**Course Code and Title**

**EAL4720 Expand Your Vocabulary in English**

**Delivery**

Semester 1 & 2

**Level**

Level 4

**Prerequisites**

None

**Lectures**

None

**Seminars / classes**

2 hours for 5 weeks (10 hours per term)

**Tutorials**

None

**Assessment**

None

**Module convener**

Mr Alan Hart

**Module aims**

This module aims to expand students' vocabulary in order to facilitate their university studies and enhance their experience of living in the U.K. as international students. When focussing on individual lexical items, it will involve discussion of what 'knowing' a word really means: including collocation, connotation, register, frequency and coverage. Dictionary work will be supplemented with use of concordancers (specifically Sketch Engine, for which the SLLF has obtained a license) to promote student autonomy. Concordancers will also be used to focus on the Academic Word Lists from the British National Corpus and discipline specific sub-lists from the Corpus of Contemporary American English. In addition, there will be analysis of the grammar of words: (in)transitivity, (un)countability, (ir)regularity of pronunciation, spelling, or part of speech formation, complement structures, dependent prepositions and characteristic positioning in the sentence. Lexis and lexical phrases will be introduced from a variety of registers, allowing for the inclusion of idiom and multi-word verbs. Methods for organising vocabulary and techniques for enhanced memorisation will be compared and assessed, so that the students' vocabulary will be expanded, thereby facilitating enhanced comprehension and enabling more accurate oral expression.

**Module outline**

This module is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore the way lexis is used in a number of different media, genres and registers – from argot to legal English. This will be made possibly by accessing a number of different corpora in the language laboratories. Students will examine and assess the utility of collocational grids and componential analysis. They will also expand their mental lexicons by developing techniques for building word families, and by exploring synonymy, antonymy, homonymy and semantic fields. In addition, they will practise the skill of deducing meaning from context when confronted with unknown words or phrases in listening and reading texts. They will work under teacher supervision, individually, in small groups and pairs, and the inclusion of some project work will allow them to expand their vocabulary according to their own personal needs and preferences.

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of this module students should be able to:
- access corpora using a concordancer to examine how vocabulary is used in a variety of contexts and registers
- make evaluative judgements about the relative merits of different systems to assist vocabulary storage, memorisation and retrieval, by themselves as learners
- communicate concepts in English with greater accuracy and clarity due to an enriched vocabulary
- record lexis more effectively, having acquired a better understanding of what information is essential to using it accurately
- appreciate the appropriate contexts for lexical items of different registers
- more easily deduce the meaning of unknown vocabulary in the context of both reading and listening texts
- exploit resources to independently research the meaning of unknown lexis of interest to themselves as individuals
- discuss learning strategies and present those favoured to their teacher and their peers
- communicate ideas in English with accuracy and clarity with the enhanced confidence which a rich vocabulary confers
- demonstrate the ability to learn independently

**Preliminary reading**


