



# UNICAMILLUS

## MSc in Medicine and Surgery

**COURSE TITLE:** SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH

**NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS:** 6

**CODE:** L-LIN/12

**MODULE CONVENOR:** ALESSANDRO ROTATORI

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### **PREREQUISITES**

Since the MSc in Medicine and Surgery is taught in English, students are expected to have a good working knowledge of the language (at least B1 of the Common European Framework of Languages).

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the module is to provide students with a practical grammatical, lexical and phonetic analysis of realistic, colloquial and up-to-date dialogues in clinical settings. The module also seeks to establish an awareness in students of the essential role English phonetics plays in medical science.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- feel confident about analysing and using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for both British English and American English pronunciation
- understand the meanings and usage of a variety of words and expressions used in clinical settings
- understand the main rules of English grammar.

#### **Applying knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- understand and use a variety of words and expressions typical of clinical settings in English.

#### **Communication skills**

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- express themselves with clarity and accuracy.

## **Making judgements**

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- make informed judgements about the topics of the course.

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

The module will consider the following topics:

### **Consonants**

- aspiration
- devoicing
- fortis and lenis
- pre-fortis clipping
- rhythmic clipping
- glottal stop
- syllabification
- no audible release
- t-voicing
- silent letters
- -ed endings
- -s endings
- -sts sequence
- linking r
- intrusive r
- syllabic consonants

### **Vowels**

- vowel quadrilateral
- cardinal vowels
- monophthongs
- diphthongs
- HIP, HEAD, BACK
- GUT, schwa
- schwi
- schwu
- CLOT, FOOT
- TEETH, CARE
- NURSE, HEART
- JAW, WOMB
- FACE, LIFE, JOINT
- MOUTH, THROAT
- HEAR, CURE
- smoothing
- compression
- accents of English

### **Accentuation and connected speech**

- lexical stress
- prefixes, suffixes and combining forms
- compounds VS phrases
- sentence stress
- deaccentuation
- stress shift
- stress in phrasal verbs
- abbreviations and acronyms
- weak, strong and contracted forms
- assimilation
- elision

### **Intonation**

- intonation(al) phrase (IP)
- nucleus
- onset
- uptalk
- intonation patterns
- falls, rises and fall-rises
- tones in oral presentations
- tag questions

### **Medical English**

- pain and ache
- care and cure
- illness, disease and sickness
- surgery and surgeries
- hospitals and departments
- wounds and injuries

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

The topics of the course will be investigated both in lectures and practical sessions of 2 hours for a total of 60 hours.

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Marks are awarded on completion of an oral examination following a written test. The written test consists of 15 questions on the topics covered during the course. Each correct answer in the test is worth 2 points. The passing mark in the written test is 18 points out of 30. Candidates may take the oral examination only after they have passed the written test.

As far as the oral examination is concerned, a pass is awarded where a student convincingly shows that they can communicate in spoken English to a sufficient standard and can accurately reproduce the pronunciations and patterns of words and expressions dealt with in class.

The assessment criteria are as follows: acquired knowledge, independent judgment, communication and learning skills.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Students can request optional workshops on specific topics.

### RECOMMENDED READING

- Ashby, P. (2011). *Understanding Phonetics*. London: Routledge.
- Carley, P. et al (2017). *English Phonetics and Pronunciation Practice*. London: Routledge.
- Rotatori, A. (2020). *Parlare e comprendere l'inglese contemporaneo della medicina e infermieristica*. EdiSES Università
- Wells, J. (2008). *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Longman

Further materials will be made available as handouts before the lectures.