



BSC IN MIDWIFERY

INTEGRATED COURSE: ENGLISH – 2ND YEAR

SSD (Academic Discipline Code): ANGL-01/C (già L-LIN/12)

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Number of CFU (ECTS credits): 1

PREREQUISITES

English language proficiency of at least B1 level, or above, as assessed according to the criteria / parameters established in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR),

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course provides the basic language and communication skills required to work in English-speaking and multilingual obstetric settings, and coincides with the start of a clinical placement and will contribute to the professional profile of midwives by developing specialist medical and scientific vocabulary. It focuses on patient-centred clinical communication skills across all stages of basic obstetric care, from taking a patient's medical history to postpartum discharge, as well as developing the ability to read strategically and write clinical and academic documents in English. It constitutes the first module of a two-year programme.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will have acquired a good command of the main grammatical and syntactic structures in the English language, with particular emphasis on specialist vocabulary in medical and scientific fields. They will also be able to recognise, understand and produce texts belonging to the various genres of professional communication within the healthcare context, making appropriate use of the specific terminology relating to the hospital environment and to the role of the midwife, and communicate more effectively with non-native English-speaking patients.

DD 1: Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- distinguish between clinical and patient-centred language in English and describe the consequences of pragmatic errors in obstetric practice;
- define the functions of modal verbs and hedging in clinical communication;
- recognise the different types of questions in obstetric history-taking and explain their clinical implications;
- describe the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion) of scientific articles;
- recognise specialist obstetric vocabulary in clinical language and in the fields of reproductive anatomy, pregnancy, labour, the postpartum period and neonatal care.

DD 2: Applying knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- apply modal verbs and hedging when communicating with patients and colleagues;
- use probing questions to take a medical history and check understanding;
- explain antenatal tests using appropriate hedging techniques;
- facilitate a conversation about the birth plan using non-directive language;
- use directive language during active labour;
- conduct a postnatal consultation in English, including breastfeeding support and discharge instructions;

- write a handover letter and a clinical referral letter;
- produce a short text in academic English and complete a scientific abstract.

DD3: Making judgements

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- analyse scenarios involving the communication of difficult news to identify failures in the SPIKES protocol;
- assess the language of consent, distinguishing between genuine consent and performative consent given merely as a formality;
- critically examine your own cultural assumptions by applying cultural humility;
- make independent judgements on the use of an interpreter;
- think critically about the ethics of communicating sensitive issues;
- evaluate institutional and systemic factors that lead to communication failures.

These skills are developed through reflection on pragmatics, on the structured analysis of clinical cases during lectures, on the structured debriefing protocol used in lectures on the most sensitive topics, and through critical reflection in their portfolio.

DD4: Communication skills

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- communicate in English in the main registers of midwifery practice: patient-centred oral communication, clinical communication, and academic communication;
- conduct a structured consultation;
- convey clinical information;
- draft referral letters in accordance with professional standards;
- write a scientific abstract;
- produce reflective portfolio entries in English demonstrating genuine critical engagement

DD5: Learning skills

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- use the process portfolio as a tool for ongoing professional reflection;
- access and strategically navigate the main open-access guidelines in English;
- independently apply communication frameworks in new clinical contexts;
- identify their own language gaps and develop strategies to address them in preparation for the third-year course.

SYLLABUS

Linguistic foundations of medical and obstetric English: clinical records; pragmatic errors; modal verbs and hedging; types of questions; basic obstetric vocabulary — reproductive anatomy, menstrual cycle, pregnancy, labour, delivery, postpartum; abbreviations and acronyms.

Written academic and clinical English: the IMRAD structure (introduction, methods, results, discussion) and reading strategies; academic vocabulary; text production.

Structure of the consultation and obstetric history-taking: taking down an obstetric history in English; vocabulary relating to antenatal examinations and to the clinical record.

Antenatal communication and birth plan: vocabulary relating to the stages of pregnancy; creating a safety net for warning signs; vocabulary relating to the hospital suitcase.

Communication during labour and delivery: active labour record; directive and compassionate language; communication with the partner.

Postnatal communication: newborn care and neonatal screening; language for parents and managing vaccine hesitancy; breastfeeding support; discharge communication.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures in presence, on the topics covered in the syllabus, will be complemented by interactive lessons designed to hone students' comprehension and production skills, both oral and written. To this end, specialist texts and other materials, including audiovisual resources, will be used. Active participation in lessons is required, involving interaction both with the lecturer and amongst students.

The course comprises 14 hours of classroom teaching. Students must attend at least 75 % of the lessons.

COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION

The exam consists of 60 questions focusing on the various aspects of medical English, covered during the course. It is worth 60 marks (one mark for each correct answer), and the pass mark is 60 % (36 marks). The final grade is 'pass' or 'fail'.

Oral assessment will be evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the course. Students who do not pass this ongoing assessment will be required to sit an oral exam in addition to the written exam.

The oral examination will be assessed as follows:

FAIL Fragmentary and superficial knowledge of the content, errors in applying concepts, poor presentation.

PASS At least sufficient and appropriate knowledge of the content, clear and coherent presentation.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

None planned.

READING MATERIALS

Course materials will be provided by the lecturer.

The reading list and recommended texts for further study will be explained in class and published on WebApp, the University portal.