

English for IELTS – I & II term

Course co-ordinator: PROF.SSA MARIA LUISA MAGGIONI – **Instructor** ELISA DAKIN

The course is designed to prepare students for the IELTS exam, the goal being a score of 7 or higher, which corresponds to the entry requirements for the most prestigious higher educational institutions in English speaking countries.

Mandatory Entrance Requirement for the Course: CEFR Level B2+ or higher on the Selda IELTS Placement test.

The test will be online and will take place on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th September from 9:30 to 16:30.

After the test the top 60 students will be divided into two groups:

- The top 30 will attend classes in the fall term
- The second group will attend classes in the spring term

Course organization: 30 hours per term – 1 lesson of 3 hours a week. 80% ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

All activities, both classwork and homework, will be based on the units in the course book.

Class time will be dedicated to honing of grammatical and sophisticated vocabulary skills and speaking (with the assistance of qualified mother tongue instructors), while self-study will be devoted to the reading and listening materials provided in the course book.

Reading and listening tasks, as well as writing assignments will be given each week– students should submit their written work via email to the instructor for personal advice/criticisms. The writing tasks will alternate between analysis of graphs, charts and processes, and formal essays.

Deadlines will be given for each writing task. ALL ASSIGNED WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED. Late work will not be accepted.

Vocabulary development and grammar review will be done in class focusing in particular on:

- phrasal verbs
- special forms of conditionals
- particular forms of discourse markers, specifically adapted to the writing tasks
- focus on differences in vocabulary between various English-speaking countries (the Listening task includes various accents, i.e. British, Australian, American)
- colloquialisms
- Issues related to syntax (run-on sentences/comma splice)
- compound/complex sentence structures
- passive forms

Speaking will be the focus of the last part of every lesson. Students will work on the acquisition and development of the language learning strategies needed to achieve a higher band score. They will learn how to perform at their best in parts 2 and 3 of the exam: individual discussion of a theme (talking for at least three minutes about a given topic after a one-minute preparation phase) and two-way discussion on a topic thematically linked to that of part 2. Extensive practice will be given to exam simulations both in pairs and individually.

Course book:

Mindset for IELTS level 3 Student's Book with Digital Pack

Cambridge University Press - ISBN 9781009280310.

Final exam:

IELTS practice test with a final grade on a scale of thirty points (**4 cfu**). Students can also take the IELTS exam at one of the officially authorized centres. IELTS exam scores will be recognized according to a table of conversion. More information about the table can be obtained from the course instructor.