

# Master Qualifying Program (MQP)

Unit code: XDP 701

**Unit name: Academic and Intercultural Communication for Postgraduate Study**

**Length of course:**

12 Weeks

**Contact Hours**

4 hours class contact time per week

**Class Size:**

10 -18 students per class

**Broad aim of course:**

To develop the intercultural and communication skills needed to successfully undertake postgraduate study at Deakin University.

**Rationale:**

The Academic Communication unit comprises a range of tasks and learning activities to engage international students in effective academic communication. The unit will provide students with cultural awareness of the study environment as well as the ability to effectively engage and participate in activities encountered in post graduate study.

**Staffing:**

The course will be delivered by TESOL qualified teachers

**Where delivered:**

Burwood Campus and Online

**Pre-requisites:**

Students enrolled in this course will have met the English language requirements for entry to undergraduate award courses at Deakin University.

**Course Description:**

The course aims to develop learning skills which contribute to an active, independent approach to study. The focus is on developing negotiation and teamwork strategies to improve oral presentation, debating, discussion and seminar skills. An understanding of cultural differences in learning styles underpins these aims.

**Objectives of Course**

The course will enable students to:

- Identify and evaluate cultural differences in learning strategies and cognitive styles
- Compare case study of international students experiences at university
- Recognise the requirements of Australian academic culture
- Develop appropriate communication skills and strategies for formal and informal academic tasks
- Develop teamwork skills with students from a range of cultural backgrounds
- Negotiate procedures and outcomes in small groups
- Contribute to brainstorming and mapping ideas
- Make formal and informal presentations to the class
- Prepare and conduct a PowerPoint group presentation
- Participate in group discussions and seminars
- Apply active learning strategies to academic tasks

**Assessment:**

To successfully complete this program students will need to obtain an overall grade of 60%. MBA students need to obtain an overall grade of 65%.

**Summary of Assessment**

1. Oral Presentation in response to research findings (15%)
2. Folio of Communication tasks (40%)
3. Seminar discussion of a research topic (15%)
4. Group Presentation of an issue related to future study (30%)

## Outline of Trimester Unit

Week	Theme	Skills	Objectives	Assessment
1.	<b>University Life</b>	Planning a short presentation. Using Library Catalogues and search engines	Complete a short presentation. Locate resources in the library Engage in an informal discussion	
2.	<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critically reading a text and discuss it. Categorise information	Present an oral response to a text. Listen for ideas during a class presentation	
3.	<b>Presentation Skills</b>	Plan a group presentation. Design effective PowerPoint slides	Effectively engage in a group discussion. Complete a plan for a presentation.	
4.	<b>Oral Presentation</b>	Use language appropriate for an academic presentation. Effectively present in an academic context	Plan and deliver an academic style presentation.	Group presentation on research finding. (15%)
5.	<b>Collaboration and Group Work</b>	Academic vocabulary. Negotiate with group members and discuss an article.	Participate effectively in a group discussion. Use appropriate vocabulary for an academic seminar	
6.	<b>Discussion Strategies</b>	Use a range of discussion strategies. Listen to an oral text and locate relevant information	Participate in a group discussion. Take notes and use information in a seminar.	
7.	<b>Preparation for a Seminar</b>	Speaking clearly using correct pronunciation and intonation. Give a brief oral summary of an academic text	Effectively engage in a seminar discussion on a given topic.	
8.	<b>Seminar Discussion</b>	Use discussion strategies. Use internet sources to locate relevant information	Engage in a seminar and cite sources during a discussion. Deliver an impromptu presentation on a topic	Participate in a seminar (15%)
9.	<b>Presenting an Issue</b>	Listen for information in an oral text. Locate information on a given topic	Watch a video and give a critical evaluation of it. Plan a short presentation.	

<b>10.</b>	<b>Organising a group Presentation</b>	Negotiating with group members. Planning a presentation.	Watch a video and identify the important information. Decide on the purpose of a presentation.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Using Research in Presentations</b>	Identifying data relevant to a topic. Designing slides for a presentation	Complete planning of a presentation. Deliver an effective introduction for a presentation.	Submission of communication Task Folio (40%)
<b>12.</b>	<b>Group Presentations</b>	Clear speech, pronunciation and intonation. Appropriate use of academic vocabulary	Deliver an academic style presentation and respond to audience questions	Group oral Presentation on a topic related to future study (30%)

## COURSE REFERENCE LIST

Deakin University (ND), *The language of seminars*, Deakin University

De Chazel E and Rogers L (2013) *Oxford EAP: A course in English for academic purposes*, Oxford University Press, Oxford UK.

Good Education Australia (2021) 'Seven cultural quirks international students need to know about Australia'  
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Le H and McKay J (2018) 'Chinese and Vietnamese international students in Australia, *International Journal of Educational Management*, 32(7):1278-1292 doi:10.1108/IJEM-08-2016-0180

Pathare E and Pathare G (2018) *Skillful Listening and Speaking 4*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, MacMillan Education, London

Rogers L and Zemach DE (2018) *Skillful Listening and Speaking 3*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Macmillan Education, London