English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses

Thank you for your interest in our ESL courses! UC San Diego Extension’s English Language Institute offers a wide range of academic and professional development courses. Please view the following pages for more information on our courses. At the end of this catalog, there is an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) to help answer some of the questions you may have. Additionally, information about course times and dates are listed on our website. For questions, please contact the ESL Program Manager at esl@ucsd.edu.

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  - American Idioms & Slang for Fluency I (online)
  - American Idioms & Slang for Fluency II (online)
  - American Idioms & Slang
  - Advanced Fluency & Pronunciation (2 units)
  - Advanced Pronunciation & Fluency (3 units)
  - Pronunciation & Fluency

- Medical English Skills
  - Medical English I (online)
  - Medical English II (online)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Whom are these classes designed for?
- What level are the classes?
- How many classes can I take?
- Will I receive a certificate after completing these courses?
- Will I have to take a language placement exam?
- Do I have to take the classes for a grade?
- How long are the classes?
- How much do classes cost?
- Are there any discounts available?
- How do I enroll?
- Who do I contact if I have questions?
Courses Overview

Below is a list of all the courses we offer in the ESL program. Please note that not all classes are offered every quarter. Visit our website to see if the course you are interested in is being offered. Course descriptions are provided in the following pages.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Class Type</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Language Proficiency Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Competence in the U.S. University I</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Writing (3 units)</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<td>$275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Case Studies in Business</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<td>Advanced Conversation Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Discussion through American Music History</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Discussion through World History &amp; Events</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Daytime</td>
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<td>Advanced Pronunciation and Fluency (3 units)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Evening</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Conversation Improvement</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Oral Presentation</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Grammar &amp; Editing I</td>
<td>Evening</td>
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<td>$375</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar &amp; Editing II</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$200</td>
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<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific &amp; Technical Writing for Non-Native English Speakers</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$375</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Descriptions

Academic & Writing Skills

Academic Competence in the U.S. University I
This 1-unit workshop is designed to orient the international student to the competitive university system in the United States. Specifically, the workshop addresses topics which the international student may be unfamiliar with, including common formats for source citation, typical question types on exams and other tools used for continuous assessments, and protocols for interacting with professors during office hours. Note: This course is not offered in the summer quarter.

Academic Writing (3 units)
This course is designed for advanced international students and researchers who are proficient in English but need to upgrade their writing skills. Tailored to individual needs, participants will improve their accuracy in writing mechanics, in all areas of grammar, and in the essentials of effective writing style and organization. Lectures and workshops provide assistance in writing summaries, abstracts, technical reports, and academic papers.

Advanced Academic Writing (2 units)
This class will prepare students for the writing tasks that will be required of them in an American university. It focuses on structure and organization of academic prose and the principles of rhetorical development and elements of grammar and style. By the end of the course, students will have completed a minimum of four graded writing assignments.

Advanced Topics in Academic Writing
This short course will focus on the essential characteristics of concise, coherent writing style in academic English: a strong controlling idea; unity of thought; clear, relevant support; and fluid transitions. This course is intended for non-native speakers who would benefit from review of the most important techniques in producing successful writing for academic purposes.

Scientific & Technical Writing for Non-native English Speakers
Designed primarily for non-native speakers with advanced English proficiency, this course covers essential skills for writing well in scientific or technical settings. The specific styles and usage conventions of various scientific fields will be covered. There will be a major focus on clarity and strength of expression and idea development, as well as instruction on editing to eliminate problems with grammar and usage.

Topics in Advanced English Structure
Learn about complex structures in idiomatic written English, which will greatly aid non-native speakers of English in acquiring a clearer, more sophisticated and idiomatic writing style for academic discourse. Topics in each course offering will include two of the following, at the discretion of the instructor: noun complements, relative clauses, adverb clauses, adjective clauses, causative structures, hyphenated adjectives, possessives and compound nouns, subjunctive structures, and “it” clefts. Note: This course is only offered in the fall quarter.
Topics in Writing Mechanics
This short course will focus on correcting the most common punctuation errors in English writing. When to use or not to use commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, hyphens, dashes, capital letters, and many others will be covered. This course is intended for non-native speakers who would benefit from review and instruction about some of the most frequent errors in English punctuation and mechanics. Note: This course is only offered in the spring quarter.

Business English Skills

Advanced Business Presentation Skills
Develop effective oral presentation skills specifically for the business environment. Students will learn the skills necessary to prepare and deliver business presentations, and prepare for and lead business meetings, focusing on a selection of appropriate speech content, visual aids, body language, and pronunciation. Student will be expected to listen to their classmates as they give their presentations and provide both written and oral feedback.

Advanced Business Writing
By studying examples of well-written letters and business documents, students will build their knowledge of business writing in the United States. Students will be working on letters, reports, resumes, and job application letters. Students will also work on elements of grammar and style such as sentence variety, word choice, and conciseness.

