

# OTHER TEACHING UNITS



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING UNIT (ELTU)

The English Language Teaching (ELT) Unit helps CUHK students to develop confidence and competence in using English, enabling them to benefit fully from their undergraduate studies and increase their language-related knowledge and skills. The ELT Unit is keenly aware of the increasing importance of global English and the impact of globalisation on language use. It is also sensitive to the demands placed on students by the new Common English Proficiency Assessment Scheme (CEPAS) for graduates, and thus provides a range of courses that aim to develop student competence and confidence in using English in academic and professional contexts. The ELT Unit has more than 30 staff members, representing a wealth of expertise in language education, especially in teaching adult Chinese learners. The teaching team's strengths are further enhanced by a good balance of native and non-native speakers and by its staff members' experience of living and working in multilingual and multicultural contexts around the world.

All undergraduates are required to take at least three credits of English (six credits for Secondary 6 entrants). S6 entrants are also required to take three credits in Expository Writing.



Courses offered by the ELT Unit are arranged at three proficiency levels. Level 1 courses are intended for students whose English standard is equivalent to Grade D or below in the HKALE Use of English or below IELTS Band 6. The three-credit Level 1 courses require students to take four hours of classes per week. Level 2 courses are intended for students whose English standard is between IELTS bands 6 and 7. Level 3 courses are for students whose English proficiency is equivalent to at least IELTS Band 7.

ELT Unit courses can also be divided into the following four categories.

- (1) English for Academic Purposes (EAP). These courses focus on developing the English language skills required for study.
- (2) English for Specific Purposes (ESP). These courses focus on the specialist language use of a particular discipline (e.g., business, education, technology, nursing, pharmacy).
- (3) Topic- and content-based courses that focus on language use within a particular context (e.g., narrative texts, current affairs, the environment).
- (4) Expository Writing (for S6 entrants).



# INDEPENDENT LEARNING CENTRE (ILC)

## Resources to support independent learning

The ILC offers an ideal environment that supports self-study. In addition to enhancing students' study skills, independent learning is promoted through the provision of different types of materials, activities and services to improve the command of English and Chinese. The Centre, located on the first floor of the Wu Chung Multimedia Library, provides online learning materials, audio and videotapes, CD-ROMs, books, magazines, newspapers, test preparation materials and language learning packages to support specific courses. In addition, students can choose their favourite cable TV programmes to watch in the self-access area, and individual and small-group consultation sessions are scheduled daily to help students solve their study problems.



## Consultation

The aim of consultation is to provide students with help outside of the classroom to boost their confidence in using Putonghua and English. The ILC's counsellors are well-qualified teachers who also help students to improve their learning skills. They target the learning problems that individuals encounter and advise them on the use of resource materials to enhance self-learning. They also assist students in designing learning plans and evaluate their progress. Students are welcome to make same-day appointments at 2609-8764 or 2609-8733 to discuss their study skills and language needs.



## Discussion Groups

Regular English and Putonghua discussion groups provide opportunities for students to practise their speaking and listening skills. At the same time, participants learn to enhance their presentation skills.

## Workshops

The ILC holds regular language and study skills workshops to help participants to improve their learning at the tertiary level. Chinese workshops include Chinese reading and writing skills, grammar and language usage, impromptu speaking, Putonghua, application letter writing and interview skills, and other topics of interest. English workshops cover a wide range of topics from study skills, critical thinking, pronunciation, public speaking, reading and academic writing skills, grammar, business communication and film appreciation to IELTS, GRE and Common Recruitment Examination (CRE) skills. Students are welcome to register for the workshops of their choice via the ILC website at [www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk).

