

COURSE CONTENTS – BUSINESS TRACK

Orientation to Academic Studies, 2 ECTS

Description

This course is designed for helping you to get started with the Pathway to Finland program and higher education studies. The course introduces you to study skills that are essential for academic success, including time management, independent study, goal setting, and working in teams. During the course, you will get familiar with the digital learning platform, Claned, as well as other tools that are commonly used in studies at Finnish higher education institutions. You will also prepare your personal study plan and set learning goals for the upcoming semester.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, you are expected to know what academic study skills are and how to improve them know how to manage independent study and how to stay motivated be able to use the online learning platform and other tools commonly used in higher education studies know how to set personal learning goals understand different learning strategies and how to apply them.

Modes of study

Zoom classes, self-study and assignments.

Assessment - Grading scale

Pass-fail

Preparatory Mathematics, 5 ECTS

Description

- Recap, revision and review of the key concepts of secondary and high school mathematics needed in university studies in engineering and technology.
- The main topics are mathematical operations, fractions, decimals and percentages, algebra, statistics and probability and mathematical models.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to

- have an intermediate understanding of the following: mathematical operations, fractions, decimals and percentages, algebra, basic statistics and probability and mathematical models.
- have mathematical skills equivalent to the level of high school / upper secondary graduates in the destination country.

Modes of study

- Pre-recorded videos, online study materials, practice sessions, group work, quizzes and homework exercise assignments, final exam
- Please refer back to the study materials on the board when solving group and homework problems. For the group work, you are encouraged to be actively involved in solving the problems as well as representing solutions. For the homework, you are encouraged to solve problems by yourself to consolidate a better understanding of the concepts and the processes. If needed, do reach out to your classmates and teacher.

Assessment and Grading

pass – fail

Coursework (20 %) and exam (80%)

Academic Communication: Reading and Writing, 5 ETCS

Description

The course is for intermediate ESL students and focuses on improving students' ability to read and write academic texts in English. It is designed to build writing skills through authentic readings and a multi-drafting process approach to writing, in order to prepare for academic work in English. Reading exercises in this course focus on comprehension, vocabulary development, and study skills. Writing exercises review paragraph organization and focus on essay construction as well as the use of formal English grammar. During the course, students will become familiar with different types of academic texts and learn how to summarize and critically evaluate them. Students will learn the basic elements of academic writing, and how to produce structured academic texts, using academic referencing. During the course, students will attend interactive online classes, and complete different reading and writing exercises. Students will also have an opportunity to learn from each other as they will be giving and receiving peer feedback on their writing.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to

- understand the basic features of academic writing
- be able to produce well-structured academic texts
- understand the idea of process writing
- know how to apply different reading strategies
- be able to summarize text and find the main points of the text
- be able to identify different types of academic texts
- be able to evaluate information
- know the basics of academic referencing

Mode of study

Real-time online classes, reading comprehension exercises, short written assignments, peer feedback.

Assessment

Grading scale: 1-5

Academic Communication: Speaking and Listening, 5 ETCS

Description

The course focuses on developing English speaking and listening skills needed for academic study in a higher education setting. During the course, students will improve their communication skills through different activities, such as group discussions, debates and presentations. Students will also complete different listening comprehension exercises and learn how to apply different listening strategies. Self-assessment is used during the course to help students to track their progress. Students will identify their personal challenges and reflect their learning on a learning diary.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to

- know how to plan and deliver presentations on different academic topics
- be able to communicate effectively and confidently in English in different formal and informal situations
- understand the main content and essential details of academic lectures
- know how to apply different listening strategies
- be able to interpret what people are saying in various academic contexts
- know how to engage in discussions about different topics
- be able to express thoughts and opinion

Mode of study

Real-time online classes, online discussions, listening comprehension exercises, presentation

Assessment

Grading scale: 1-5

Business Mathematics, 5 ECTS

Description

This course provides an introduction to mathematical methods and tools most commonly used in business, including percentage calculations, descriptive statistics, indices, currency calculations, pricing calculations, compound interest and annuities. During the course, students will learn the basic features of Excel and learn to use it for solving mathematical problems.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to

- know how to solve mathematical problems on Excel
- have a basic understanding of practices and methods used in business mathematics
- be able to apply business mathematics in business and personal economic decisions
- understand the basics of statistical methods and how to apply them
- assess mathematical models used in business critically

Modes of study

Real-time classes, team assignments and presentations in lessons, homework assignments, quizzes and final oral exam

Assessment

Grading scale: 1-5

Assignments (20 %), final exam (80 %)

Literature

Olivier, J. 2021. Business Math: A Step-by-Step Handbook. Lyryx Learning Inc.

Introduction to Economics, 5 ECTS

Description

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of economics, covering the basic features of micro- and macroeconomics. During the course, students will learn basic concepts of economics including scarcity and economic choices, different economic systems, demand and supply, markets, employment, economic fluctuations, and inflation.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to

- understand the basic concepts of economics
- be able to describe the basic features of micro- and macroeconomics
- be able to analyze different economic systems
- understand the operation of markets and the functions of the price mechanism
- understand the behavior of individuals, households, firms and government
- be able to apply economic analyses and describe the current economic events

Modes of study

Live lessons, team presentations, quizzes, mini-assignments and oral exam

Assessment

Grading scale: 1-5

Team presentations, quizzes and assignments (70 %), oral exam (30 %)

Literature

The Core Team. 2021. The Economy. Online book. A selected set of economic articles

Intercultural communication, 3 ECTS

Course description

This course introduces intercultural communication. The objective is to understand the key concepts of intercultural communication from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The course covers topics such as cultural value orientations, language, cultural diversity, and cultural identity. Students will also learn about topics like culture shock and adaptation processes, which will also help them to prepare for life in a new country.

During the course, students will get to improve their intercultural communication skills by working in multicultural groups and complete a project together. Throughout the course, students will reflect their thoughts in a learning diary, and they will become more aware of their own cultural identity as well as other's cultural identities.

Learning outcomes

After the course, participants should be able to:

- understand the fundamental principles of intercultural communication
- be able to discuss issues related to intercultural communication from a global perspective
- know how to work in multicultural study and work environments
- understand and appreciate cultural diversity
- understand one's own and other's cultural identities
- be more prepared for life in a new country

Modes of study

Online sessions, Discussions and analysis, self-study, group presentation, learning diary. Generic skills: Teamwork, independent information search and analysis, assessment of information quality, presentation skills, and further generic skills as discussed in class.

Forms of examination: Group presentation, final take-home assignment learning diary,

peer feedback evaluation.

Grading

Pass or fail

Literature

Introducing Intercultural Communication Global Cultures and Contexts 3rd Edition by Zhuang Liu; Zala Volcic; Cindy Gallois. Sage Publications (2019).