

## **English for research purposes: exploring the features of written and spoken academic discourse**

### **Aims**

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the features of English for research purposes, with a focus on both written texts and oral presentations.

As regards written texts, the rhetorical features of abstracts and research papers will be discussed in order to maximise the participants' active reading skills and increase their autonomy in the drafting of texts in English. More specifically, attention will be paid on aspects of written English such as nominalization and the use of verb tenses and voices and on editorial aspects such as paragraph structure and punctuation.

The course will also focus on public speaking so as to enhance the skills required in conference presentations and will concentrate on aspects related to delivery, body language, impact techniques, visual aids, and pronunciation.

### **Teaching methods**

To achieve a balance between theoretical and practical instruction, the teaching methods will combine mini-lectures with teacher-led in-class exercises, peer review activities based on participant-generated content, conference simulations and discussion.

### **Topics**

Writing skills (abstracts and introductions)

- sentence and paragraph structure
- punctuation
- word order and thematization
- verb tense and voice, modal verbs
- formal and impersonal style
- being emphatic and hedging