

Academic Language
Support Service



Loughborough
University

Pre-sessional Programmes 2022





Pre-sessional Programmes focus

The main emphasis for the Pre-sessional Programmes is on academic English. Whilst you are expected to read and conduct research on your subject area for your programme work, the pre-sessional programmes cover English for academic purposes that can be applied to any discipline. These programmes are very different from other English language programmes students may have taken previously; they also develop your academic skills such as critical thinking and integrating sources and help you to understand UK academic conventions.

Please note these programmes are full-time and attendance is compulsory. You should expect to study for at least 8 hours per day.

Aims

The Pre-sessional Programmes will prepare you for the demands of your programme of study by:

- increasing your overall level of English language proficiency;
- equipping you with the academic English and study skills required to cope with the learning demands of a Loughborough degree programme; and
- assisting your integration into the British social and academic environment.

Learning outcomes

The Pre-sessional Programme is designed to equip you with the skills to succeed on your academic programme here at Loughborough University.

By the end of the programme, successful students should be better able to:

- deliver effective oral presentations;
- function within a variety of speaking situations in an academic context, including seminar discussions and tutorials;
- identify key points in a lecture and take effective notes;
- plan, structure, write and review extended pieces of writing;
- demonstrate an understanding of academic writing conventions, to include in-text citation, referencing, direct quotation and bibliographies;
- summarise and paraphrase effectively from written and spoken sources;
- write reflectively on their academic development and independent learning;
- use a range of reading strategies for different purposes;
- critically read, analyse and evaluate academic texts;
- locate, research and take effective notes from written sources;
- work independently and collaboratively.

Assessments

Assessments cover each of the four skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening, and are based on the academic skills and language development you learn during the programme. Each of these assessments has been carefully planned into your timetabled learning. Experienced tutors will mark your work and provide personalised feedback to help guide you on the areas upon which you could improve.

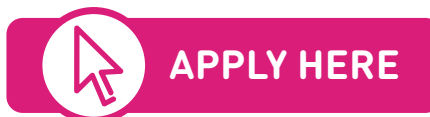
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Pre-sessional dates, fees and entry requirements

PROGRAMME	COST	LENGTH (WEEKS)	DATES	MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS*	APPLICATION DEADLINE
ONLINE PROGRAMME C	£4950	11	Monday 27 June – Friday 16 September 2022	The minimum requirement for this course is IELTS 5.5 overall with no subtest below 5.0 Please note: Some schools have higher entry requirements Check here for undergraduate , postgraduate taught or postgraduate research programme requirements	11.59pm BST (GMT +1) Sunday 29 May 2022
ONLINE PROGRAMME D	£2700	6	Monday 18 July – Friday 02 September 2022	The minimum requirement for this course is IELTS 6.0 overall with no subtest below 5.5 Please note: Some schools have higher entry requirements Check here for undergraduate , postgraduate taught or postgraduate research programme requirements	11.59pm BST (GMT +1) Sunday 19 June 2022
CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMME D	£2700	6	Tuesday 09 August – Friday 23 September 2022	The minimum requirement for this course is IELTS 6.0 overall with no subtest below 5.5. Secure English Language Test (SELT) required. Please note: Some schools have higher entry requirements Check here for undergraduate , postgraduate taught or postgraduate research programme requirements	11.59pm BST (GMT +1) Sunday 10 July 2022



Approach to learning

Our pre-sessional programmes have been carefully designed to maximise your learning potential in a supportive environment.

We are using a successful teaching approach called 'flipped learning' where you work through learning materials before your live group seminar. Having these materials online means that you can look at them again in your own time, take a break when you want, look things up and fully prepare for your live group seminars with your tutor.

Dedicated study materials are available for you on our virtual learning environment called Learn. These materials have full instructions and carefully guide you through the learning tasks.

The study materials are broken down into three main areas:

- **programme materials** that you have to complete in preparation for your seminar or tutorial with your tutor;
- **homework** that helps to consolidate your understanding;
- and **independent learning** where you can focus on areas that you want to improve upon.

You will be working on these tasks either independently, with a study buddy or in a group. The study materials are delivered through online videos, interactive activities and worksheets. A weekly syllabus is published on Learn in advance to help you plan and manage your learning and time.



Pre-sessional features



LIVE GROUP SEMINARS

Part of your learning will be compulsory attendance at seminars. These are conducted by your tutor and include other pre-sessional students. Your seminars allow you to discuss learning and ideas with your peers; develop speaking practice and use of academic language, and work with others.

