

# Teaching guide

## IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	Medicine		
Field of Knowledge:	Health Science		
Faculty/School:	Medicine		
Course:	SCIENTIFIC ENGLISH APPLIED TO MEDICINE		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	4
Year:	2	Code:	2731
Teaching period:	Third semester		
Area:	Medicine and society		
Module:	Social medicine, communication skills and introduction to research		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	100		

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## SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Equip learners with the knowledge and skills which will enable them to use the English language in their future work environment as true professionals in the field of health science. Train and enable the learner to

communicate effectively in English.

Scientific English Applied to Medicine is a course, which is compulsory and which carries 4 ECTS credits, implying 100 hours of dedication on the learner's part, taught in the Third Semester of the Second Year of Health Science Degree studies. This course is embodied within the Area of Medicine and Society within the Module: Social medicine, communication skills and introduction to research.

Scientific English Applied to Medicine forms part of a well-rounded, integral education focused on the learner in all of his or her harmoniously integrated dimensions (intelligence, will, emotional nature, sociability, abilities, skills...). In the area of health science, our aim is that future doctors and health carers become true professionals with a true love and vocation for working in health care, and this involves the encounter with the patient, who is much more than just a person with health concerns, who is a whole person with a fully enclosed reality. Through second language learning, the learner is encouraged to expand his or her own horizons by raising questions about and exploring other cultures, which, besides facilitating communication in an increasingly globalized world, allows the learner to get to know other languages and other cultures making the person more aware of his or her own language and culture, that is, of one's self.

## GOAL

Develop communicative competence in English whether applied to communicating with the scientific community, with patients and/or with the rest of health care professionals in hospital environments.

## PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

This course recommends students to have a basic knowledge of the English language, understanding that they have successfully completed the English Language Test Section in the Spanish State University Access Exam (EBAU). (See: The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

## COURSE SYLLABUS

A robust skills and language CEFR-aligned syllabus using contexts for learning new language that provide engaging real-life situations exposing students to authentic English usage and providing realistic models for language production. It is designed to promote effective communication and helps to build learners' confidence with regular opportunities for meaningful practice using various methodologies like 'Flipped classroom' and 'Cooperative learning'.

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING & RESOURCES - Students increase overall knowledge of English grammar and pronunciation throughout the course, in particular, that related to the themes dealt with herein. Guidance for further language study is also provided.
- DEBATING - Students acquire the skills to read around subjects related to the field of Medicine and express their own opinions in a formal debate setting. Students learn specific language to equip them to carry out this task to a high academic standard.
- THE HUMAN BODY - Students learn, consolidate and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to the human body, paying special attention to communicating with people who are non-specialists, for example, patients and family members.
- MAKING PRESENTATIONS - Students are provided with useful, necessary techniques on how to prepare and give an effective presentation in English. The learners are prepared to present before an audience, they will learn the language necessary to give presentations by selecting and evaluating information, properly quoting sources used and engaging with the audience.
- NUMBERS AND DATA VISUALISATION - This unit increases fluency in understanding and communicating with

numbers and measurements (temperature, dosage, percentages, etc.). Students learn how to describe research results and make informed choices when selecting data visualisation tools such as tables, charts and graphs to illustrate numeric results.

- HEALTH AND ILLNESS: UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL ENGLISH - Students learn and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to some of the most common illnesses and general healthcare, paying special attention to communicating with people who are non-specialists, for example, patients and family members. Students engage in reading comprehension and audiovisual activities based on medical texts (press and specialised journals) for interpretation and discussion purposes.

- COMMUNICATING WITH THE PATIENT - Students learn and practise vocabulary and terminology of frequent use related to medical and surgical treatments, manifestations of pain, procedures and instruments. They learn to distinguish between medical terminology and everyday language when describing health issues to patients.

- LANGUAGE FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH PURPOSES - Students learn about the construction and dissemination of scholarly production and acquire notions of formal writing expressions. Students additionally learn how to correctly cite academic sources in academic publications.

## EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

In second-language teaching-learning methodology, the how is as important as the what or even the final result. The way a second language is taught-learned is a learning experience in and of itself, through which the learner's knowledge and skills in the second language are continuously put into question, reflected upon, experienced, experimented with and advanced, thus allowing learning to take place and greater, improved language competence to be acquired. Therefore the methodology applied in this course is, first and foremost, communicative. Communication being a two-way thing, the teacher-learner relationship and In second-language teaching-learning methodology, the how is as important as the what or even the final result. The methodology applied in this course is therefore communicative, eclectic and collaborative. 'Communicative' implies active participation and involvement. 'Eclectic' takes into account different teaching-learning styles, allowing the student to develop and activate his/her own learning. 'Collaborative' provides the learner with the opportunity, both individually and in collaboration with others, to acquire more autonomy as well as a greater sense of responsibility for self and others. The teacher is a guide in this learning process. This communicative, eclectic, collaborative methodology implies,

### IN CLASS:

- Interactive class lectures
- Seminars
- Student presentations and student-led discussions
- Group and pair activities: role-plays, simulations, interviews, research, project work, online forums, etc.
- Feedback mechanisms
- Midterm and final written and/or oral exams

### OUTSIDE OF CLASS:

- Independent study and preparation of class/group/pair work
- Online task completion and participation
- Individual and group tutorials
- Self-assessment

The focus of this subject is on content, knowledge and skills relevant to health and medicine.

## DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
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42 hours	58 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• • Theoretical Classes / Lectures</li> <li>• Theoretical and practical workshops, seminars, conference, round tables: (Work in small groups in order to go in depth with specific content, individual or group tutorials)</li> <li>• Practical Classes and Presentations of Group Work / Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• • Individual and group work</li> <li>• Theoretical and practical study</li> <li>• Completion of assignments on UFV Virtu@I and /or other multimedia platforms.</li> </ul>

## SKILLS

### Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

### General Skills

That the students have reached a minimum acceptable level in a foreign language, preferably English.

### Specific skills

To be able to understand and critically interpret scientific texts.

To be familiar with aspects of communication with patients, families and their social environment: models of clinical relations, interviews, verbal and non-verbal communication and interferences. To know how to give bad news.

To learn how to give oral and written presentations of scientific papers and/or professional reports in public.

To be able to use scientific English applied to medicine both orally and in writing in an accurate manner.

## LEARNING RESULTS

The student communicates with patients in English adjusting his/her discourse to the requirements of the situation.

The student recognises the importance of the English language as an internationally intelligible means of communication which provides access to and understanding of health issues on a European as well as global level.

The student makes adequate use of content vocabulary related to health and medicine.

The student reads, interprets and analyses texts on medical topics in English.

The student defends and critically justifies his/her opinions in discussions and oral presentations.

The student creates and develops a project related to health and medicine which is meaningful and relevant making use of a variety of appropriate resources, including TICS and multimedia.

The student makes use of different discursive styles, always taking into account coherency and cohesion.

## LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

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CONTINUOUS EVALUATION SYSTEM  
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ORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: Dec-Jan (1st SEMESTER) – May (2nd SEMESTER)  
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### BLOCK 1: WRITTEN EXAMS – 40%

-10% - Mid-term Exam. If a student does not sit the mid-term exam and does not present a formal excuse IN DUE TIME AND IN PROPER FORM, authorized by the PEC or the Director of the Degree, he/she loses this 10%.

-30% - Final Exam. To calculate an average with the Mid-term Exam, the student must obtain a minimum of 5/10 on the Final Exam.

NOTE: Students must obtain a PASS (5/10) in THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT and to calculate an overall grade average with blocks 2, 3 and 4.

### BLOCK 2: ORAL ASSESSMENT- 30%

-Evaluated ORAL task(s) completed in class throughout the semester, individually, in pairs and/or in groups (presentations, debates, discussions, simulations, interviews, etc).

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2, to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1, 3 and 4. STUDENTS MUST PASS THIS BLOCK IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

**BLOCK 3: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 20%**

- Completion of evaluated work, as stipulated by the teacher.
- Completion of regular homework assignments.
- Completion of and participation in any online tasks.
- Attendance to tutorials when required.

NOTE: All tasks and assignments must be handed in IN DUE TIME AND PROPER FORM, as stipulated in the course calendar on the Aula Virtual. If tasks and assignments are not handed in IN DUE TIME AND PROPER FORM, the mark for aforementioned tasks and assignments will be 'zero' (0). They will NOT be marked within the ordinary exam period if handed in after the deadline.

**BLOCK 4: ATTITUDE AND PARTICIPATION – 10%**

NOTE: Students who do not attend class on a regular basis and who do not have a formal “dispensa” authorized and communicated by the Degree automatically lose this 10%.

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**EXTRAORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: June -July (1st and 2nd SEMESTERS)**  
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**NOTE:**

1. Within one academic period, all passed marks from the different BLOCKS will be transferred from the ordinary to the extraordinary exam period.
2. Within one academic period, only those BLOCKS which have been failed in the ordinary exam period may be repeated in the extraordinary exam period.
3. No grades will be transferred from one academic year to the following academic year.

**BLOCK 1: WRITTEN EXAM – 40%**

-If BLOCK 1 has been failed, the student will be required to sit one written exam based on the contents covered throughout the course.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 1 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 2, 3 and 4. STUDENTS MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

**BLOCK 2: ORAL ASSESSMENT- 30%**

-If BLOCK 2 has been failed, the student will be required to carry out the required oral tasks from the ordinary exam period.

-The ORAL ASSESSMENT will take place on or before the officially published extraordinary exam date, unless indicated otherwise by the teacher.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1, 3 and 4. STUDENTS MUST PASS THIS BLOCK IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

**BLOCK 3: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 20%**

-If BLOCK 3 has been failed, the student will have the opportunity to repeat and/or submit one or more major pieces of course-related work BY OR BEFORE the official final exam date in the extraordinary period unless indicated otherwise by the teacher.

