Degree Programme in Nursing

Academic Year 2026/2027

MODULE: SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH
NUMBER OF CFU (ECTS credits): 3
SSD (Academic Discipline Code): ANGL-01/C

LECTURER: GREENUP SYLVIA
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PREREQUISITE COURSES

Not applicable — no formal prerequisite courses are set by the Degree Programme Regulations for this teaching.

PREREQUISITES

Students should have a good working knowledge of English (at least B1 of the Common European Framework of Languages).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will improve their knowledge of English at level B2 according to the CEFR. In particular, they will have a secure grasp of some of the lexical, morphosyntactic, and phonetic features of English for healthcare professionals, and will be thus capable of effectively communicating in English with patients and colleagues.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

DD1: Knowledge and Understanding

Upon successful completion of the course, students will improve their knowledge of English at level B2. They will also acquire the basics of English for health professionals.

DD2: Applying Knowledge and Understanding

Through group activities, discussions, multimedia materials, and the close reading of specialist texts, students will be exposed to specific case studies from the field of healthcare so that they can apply linguistic knowledge to real-life situations.

DD3: Making Judgements

Students will develop their ability to make judgements through exercises and group activities in class.

DD4: Communication Skills

By interacting with the lecturer and analysing specialist texts, students will develop their communication skills in English and strengthen their proficiency in all four language components (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

DD5: Learning Skills

The module aims at improving students' learning skills in relation to English for health professionals.

SYLLABUS

As well as exploring and/or reviewing a range of upper-intermediate and advanced grammar topics, the lectures will concentrate on some of the fundamental aspects of medical vocabulary and on some of the conversational situations that characterise the healthcare environment. A number of classes will be devoted to the analysis of specialist texts in the field of healthcare. The close reading of these texts will allow students to get first-hand experience and gain practical knowledge of the grammar structures and technical vocabulary examined during the module. The topics covered by the lectures include:

1. Health and illness
2. Parts of the body
3. Health and medical jobs; the hospital; primary care; medical education
4. Compounds and the genitive
5. Present perfect and present perfect continuous
6. Passive structures
7. Symptoms and signs; describing attitudes and behaviour; pain; injuries
8. Pregnancy and childbirth
9. Modals (possibility, necessity, obligation, permission, volition, prediction)
10. Taking a history
11. Making polite requests to patients; explaining side effects; encouraging patients and making suggestions
12. Future continuous; future in the past; other forms expressing future time; reassuring and explaining procedures with future tenses
13. Physical examination; basic investigations; blood tests; X-rays and CT; MRI and ultrasound
14. Presenting data; describing trends
15. Modifiers and quantifiers
16. Reported speech
17. Research studies; research articles and review articles; conference presentations
18. Conjuncts

19. Gerunds; verbs + to + infinitive
20. Writing formal and informal correspondence; telephone language

COURSE STRUCTURE

Classroom lectures on grammar will be integrated with more interactive lessons that will concentrate on vocabulary and phraseology, and that aim at improving the listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills of the students. To this effect, classroom activities will be supported with audiovisual materials and specialised texts that are either included in language learning textbooks or excerpted from authoritative publications.

Students are warmly invited to take part in the lessons and interact with the lecturer.

The module consists of 42 hours of class contact.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

The exam consists of a written test made up of questions that focus on the morphosyntactic and lexical structures in the syllabus. The passing mark is 60%. The test should last approximately 90 minutes.

Assessment criteria: students are expected to communicate with a good level of fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness of vocabulary. They should also know and use effectively the grammatical structures and the specialist terminology examined during the course. They will be also assessed on their ability to summarise/paraphrase a text in English. The final examination will be assessed according to the following criteria:

fail	The candidate possesses an inadequate knowledge of the topic, makes significant errors in applying theoretical concepts, and shows weak presentation skills.
pass	The candidate possesses an adequate knowledge of the topic, good presentation skills and ability to apply theoretical concepts.

Students with disabilities or certified Specific Learning Disorders (SLD/DSA) are entitled to compensatory tools and dispensatory measures (e.g., extra time, concept maps, equivalent assessment formats), to be agreed in advance with the lecturer and the relevant University office, without prejudice to achieving the same expected learning outcomes.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

At students' request.

READING MATERIALS

- Eric H. Glendinning, Ron Howard, *Professional English in Use: Medicine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- Virginia Allum, Patricia McGarr, *Cambridge English for Nursing Intermediate Plus: Student's Book* (Cambridge: Cambrdige University Press, 2008)

- Sam McCarter, *Oxford English for Careers: Medicine – Student's Book* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 or later editions)
- Martin Hewings, *Advanced Grammar in Use* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013 or later editions)
- Randolph Quirk and others, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (London: Longman, 1985)

Please note that these are reference books. Students are not required to purchase any of these texts. Course materials and exercises will be provided by the lecturer.