The number of seminars and tutorials you have each week can vary slightly depending upon the timetable and assessment schedule. On average you attend four live seminar sessions per week as well as having a weekly individual tutorial with your tutor.



1 TO 1 TUTORIALS WITH YOUR TUTOR

We understand the importance of having regular one to one tutorials with your tutor and these are carefully planned into your schedule. Typically held once a week, this time with your tutor is focused on key learning and assessment elements throughout the programme giving you time to ask questions and develop a deeper understanding of the personalised feedback you receive.



PERSONALISED FEEDBACK

Throughout the programme, you will be regularly completing and submitting tasks. Your tutor provides you with personalised feedback on these tasks which you can then apply to further improve your key skills. The feedback and tasks are also discussed in your tutorials.



SUPPORTED STUDY

We appreciate that undertaking study which may be different from what you are accustomed to can be challenging. A core team of highly experienced academic teaching and learning professionals who understand these challenges have designed the programme and provide extra support to help you achieve your learning goals in a supportive environment. We support you in a number of ways throughout the programme from seminars to your tutorials and buddy tasks. However, we also provide other support systems:

- Comprehensive induction to allow you to familiarise yourself with the learning environment, technology, and content of the programme. As part of the induction, you will attend live taught sessions as well as access programme materials, undertake tasks and meet your tutor and other students.
- Timely topic specific forums are provided at key times in your learning to provide another layer of support where you can ask questions for further clarification.
- Class forums are used during the programme where you can discuss specific topics such as academic culture with your seminar group and tutor.
- Action plans are provided to help you organise and monitor your personal learning needs in the different key skills. These can then be used in tutorials to help focus and aid your development. There are a range of specifically created additional resources to help you target key areas of your learning journey.
- An opportunity to be elected as a programme representative. As a programme representative you are a leader within your seminar group and can be the link between students and the core pre-sessional team.

This is an opportunity to help shape the programme through feedback from yourself and your peers. We are responsive to feedback and make alterations where possible to aid your learning. This mirrors what happens on your academic programmes at Loughborough University and Loughborough University London.

- Access to library materials with thousands of resources and support from Academic Librarians.
- An orientation programme.



BUDDY TASKS

We learn so much when we work with others and our understanding of a subject increases. Within the programme there are specific tasks and activities you do with your 'study buddy'. A 'study buddy' is another student you work with and is allocated by your tutor. Your tutor will change who your 'study buddy' is during the programme to allow you to work with others and make new friends.



INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Independent learning is very important when studying at a UK university and is a skill that we help you to develop within the supportive environment. As well as undertaking learning within your seminar group, and with a buddy, there are many learning activities and tasks that you complete alone. You are then able to bring that learning and understanding to your seminar, study buddy or to your tutorials to get further help and guidance as you develop.

You can access a weekly syllabus to refer to which explains things such as: study focus for each day of the week; whether you have seminars, tutorials or assessments; any homework; timings for the day, etc. The timings will be based around a normal GMT (UK time) working day. See examples of a sample study day in the next pages.



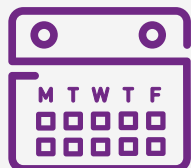
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS – ONLINE AND CAMPUS-BASED

For both online and campus-based delivery, all students will be required to have the following technology for the full duration of their programme:

- Laptop/desktop of an appropriate specification:
 - Adequate drive space and memory (eg to run MS Teams, multimedia resources and store multiple files).
 - Working speakers, webcam and microphone (can be internal to your machine);
 - A smartphone capable of using the Duomobile app which is required for authentication to access university software (including the virtual learning environment, 'Learn');
 - A licenced and up to date version of Windows or Mac OS;
 - The latest version of Google Chrome or Firefox.
- A stable broadband connection (minimum internet speeds – 10Mbps). Campus-based students will be able to access adequate connection when on campus.
- We also recommend that students use a headset with a microphone for use during seminars and tutorials.