**BLOCK 4: ATTITUDE AND PARTICIPATION – 10%**

- The mark for this block will be transferred from the ordinary period to the extraordinary period.

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**ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION SYSTEM**  
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NOTE: This system only applies for those students who are: repeating the course; have an official ‘dispensa’ signed by the dean of the corresponding faculty; or are on an international exchange program, therefore automatically having a ‘dispensa’. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BE INFORMED REGARDING COURSE REQUIREMENTS, DEADLINES AND EXAM DATES, AS WELL AS TO CONTACT HIS/HER TEACHER. STUDENTS MUST CONTACT THEIR TEACHER WITHIN A MONTH FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE TERM.

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ORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: Dec-Jan (1st SEMESTER) – May (2nd SEMESTER)  
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BLOCK 1: WRITTEN EXAM – 50%

-The student will be required to sit one written exam based on the contents covered throughout the course.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 1 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 2 and 3. STUDENTS MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

BLOCK 2: ORAL ASSESSMENT- 30%

-The student will be required to carry out ORAL task(s) as stipulated by the teacher.

-The ORAL ASSESSMENT will take place on or before the officially published extraordinary exam date, unless indicated otherwise by the teacher.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1 and 3. STUDENTS MUST PASS THIS BLOCK IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

BLOCK 3: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT - 20%

-Completion of evaluated work, as stipulated by the teacher.

-Completion of regular homework assignments (to be handed in through the Aula Virtual or by email).

-Completion of and participation in any online tasks.

-Attendance to tutorials when required.

NOTE: All tasks and assignments must be handed in BY OR BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF CLASS ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COURSE CALENDAR OR AS STIPULATED BY YOUR TEACHER. If tasks and assignments are not handed in by or before this date, the mark for aforementioned tasks and assignments will be 'zero' (0). They will NOT be marked within the ordinary exam period if handed in after this deadline.

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EXTRAORDINARY EXAM PERIOD: June -July (1st and 2nd SEMESTERS)  
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NOTE:

1. Within one academic period, all passed marks from the different BLOCKS will be transferred from the ordinary to the extraordinary exam period.

2. Within one academic period, only those BLOCKS which have been failed in the ordinary exam period may be repeated in the extraordinary exam period.

3. No grades will be transferred from one academic year to the following academic year.

BLOCK 1: WRITTEN EXAM –50%

-The student will be required to sit one written exam based on the contents covered throughout the course.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 1 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 2 and 3. STUDENTS MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

BLOCK 2: ORAL ASSESSMENT- 30%

-The student will be required to carry out the required oral task(s) from the ordinary exam period

-The ORAL ASSESSMENT will take place on or before the officially published extraordinary exam date, unless indicated otherwise by the teacher.

NOTE: Students must obtain an overall PASS (5/10) in BLOCK 2 to calculate an overall grade average with BLOCKS 1 and 3. STUDENTS MUST PASS THIS BLOCK IN ORDER TO PASS THE SUBJECT.

BLOCK 3: INDEPENDENT STUDY-WORK ASSESSMENT – 20%

-The student will have the opportunity to repeat and/or submit one or more major pieces of course-related work BY OR BEFORE the official final exam date in the extraordinary period.

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FURTHER NOTES:

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- 1.Coursework deadlines are established by the teacher. No work will be accepted after the due date.
2. Only the coursework stipulated will count towards the final grade. Additional pieces of work with the aim of raising one's overall grade will not be accepted.
3. In the event of plagiarism or the use of any other fraudulent methods related to the evaluation process, the UFV regulations to the effect (la Normativa de Convivencia y la Normativa de Evaluación) will be applied.
- 4.Students are responsible for contacting their subject teacher within the first week after receiving notification of having obtained a 'dispensa'. Students are also responsible for being informed regarding and complying with the course requirements.
- 5.Honorable Mention: An honorable mention is recognition of excellence. It is awarded exclusively to students who stand out from their peers academically, as well as in attitude, dedication and teamwork. This decision lies exclusively with the subject teacher.
6. Students MUST PASS BOTH BLOCKS 1 AND 2 in order to pass the subject.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES**

### **Basic**

Departamento de Idiomas UFV Coursepack 2nd Year Medicine Degree: Scientific English Applied to Medicine  
Curso 2024-2025 UFV

### **Additional**

Fitzgerald, P., McCulagh, Marie and Wright, Ross. (2010) English for Medicine in Higher Education Studies  
Garnet Education Publishers

Glendinning, E.H. & Holmström, B.A.S. (2005) English in Medicine. Professional English. Third Edition.  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Murphy, R. (2019) English Grammar In Use 5th Edition  
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Stuart Redman. English vocabulary in use.Pre-intermediate & intermediate / Cambridge :Cambridge University  
Press,2003.

Upjohn, J., et al. (2006) Minimum Competence in Medical English  
EDP Sciences