Advanced Case Studies in Business
A case study is a description of a business situation which provides immersion experience and brings language students as close as possible to real business situations. Case studies, which are 8-12 pages in length, offer students the opportunity to practice and improve on their decision-making skills through the exploration of complex and realistic business situations. In this class, students at an advanced level of language proficiency will examine, analyze, and discuss contemporary case studies from the business world. Student will use the case studies and other supplemental readings to improve critical thinking skills, use business vocabulary, and improve fluency.

Advanced Negotiation and Debate Skills
Develop effective negotiation and debate skills in both causal and formal environments. Students will learn the skills necessary to give their opinions and support them with facts and research. They will be expected to listen to their classmates as they present their arguments and provide both written and oral feedback on the debates they hear. This course will assist students in improving their ability to listen, think critically, negotiate, and respond quickly to arguments and ideas.

Business Writing for Non-native English Speakers
This course is designed for non-native English speakers who need to develop and improve their writing skills to perform more effectively in the workplace. Participants learn the correct rules of writing, how to choose the right word or expression, and formal and informal styles. Topics include business language, style, format, tone, and presentation graphics, including effective techniques for memos, letters, solicitations, and reports. Writing competency is acquired for technical, managerial, and marketing purposes. On-the-job examples are used to build writing skills and professional abilities.
**Conversation & Presentation Skills**

**Advanced Business Reading & Discussion**
In this class, students will examine, analyze, and discuss current events in the business world. Discussion will focus on the world business climate. Students will use current news from television, radio, newspapers, magazines and online articles to improve critical thinking skills, use business vocabulary, and improve fluency. In addition to completing reading and listening assignments, students will be required to be active participants in class, present current materials to their classmates, and contribute to classroom discussions.

**Advanced Conversation Improvement**
This course is designed to increase spoken fluency and accuracy in English, and enable students to express themselves more precisely in conversation with native and non-native speakers, whether in an academic or professional setting or out on the golf course. Designed for advanced non-native English speakers, the course emphasizes improvement in overall conversational fluency in an active learning environment. Participation in this course requires an advanced level of listening and speaking skills in English, as well as strong reading skills. Students will be assessed on their proficiency level on the first day of the class.

**Advanced Conversation Skills (2 & 3 units available)**
Students will improve their conversational skills by discussing many interesting and different topics in class. From weeks 2-7, students will discuss topics in small groups with UCSD students who function as Conversation Leaders, under the guidance of the instructor.

**Advanced Discussion through American Culture**
This class is an introduction to several different aspects of American culture and history. Students will discuss and learn about aspects of the United States and America. This class is mostly designed to give students the additional reading, listening, and speaking practice that they will need to use outside of the classroom to rationally understand how Americans think and what being an American is.

**Advanced Discussion through American Music History**
This course will include instruction on listening for details and for main ideas in the songs, understanding implied and inferred underlying meaning in songs, and recognizing contracted and reduced speech forms in native speakers. The goals for students in this class are to improve their note-taking and listening comprehension skills, to better their research and reporting abilities through biography and song presentations, and to gain a more complete knowledge of American music history and the accompanying cultures through intensive study.

**Advanced Discussion through World Events & History**
Course content will focus on different aspects of world events and history through readings, multimedia, discussion and lecture. Students will learn about and discuss prominent people, events, technology, and societal change throughout time in the U.S. and internationally. The class is designed to give advanced students an opportunity to increase their fluency through critical thinking and analysis while expressing opinion and dissent, as well as having the opportunity to hear others’ views and outlooks.
**Conversation Improvement**
This course will increase student’s confidence and comfort level when speaking English with both native and non-native speakers. This course is specifically designed for individuals whose English proficiency is at an intermediate level. Through constant practice, using dialogues and situational role-playing, the instructor identifies strategies and specific conversational techniques to help each student improve his or her spoken English. Students learn in a lively, fun classroom environment in which the overall emphasis is placed on building confidence in conversing in English while further developing their speaking and listening skills.

**Effective Oral Presentation**
This course addresses oral communication problems encountered by non-native speakers in such formal academic and professional settings as conferences, seminars, meetings, and classrooms. Designed for international graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, new faculty members, and business professionals, the course emphasizes the importance of clear pronunciation, precise vocabulary, appropriate format, and group management skills. Extensive pronunciation exercises are included, along with many opportunities for participants to practice their presentation skills.

**Grammar & Vocabulary Skills**

**Advanced Grammar Seminar**
This 8-week course is designed for advanced non-native English speakers who need to do in-depth studies in the areas of grammar that are commonly tested on English proficiency exams or required in formal writing and speaking. The focus of the course is primarily on structures not adequately addressed in most popular grammar books. It will deal with various important low-frequency structures and patterns which signal both advanced proficiency and perfection in matching meaning to form.

**Grammar & Editing I**
This course is designed for advanced non-native English speakers who depend on English grammar in written communications and thus need to refine their knowledge of grammar. Participants will review grammar points necessary in correcting the most common grammar problems in non-native writing such as knowing the correct usage of the present perfect vs. simple past, prepositions, articles, punctuation, and more. **Note:** The Grammar & Editing I and II courses can be taken in any order.

