English Language Skills Development and Cultural Competencies

Webinar: What's it like to study at the University of Exeter?

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

THE INSESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Studying at the University of Exeter

New experiences

New friends

A valuable qualification

Many transferable skills

To get the MAXIMUM out of your adventure, take advantage of every opportunity to build confidence using English and develop your cultural competencies

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
THE INSESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Why does English Language skills development matter?

- Studying in the UK higher education system is all about communicating your thinking
- You need to be able to…
  - explain your ideas clearly
  - communicate your analysis of ideas and theories
  - make judgments, supported by academic literature
  - reflect on what you have learnt
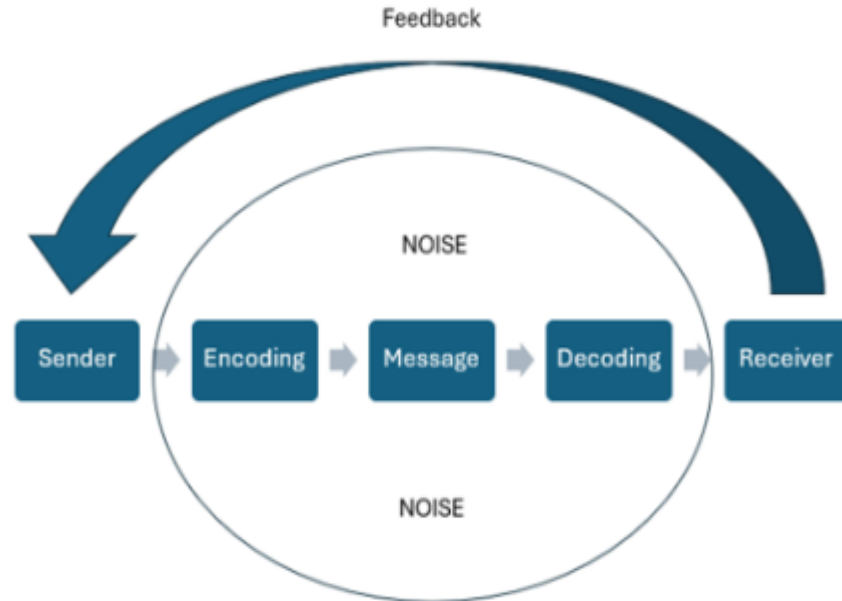 - synthesise (or combine ideas) from different sources

                                            …in seminars, presentations and through your writing.

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Why is cultural competence so important?

- The educational culture in different places may be significantly different.
- These differences, which can be subtle or quite explicit, lead to different processes, procedures and practices (including communication).
- Our experiences influence us subconsciously and contribute to our understanding of how to behave and how to interpret the behaviour of others.
- When practices don't match our expectations, the potential for misunderstanding is increased.

Cultural awareness and skills in communication

- We are more competent intercultural communicators if...
  - we are conscious of our own communication style
  - we are aware of potential cultural differences.
  - open to learning new ways of communicating.
  - flexible in adopting different strategies.

Feedback

NOISE

| Sender | → | Encoding | → | Message | → | Decoding | → | Receiver |

NOISE

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What can you do before you arrive?

- Find any opportunity to listen and read in English (particularly things related to your discipline)
- If possible, practice speaking English too.
- Keep a record of new vocabulary – record as much details as you can (definitions, pronunciation, examples)
- Do some research on the UK culture – but still expect to be surprised as the UK is very diverse.

How can we help? (Cultural competence)

- Explore our online resources.
  - Including stories from other Exeter students.
  - Opportunities to contribute your own stories.
- Look out for events running during welcome week.
  - Intercultural communication the secret to success at university and beyond.
- Take advantage of workshops and events offered in your faculty or as part of your programme.
- Join our FREE workshops throughout the year.
  - Understanding cultural differences.
  - Communicating more effectively across cultures.
  - Working in culturally diverse teams.

How can we help? (English Language Skills Development)

- A wide range of English language classes provided <u>FREE</u> to students (find out how to participate during welcome week):
  - Oral communication skills, pronunciation, seminar and presentation skills.
  - Academic reading and writing.
  - Academic Listening
  - Language for employability.
- Academic English specific to different disciplines and often taught in-curriculum.
- Credit-bearing modules for undergraduate students.
- Online self-study resources (find out more once you are registered)
- Bookable 1-to-1 sessions to ask questions and get advice (look out for more information at induction)

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What is it like to study with us?

Small groups (usually no more than 20 per class)

Tailored to needs – many of our courses and classes are specific to discipline.

A supportive space to develop and practice skills that are highly relevant to your underlying studies and future employability.

A relaxed environment in which to learn, practice and ask questions.

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Who are we?

- Academic Manager: Emma Sweeney (E.K.Sweeney@exeter.ac.uk)

- Admin: Insessional@exeter.ac.uk

- Website: https://www.exeter.ac.uk/into/englishlanguage/about/

- Online resources:

https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/sites/GuidedIndependentLearningTheInsessionalteam (you will be able to access this once you have your university log in)

Thank you for listening