

## Study Advice, 5:03

- A Welcome to Bristol University.
- B Hello, well I've just arrived from France. I'm currently studying Politics in the Politics Department. But I have some spare time, which I'd like ah to use for improving my English. Ahm, so are there any courses offered here or how else ...?
- A Yes, certainly the/ the Language Centre can offer you insessional language support. We offer English for General Academic Purposes courses and other courses.
- B Right ahm, so are they something to help me actually with my writing skills or so that I could write essays for my Politics Department and ah well also improving my ahm usual like everyday life English to talk with students and so ...
- A Yes, the courses we offer contain components which will help you with your academic writing for example and also with colloquial English to help you in social situations and also to help you in seminars to understand British students, to understand your lecturers and also to participate in seminars.
- B Right, and ahm how many hours a week would that be?
- A Our insessional courses are three hours per week for ten weeks and we offer you a selection of timetables so that you can make sure that your language support timetable doesn't clash with your subject timetable.
- B Hm. Are there any prerequisites for taking the course?
- A Well the prerequisites are that you must register and that you have to take what we call a diagnostic and placement test.
- B Oh, right. What does it consist in?
- A This/ this consists of a ... about a one and a half hour test. We test you/ your speaking ability. And we test your use of English, that is to say your grammar and your vocabulary, and we also test your academic reading.
- B Hmhm.
- A And that test takes place this week.
- B Right.
- A And once we've given you this test and once we've marked it, we'll know your level and we'll be able to place you in a suitable class.
- B Right. How many level classes do you have?
- A We've got about six levels altogether. So we are able to place you in a/ in a level which is exactly suitable for you.
- B Right hm. But do you require a lot of homework actually, outside the class? A lot of reading or ...
- A Well we're aware the students are under pressure of time. You'll have a lot of work to do for your subject tutors and in your departments. So we try and link the work done in the English support class to/ to the real work, the real English you have to use in your subject. So for example if you

- have to give an oral presentation in your English class, we'll make sure that it's the same oral presentation which you have to give in your department.
- B Right.
- A If we want you to practise your academic writing we'll relate that to a/ a current piece of academic writing which you're doing for your tutor.
- B How many credit points are there in this course?
- A The English for General Academic Purpose course has ten credit points and the Advanced English Language studies course has twenty credit points.
- B All right. And so that would be compatible with the points I get at my Politics Department?
- A That's right, that's right you can use those credit points towards your credit point total.
- B Right. Is there any ahm final exam or?
- A There's a final exam on the English for General Academic Purposes course but there's no final exam on the Advanced English Language Studies course. That is assessed through coursework ...
- B All right.
- A ... entir/ entirely.
- B So we have that ah three hours a week ah contact with you, but outside these three hours do we get to ah practise more of our English? Are there any other means for that?
- A Yes, yes there are. At the Language Centre there is a self-access facility which is staffed by two self-access tutors.
- B All right.
- A It includes a language laboratory, a video room, a TV satellite room, and a computer room and also a language learning library. So you're able to use the computer room for internet access so that you can study English on-line and there're also CD ROMs that you can use. Ah, we have also audio cassettes and work sheets which accompany them, which you can use for private study.
- B Right, so any student taking part into one course of the Language Centre is allowed to go and find that and ...
- A Yes, ...
- B ... study by himself there?
- A ... in fact every student of Bristol University is entitled to use our self access/ self-access facility.
- B Right, well thank you.
- A Not at all. I wish you good luck with your studies here at Bristol and I hope you've a very enjoyable time at Bristol University.
- B Thanks so much.