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<th>Course Code and Title</th>
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<td><strong>EAL4660</strong> Effective Participation in Seminars</td>
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**Run**

Semesters 1 & 2

**Rating**

Level 4

**Prerequisites**

None

**Lectures**

None

**Seminars / classes**

2 hour sessions for 5 weeks (2X5) then repeated in the second half.

**Tutorials**

None

**Assessment**

None

**Module convener**

Alan Hart

**Module aims**

- To help students identify key questions or issues on the given topic and prepare effectively
- To train students to gather information and ideas to use as supporting evidence for arguments
- To train students to collate, evaluate and synthesise information about the topic
- To train students to plan and rehearse contributions for seminars
- To develop students’ skills effective summarising in a discussion and giving overviews
- To develop skills required for effective listening of points made by others
- To develop skills of responding to points by building or refuting the issues raised
- To improve students abilities of questioning, challenging and agreeing in appropriate language
- To raise students' awareness of academic style and its relationship with ‘hedging’

**Module outline**

This module aims to develop students' oral and aural communication skills for appropriate and fluent participation in academic seminars. It will enable students to effectively research the assigned seminar questions and prepare their notes for a seminar. It will empower students by showing them how to focus a topic, find an effective key proposition and organise supporting evidence on the seminar topic. Effective preparation techniques will build their confidence and help them overcome fear of speaking in public.

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of this module students should:

- have developed greater proficiency in preparing for seminar discussions
- have gained experience in identifying key questions for an argument
- have gained experience in using different research techniques
- have gained familiarity with techniques of managing ‘air time’
- have had ample opportunity to practice in summarising points and giving overviews
• have gained experience in synthesizing information as supporting points
• have developed greater ability to speak without too heavy a reliance on notes
• have developed skills to lead a seminar discussion and moderate questions
• have developed the ability to listen actively to others and ask pertinent questions

Preliminary reading
None