

MSc in Medicine and Surgery, academic year 2025-2026 (Rome)

Title of the integrated course: Scientific English

Code: ANGL-01/C

Module convenor: Emanuela Tenca

e-mail: emanuela.tenca@unicamillus.org

Number of ECTS credits: 6

Instructors:

Sylvia Greenup

sylvia.greenup@unicamillus.org

Emanuela Tenca

emanuela.tenca@unicamillus.org

PREREQUISITES

Students should have at least an intermediate knowledge of English (B1 in the CEFR). The general descriptors for the different levels can be found [here](#).

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 phonetic, lexical, morphosyntactic, and discursive features of English for medicine, and will be thus capable of more effectively communicating in English with patients and colleagues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- improve their knowledge of English at level B2
- acquire the basics of English for healthcare
- understand the gist as well as detailed information of written and spoken English used in everyday communicative events linked to their disciplinary/professional field
- recognise the linguistic and generic/discursive features of specialised texts in their field.

Applying knowledge and understanding

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

Communication skills

By interacting with the instructors and their peers, and by analysing specialised texts, students will develop their communicative competence in English and strengthen their proficiency in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

Making judgements

Students will develop their ability to make judgments through exercises and group activities. In particular, they will be able to

- select data according to their relevance in order to formulate judgments in their disciplinary domain;
- evaluate pros and cons of a number of options to solve a given problem.

Learning skills

The course aims to improve students' learning skills in relation to English for medicine. In particular, students will be able to

- update and consolidate their linguistic knowledge and communicative competence;
- relate this knowledge and competence to other disciplines in their degree course.

COURSE SYLLABUS

As well as exploring and/or reviewing a range of (upper)intermediate topics, the lessons 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 lessons will be devoted to the analysis of specialised texts in the field of medicine. The close reading of these texts will allow students to obtain first-hand experience and gain practical knowledge of the grammar structures and technical vocabulary examined during the course.

In Module 1, Prof. Sylvia Greenup will 'walk the students through' an Entry Test to ascertain their knowledge of grammar and to identify points on which to focus attention during the course. She will also devote a number of lessons to word stress and sentence stress with the aim of improving students' oral skills for presentations.

The topics covered include:

Vocabulary

1. Health and illness
2. Parts of the body
3. Health and medical jobs; the hospital; primary care; medical education
4. Symptoms and signs
5. Describing attitudes and behaviour
6. Pain; injuries
7. Polite requests to patients
8. Explaining side effects
9. Encouraging patients and making suggestions.

Grammar

1. The noun phrase
2. Articles
3. Overview of the tense system especially in relation to use in medical contexts: present simple and continuous; past simple and continuous; past perfect; present perfect and present perfect continuous
4. Passive voice
5. Relative clauses

6. Future forms: will/shall; going to; present simple and continuous; future perfect; future continuous
7. Use of imperatives
8. Modal verbs

Module 2 of the course (Dr. Emanuela Tenca) will build on the contents of Module 1 in order to focus on written communication by examining the language use, discourse structure, and communicative functions of academic and professional medical genres, e.g. research articles (in particular abstracts and introductions), case reports, medical histories, and academic posters. Selected texts representing the genres considered will be read and analysed to help students become more familiar with the conventions underlying written English for medical purposes in terms of their linguistic features at sentence level as well as their rhetorical moves.

Additionally, part of the module will be dedicated to developing students' writing skills in

- describing/analysing numerical information conveyed through charts, graphs, and tables
- writing solicited and unsolicited university or job applications.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures on grammar will be integrated with more interactive lessons that will concentrate on vocabulary and phraseology, and that aim to improve the listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills of the students. 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 expected to actively take part in the lessons and interact with the instructors and their peers.

Module 1 (2 credits) consists of 20 hours of instruction time, while Module 2 (4 credits) consists of 40 hours. Students must attend at least 67% of the entire course.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

The exam will be a written test divided into two parts (Module 1 and 2), made up of questions that focus on the various aspects of medical English considered in the course. The exam totals 90 points, and the passing mark is 60% (54 points). The final grade is "Pass" or "Fail".

Please note that, to pass the exam, students must obtain a passing mark of 60% in each part (18 points for Mod. 1, 36 for Mod. 2).

The part exam related to Module 1 (30 points) consists of the following components:

- 1) use of English: multiple choice (20 points)
- 2) identifying sentence stress in a short passage (5 points)
- 3) word stress: identifying the syllable on which the stress falls (5 points)

The part exam related to Module 2 (60 points) consists of the following components:

- 1) matching sentences to gaps in a text (5 points)
- 2) matching segments of texts to the rhetorical move they represent (5 points)
- 3) describing/analysing a chart, graph, or table (25 points)
- 4) writing a university or job application email (25 points)

The test lasts 2 hours.

Assessment criteria: students are expected to

- communicate with a good level of fluency, accuracy, and appropriateness of vocabulary
- know and use effectively the grammatical structures and the specialised terminology examined during the course
- be able to recognise the structure of texts in English for medical purposes, and their communicative functions
- write cohesive and coherent texts pertaining to their professional/disciplinary field.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

At students' request.

READING MATERIALS

Please note that the following are reference books. Students are not required to purchase any of these books. Course materials will be provided by the instructors.

Further online learning materials (e.g. websites, podcasts, etc.) will be suggested during the course.

Eric Glendinning, Beverly Holmström, *English in Medicine*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005)

Eric H. Glendinning, Ron Howard, *Professional English in Use: Medicine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Marc C. Stuart (ed.), *The Complete Guide to Medical Writing* (London: Pharmaceutical Press)

Sam McCarter, *Oxford English for Careers: Medicine – Student's Book* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 or later editions)

Raymond Murphy, *English Grammar in Use* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012 or later editions)

Martin Hewings, *Advanced Grammar in Use* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013 or later editions)

Jacopo D'Andria Ursoleo, Kate Gralton, *Medical and Scientific English* (Milan: Pearson, 2020)

Carlo Pesce, *Medical English* (Bologna: Zanichelli 2020)

Patrick Fitzgerald, Marie McCullagh, Ros Wright, *English for Medicine in Higher Education* (Reading: Garnet Publishing, 2020)

Girolamo Tessuto, *English for Medicine*, 3rd ed. (Turin: Giappichelli, 2024)