:</b> Mr Richard Hitchcock <b>Institution:</b> University of Portsmouth	<b>Name:</b> Ms Norlene Conway <b>Institution:</b> University of London
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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.

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**Please note:** 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. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at:

[http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/international/language\\_support/presess.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/international/language_support/presess.page)

## Appendix:

### Additional Costs (at University of Southampton only)

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations 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](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk).

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Stationery		You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items (e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks). We do not expect any further stationery costs.
Textbooks		No specific textbooks are required for this programme.
Printing and Photocopying Costs		In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: <a href="https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page">https://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page</a>
Parking Costs		Parking for students is extremely limited and permit applications are restricted. You may apply for a permit for an academic campus if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are registered as a student.</li> <li>You have a University computing account. If you do not yet have an account you can apply for one on <a href="#">Subscribe</a>. Once you have applied your account is normally active within 15 minutes.</li> <li>You are disabled, have medical reasons or have extenuating circumstances which make it necessary to bring a car to campus.</li> </ul> <a href="https://www.southampton.ac.uk/transport/parking/student-parking-permits.page">https://www.southampton.ac.uk/transport/parking/student-parking-permits.page</a>