

Master's Degree in Dentistry and Dental Prosthetics

Course: Scientific English

CFU Number: 2

SSD: L-LIN/12

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PREREQUISITES

Students should have a working knowledge of English (at least A2 of the Common European Framework of Languages).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Scientific English course aims

- to provide students with a general understanding of medical-scientific terminology;
- to deepen their knowledge of basic notions of English grammar (Level B1) during the analysis of texts covering topics related to dentistry;
- to prepare students for interaction in English with patients, family members and other subjects in the field of work of a dentist;
- to introduce concepts of academic writing and to develop students' ability to read and correctly understand the contents of international scientific publications in English.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Knowledge and understanding

Upon the completion of the Scientific English course students will be able to:

- Recognize and understand the discursive practices and linguistic markers of English as a lingua franca of medicine;
- apply the language skills necessary to understand and analyze an international scientific text, with particular insight into the field of dentistry and dental prosthetics.

B. Applying knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of the Scientific English course students will be able to use the acquired knowledge and communication skills to:

- express themselves more clearly and effectively in English, not only in daily life, but also in situations such as conferences, presentations, meetings, interviews, etc.;
- autonomously study and update aspects of dentistry by reading international scientific publications;



- use the key terms, phraseological units and concepts of medical-scientific discourse, with particular regard to their professional field;
- apply the main English grammar rules (Level B1);
- achieve the fluency of the spoken language for effective dentist-patient interaction.

C. Communication skills

On successful completion of the Scientific English course students:

- must know how to use the specialized terminology and phraseology adequately both in active (production) and passive (reception) modes;
- must be able to start and have a conversation on the topics of the syllabus;
- must be able to produce short written texts following the samples from the syllabus.

D. Making judgements

On successful completion of the Scientific English course students will be able to:

- make informed judgements about the topics of the course

COURSE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is structured around the thematic sections listed below. Each section focuses on the analysis of different types of written and oral texts taken, adapted and simplified from original documents. Each unit includes sections dedicated to grammar practice and vocabulary building, as well as exercises aimed at developing the students' four language skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) in a systematic and integrated way.

Thematic sections:

1. Languages for Specific Purposes. Specialized dental terminology vs. lay expressions. Working with definitions and dictionaries.
2. Healthcare professionals. Major medical specialties. Dental professionals. Ancient dentistry.
3. The human body. Body systems. The mouth. Dental anatomy.
4. Prosthetics. Types and classifications. Dental impression materials.
5. The hospital. Understanding the daily ward routine.
6. Accidents and emergencies. First aid. Pain. Symptoms.
7. Nutrition. Food and diet. Bad habits.
8. Common illnesses. Pandemics. Infectious diseases.
9. Death and dying. Hygiene and prevention.
10. Medical equipment.
11. Communicating with suppliers and patients. Business emails and calls.
12. Ethics in medicine. Informed consent.
13. Job interview. Dentistry student's profile. *Practical skills*: How to write a CV.



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14. English as a modern lingua franca of medical communication. Discursive practices in Medical English. *Practical skills*: Oral and written communication skills. Understanding a scientific publication. Introduction to writing a scientific paper.

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The “Scientific English” course is structured in 20 hours of frontal teaching, divided into 10 2-hour lessons according to the academic calendar.

In light of movement restrictions due to COVID-19, most or all lectures will be carried out remotely.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

Course grade determination is test-based, including both a written test and an oral test. The “Scientific English” course is graded pass/fail at the end of the oral test.

The written test

The written test will be administered BEFORE the oral test. Only students who have successfully passed their written test will be able to take the oral test.

The written test is composed of exercises such as cloze tests, true-or-false questions, multiple choice questions, gap filling and sentence transformations. Dictionaries and any other materials are not allowed.

The oral test

The oral test may be taken only after the students have successfully passed their written tests.

The oral test consists of a conversation on one of the topics of the syllabus. During the oral test students have to prove that they can talk about themes and subjects that will be indicated during the course in a linguistically correct manner.

COVID-19 NOTICE: In the event that it is impossible or not recommended to carry out in-person exams due to the current health emergency, the course grade determination procedure may vary. Any changes will be communicated to students during the course.

READING MATERIALS

The course book is the following:

- G. Lauzi and N. Buchan Tomarchio, *Smile! The English you need as a Dental Professional*, Franco Lucisano Editore, 2014.

The book is available also as [e-book](#).

Other course materials and PowerPoint presentations will be available online.



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Supplementary texts (optional reading):

- V. Evans, J. Dooley, J. Caldwell, *Career Paths: Dentistry* (Student's Books 2 & 3), Express Publishing, 2016.
- C. Dofka, *Dental Terminology*, Delmar / Cengage Learning, New York, 2013.