

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:

Average of 10 -18 students per class

Broad aim of course:

This is an academic communication skills focused program designed to ensure students develop the necessary intercultural understanding and communication skills to successfully undertake postgraduate study at Deakin University.

Rationale:

The further development of students' Intercultural Awareness and English communication, oral presentation and group work skills in order to enable international students to be independent learners and so gain maximum benefit from their award courses. Awareness of the particular requirements of Australian academic culture is integral to this rationale.

Staffing:

The course will be delivered by qualified TESOL teachers who are trained in developing the communication and intercultural understanding of students undertaking postgraduate studies at Deakin University.

Where delivered:

Burwood and Geelong campuses

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 primarily aims to develop learning skills which contribute to an active, independent approach. The focus is on developing negotiation and teamwork strategies in order 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 and identify areas of concern and areas of success
- Recognise the requirements of Australian academic culture
- Develop appropriate communication skills and strategies for successfully completing formal and informal academic tasks
- Develop teamwork skills with students from a range of different 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:

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

Areas of Assessment

1. Oral Presentation to an outside audience, on support services and facilities for international students at Deakin University (30%)
2. Debate (30%)
3. Group Participation (10%)
4. Seminar presentation, to another class about differences and similarities in teaching and learning in one overseas country and Australia (30%)

Outline of tri-mester unit

Week	Theme	Skills	Objectives	Assessment
1	Language learning skills.	Identifying a range of language learning skills including personal strengths and weaknesses in language learning.	Complete inventory of language learning. Report to class on results of inventory. Evaluate and report on strategies to improve language skills.	
2	Data collection.	Preparation of interview and survey questions. Interviewing skills and conducting surveys.	Carry out both interview and survey. Present results of interview and survey.	
3	Seminar preparation.	Team negotiation. Interviewing. Research on student services.	Preparation of PowerPoint presentation on Deakin services for students.	
4	Oral presentation.	Presentation and team work skills.	Team delivery of PowerPoint presentation to DUELI students on Deakin facilities for support services for students.	Group oral presentation – Deakin facilities and support services 30%
5	Group negotiation – solutions to an issue.	Practicing group negotiation of on practical issues requiring outcomes.	Complete group negotiation activities. Report to class on: Outcome Group processes	
6	Negotiation for debate on controversial issue.	Negotiating argument. Developing speaking skills.	Participate in: Group research Negotiation of case for debate Speaking as member of team	
7	Preparation for practice debate.	Research for debate – negotiation of roles.	Participate in group processes involved in preparation of team debate. Implement negotiation skills.	
8	Presentation of formal debate.	Oral presentation skills.	Present formal debate.	Presentation of debate 30%
9	Cultural perspectives and differences.	Identifying skills involved in working with others.	Report on cultural similarities and differences within the classroom. Provide strategies for	

		Identifying cultural differences in both verbal and non-verbal skills.	overcoming misunderstanding.	
10	Cultural approaches to learning.	Identifying the range of meanings of 'culture'. Explaining ways in which cultural differences lead to different assumptions.	Report on own educational background and learning style in relation to Australian tertiary educational culture.	
11	Seminar preparation.	Contrasting active and passive learning styles. Practicing a range of active learning strategies.	Research culture of education in selected country to compare and contrast with culture of education in Australia.	Teamwork contribution and negotiation skills across the course 10%
12	Seminar presentation.	Presentation and team work skills.	Team delivery of PowerPoint presentation to other students on cultural differences in teaching and learning, comparing and contrasting education in Australia with one other country.	Seminar presentation 30%

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