

Course Code and Title
EAL7821 Critical Thinking and Writing for Politics and International Relations
Run
Semester 1
Rating
Level 7
Prerequisites
Students joining this module are already at IELTS level 7 (minimum 6.0/6.5 in writing), which equates to B2/C1 on the CEFR framework.
Lectures
None
Seminars / classes
20 hours (2 hours per week over 10 weeks)
Tutorials
None
Assessment
Formative only; written assignment of 2000 words.
Module convener
Dr. Saima Sherazi
Module aims
This module aims to respond to students' linguistic and discipline specific needs in terms of reading, analysis and synthesis, argument structure and essay writing skills. It will help students to deliver what is expected from them in their Politics and International Relations masters' programmes.
Module outline
The academic skills needed to succeed in the Politics and International Relations programmes will be presented in three main strands, namely 'study skills', 'reading and demonstrating knowledge', and 'critical thinking and writing'. Students will be given the tools to manage their time efficiently and plan their work accordingly. They will be guided through the process of understanding and successfully delivering assignments, in view of the implications their immediate context bestows upon them. Students will be encouraged and expected to reflect upon their own practice, and will be provided with formative feedback to ensure the learning outcomes are achieved.
Learning outcomes
At the end of this module students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the expectations of their politics and international relations programmes as regards writing and thinking skills. • analyse essay assignment titles and to answer them appropriately. • employ strategies for deconstructing texts to understand the relationship between content and organisation. • develop strategies for improving and revising their writing; this includes identifying a theoretical framework for their work, using the skills of analysing and synthesising to build up a coherent argument, recognising the limitations of their own work, and writing a well -argued essay. • develop strategies for navigating politics and international relations texts, reading quickly to find the salient points, and improved their ability to take notes and

incorporate them into their writing.

- respond appropriately to criticism and feedback, and demonstrate good judgement in their approach to essay writing.
- reflect upon and assess their own progress, identify their areas for improvement, and know what steps to take to improve these areas.
- work independently on their own reading and writing.

Preliminary reading

None required