Differences between online and campus-based programmes

Online	Campus-based
<p>Delivery Based entirely online with seminars and tutorials conducted via Microsoft Teams and learning materials on the university's virtual learning environment called 'Learn'.</p>	<p>Delivery Face-to-face classroom-based seminars and learning experience with materials available on the university's virtual learning environment called 'Learn'.</p>
<p>Student location Study from the convenience of your own home/country. You will be required to have a quiet room to use to participate in seminars and tutorials. To attend assessments, you will need a private, quiet room.</p>	<p>Student location Accommodation available on the Loughborough University campus. Enabling you to attend the Loughborough campus and experience life in the UK.</p>
<p>Structure Online seminars conducted in the mornings (UK time) which last 1¾ hours. Weekly contact hours including tutorials are approximately 7½ hours. Independent weekly study average of 32½ hours.</p>	<p>Structure Classroom-based seminars conducted in the mornings (UK time) and last 3¾ hours. Weekly contact hours including tutorials are approximately 15½ hours. Independent weekly study average of 24½ hours.</p>
<p>Class sizes Approximately six students per seminar group allowing more individual attention from the tutor.</p>	<p>Class sizes Approximately 12 students per seminar group.</p>
<p>Orientation Dedicated online materials available for students to use.</p>	<p>Orientation Campus-based series of activities including trips, helping student to adjust to life in the UK</p>



Sample study days from the Weekly Syllabus

ONLINE PRE-SESSIONAL STUDENT – EXPECTED MINIMUM 8 HOURS STUDY PER DAY

Morning time for a student based in Asia

MORNING

Programme materials for students

(complete before the seminar session)

- 1.7 Evaluating sources
- 1.8 Surveying sources

Set:

Source note-taking template

- 1.9 Research Task 2: Library search methods

Set:

Finding sources for the Literature Review

- 1.10 Reading research articles 1

Buddy task

- Share ideas for finding and choosing sources
- Review library search methods

AFTERNOON

Seminar

- 9.00-10.45am or
- 11.15am-1.00pm*
GMT+1 (British Summer Time)

Students will be assigned one of these seminar sessions daily according to the learning needs.

* times may vary slightly.

Homework

- Source note-taking template
- Find sources for the literature review

CAMPUS-BASED PRE-SESSIONAL STUDENT – EXPECTED MINIMUM 8 HOURS STUDY PER DAY

Student based on Loughborough campus

MORNING

Seminars

- 9.00-12.45pm*
Students attend both Seminar 1 and 2

* times may vary slightly.

Seminar 1

- Review of academic integrity
- Presentations on proofreading / plagiarism

Seminar 2

- Review of searching for sources
- Students present their evaluation of a chosen source

AFTERNOON

Set tasks

- Research Task 2
- Source note-taking template

Programme materials

(completed for the following day)

- 1.4. Literature Search Guidance 2: Library search methods
- 1.5. Listening to lectures 1

Homework

- Listening extension activity 1: Ramsey Musallam (TED)

Buddy task

- Share ideas for finding and choosing sources
- Review library search methods and Research Task 1

Student testimonials

There are many different reasons we think you should undertake a pre-sessional programme, but let's see what our students say...

I have studied English for many years; however, I did not feel confident in my knowledge. When I decided to study a masters degree in the UK, I struggled a few times with the IELTS test until I came across this pre-sessional English course.

I thought this course was the same as my other English courses, however I found more than I expected. With this course I not only improved my English skills but it also allowed me to understand the academic culture of the UK. The teachers were very patient and friendly. They were willing to help us with whatever we need.

I highly recommend this course because it prepares you for university life in general. Thus, when I entered my master's program, I felt more confident in my English and I had an idea of what was expected of my academic performance. Studying a master's degree in another language is a huge challenge but I feel that having taken the pre-sessional English course is making it more bearable.

*Carolina, Ecuador
Masters student in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities*



"Honestly, I worried about the learning outcomes when this was conducted online. But finally, I realised this is as effective and the same as in person teaching."

The pre-sessional course is the pathway to be ready for higher education. It is not English for everyday life but the essentials for academic culture.

Honestly, I worried about the learning outcomes when this was conducted online. But finally, I realised this is as effective and the same as in person teaching. I improved my English efficiency in every skill. I learned how to listen to lectures efficiently and easy ways for note-taking. The part that was very helpful for me was reading articles and using the note-taking matrix. Certainly, I improved my writing skill too. There are some techniques to help you write in an academic way and point out your own critical opinion. Buddy tasks and tutorial sessions were the best ways that gave me an opportunity to discuss appropriately with others.

Having classes online is not a problem for me but something that we have to face on nowadays. Data collection, presentations and also seminars tend to be more online than in-person. For this reason, an online class does not cut-off our social activities but prepares us to step into academic culture efficiently for today's circumstances.

*Pisit, Thailand
Doctoral student in Social and Policy Studies*



During the online pre-sessional course, we had seminars on Microsoft Teams every week. In the beginning, I was really nervous to speak and participate in the conversation because of my grammar mistakes.

Nevertheless, my tutor encouraged me a lot, she gave me and other members in our group many chances to talk. For example, we had different topics of conversation and one student was the leader of this conversation to make introductions and ask everyone to express their view. So that everyone's speaking skills were developed and it made our seminars more meaningful.

*Stella, China
Undergraduate student in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences*



Why do you want to study at Loughborough University?

Consistently top ten in the university guides, world class research, award winning teaching quality, there are so many reasons to want to study at Loughborough University.

We know you will have spent a lot of time and energy choosing it as the next step on your learning journey.



Why take a pre-sessional programme a Loughborough University?

There are many different reasons we think you should undertake a pre-sessional programme, but let's see what our previous online students thought:

97% of our online pre-sessional student feedback would recommend the pre-sessional courses to a friend.

"Everything was the best! I believe it developed our skills massively in every aspect possible within the time given for it so that's why I think it was the best in everything, it was a super professional course."

Pre-sessional 2021 student



The UK higher education system can be very different from what you are used to, do you understand the conventions?

100% of our online pre-sessional student 2021 feedback agreed that they had a better understanding of UK academic culture, conventions and expectations (eg avoiding plagiarism and independent learning).

"I now have a better understanding of British academic culture, which is what I was concerned about before the course."

Pre-sessional 2021 student



Do you feel prepared for starting your academic programme?

100% of our online pre-sessional student 2021 feedback agreed that the pre-sessional programme helped to prepare them for their academic programme.

"This course will teach you a lot and one day you will be thankful for those in the programme."

Pre-sessional 2021 student



Maybe you think the learning approach won't be suitable for you?

98% of our online pre-sessional student 2021 feedback agreed that the 'flipped learning' approach was an effective way of learning.

"The scientific design of the course, the unique mode of flipping the classroom and preview in advance makes us have full confidence and courage to discuss in the seminar. At the same time, our oral ability, discussion skills and learning ability have been improved. After class review and task setting gives us room for further output of knowledge."

Online Pre-sessional 2021 student

Frequently Asked Questions

1 CAN I START ON AN ONLINE PROGRAMME AND THEN SWITCH TO CAMPUS-BASED?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to switch between programmes so think carefully about which would suit you best. Please note, if you register for the campus-based programme and are then unable to attend we are not able to offer an online alternative.

4 CAN I STUDY IN THE UK AND DO AN ONLINE PRE-SESSIONAL?

If you wish to study online you will need to be based in your home country. The University is unable to provide sponsorship for a visa to study in the UK on our online programmes. If you wish to study in the UK, campus-based Programme D might be a suitable option, please check entry requirements.

5 IS ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR THE CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMME?

Yes, accommodation is available on the Loughborough University campus in one of the student halls. For more information, please see our [Pre-sessional webpage](#).

2 DO ALL DEGREE PROGRAMMES HAVE THE SAME ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-SESSIONAL PROGRAMMES?

Good question! Not all programmes have the same requirements and in some schools they ask for higher scores. If you want to join a programme in any of the following schools or departments, please check their requirements: Design, Communication and Media; Social Sciences and Humanities; Sport; Exercise and Health Science. Further information can be found on the [Pre-sessional course entry requirement page](#). Please select your suitable level of study for specific school requirements.

6 WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO GET MY CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES (CAS) SO I CAN GET MY VISA?

For the online programmes, a CAS for your degree cannot be issued until students have successfully passed the programme and the grades have been approved by a Programme Board. Students will be notified by the Admissions Team about how to pay for your CAS deposit. A CAS is then issued to students around the 5th September for the 2022 online programmes. This should allow enough time for students to arrange their visa before the start of term. We cannot issue a CAS earlier than the 5th September 2022 for online programmes.

For campus-based programmes, your CAS will be issued once you have paid your [CAS deposit](#) and the payment has been confirmed by Flywire. If the start date of the Pre-sessional Programme is more than three months away, your CAS will be issued to you nearer the start date.

3 CAN I DO A PRE-SESSIONAL PROGRAMME THIS YEAR AND DEFER MY ENTRY TO 2023?

No, if you take the online pre-sessional course this year but defer to October 2023, we will ask you to re-take the pre-sessional programme next year, or obtain another acceptable [English language qualification](#).

7 WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY DOING ABOUT COVID-19?

The University has been very proactive in ensuring the welfare of both students and staff. For current information about measures the University has implemented, please the [University's dedicated Covid-19 pages](#).




CONSISTENTLY
RANKED AS A TOP TEN
UK UNIVERSITY


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