**Grammar & Editing II**
This course is designed for advanced non-native English speakers. Participants will review grammar points necessary in identifying and correcting the most common grammar problems in non-native writing, such as knowing the correct usage of conjunctions, prepositions, punctuation, usage and more. Participants will also choose some of the grammar points to be studied in this course. Participants will learn how to recognize and correct their own grammar errors and also learn how to find the right answers to specific, recurring grammar questions. **Note:** The Grammar & Editing I and II courses can be taken in any order.

**Grammar & Vocabulary Building**
In this course, advanced non-native English students will refine their knowledge of English grammar and increase their vocabulary. Extensive contextualized practice at the sentence level is used to build grammatical competence. Various exercises are used to increase vocabulary and vocabulary retention.
Pronunciation & Fluency Skills

Accent Modification Seminar
This one-day, 3-hour seminar will provide participants with many keys to speaking English more accurately and smoothly. By the end of this seminar, students will understand the importance of pausing, stress, linking, and pitch to be more easily understood by a native-speaker. Additionally, students will learn quick tips on reducing accent and will be given resources for self-study or further improvement.

American Idioms & Slang for Fluency I (online)
English language students often do not understand native speakers because of the use of special vocabulary and expressions, such as idioms and slang, in everyday English. This 4-week online course is designed for non-native speakers of English who want to become more proficient in communicating with native speakers of English. Students will master 48 special expressions through individual interaction with and personal guidance from an expert instructor of UC San Diego’s English Language Institute. Activities will include voice recordings of students’ oral production of idioms, sentence writing, and other activities. Note: The American Idioms & Slang for Fluency I and II courses can be taken in any order.

American Idioms & Slang for Fluency II (online)
English language students often do not understand native speakers because of the use of special vocabulary and expressions, such as idioms and slang, in everyday English. This 4-week online course is designed for non-native speakers of English who want to become more proficient in communicating with native speakers of English. Students will master 48 special expressions through individual interaction with and personal guidance from an expert instructor of UC San Diego’s English Language Institute. Activities will include voice recordings of students’ oral production of idioms, sentence writing, and other activities. Note: The American Idioms & Slang for Fluency I and II courses can be taken in any order.

American Idioms & Slang
This class will help students understand and use the most common and colorful expressions in everyday English – idioms and slang. Various materials will be used to study the idioms, including popular music, cartoons, and advertisements. Students will also be asked to bring in idioms they have encountered outside of class. This is a fun way to increase the students’ vocabulary while improving their listening and speaking abilities. Students will study approximately 80 idiomatic and slang expressions during the 8 weeks.

Advanced Fluency & Pronunciation (2 units)
This course will help students speak English more clearly and fluently. It will include instruction and practice on sounds, sound combination, intonation, and other important areas of pronunciation. Students will learn strategies for improving their own pronunciation and how to identify their own pronunciation problems.

Advanced Pronunciation & Fluency (3 units)
This course is designed for students who are familiar with the English sound system and their own pronunciation problems. Instruction will focus on expanding the students’ skills in correctly applying English patterns of stress, intonation, linking, and reductions. Pronunciation of problematic sounds will also be integrated into class exercises and activities. This course is for the non-native speaker who wants to know what it takes to “sound American.”
**Pronunciation & Fluency**

This course is ideal for the student who wants to be more easily understood in everyday conversation and workplace situations. The instructor will identify the students’ particular pronunciation difficulties and provide extensive exercises that target each student’s needs. Participants will learn to pronounce words in a manner that is easier for native speakers to understand. By the end of the course, students will have gained an awareness of their problem sounds, learned how to pronounce those sounds accurately and clearly, and learned how to continue refining their speech while strengthening overall confidence in speaking.

**Medical English Skills**

**Medical English I (online)**

This online course focuses on the vocabulary and communication associated with the respiratory, musculoskeletal, and endocrine systems. It is designed for non-native speakers of English in the medical and healthcare professions who need to use English for both work and professional studies. Individuals who frequent healthcare facilities for personal or work-related reasons may also find this series useful. Coursework includes language practice pertaining to anatomy and physiology, common pathologies, and role-plays in clinical settings. **Note:** The online Medical English courses can be taken in any order.

**Medical English II (online)**

This online course focuses on the vocabulary and communication associated with the skin, lymphatic/hematic, and urinary systems. It is designed for non-native speakers of English in the medical and healthcare professions who need to use English for both work and professional studies. Individuals who frequent healthcare facilities for personal or work-related reasons may also find this series useful. Coursework includes language practice pertaining to anatomy and physiology, common pathologies, and role-plays in clinical settings. **Note:** The online Medical English courses can be taken in any order.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Whom are these classes designed for?
These English courses are intended for non-native speakers who need to refine their linguistic skills, especially fluency. Some courses are helpful to academics (UC San Diego graduate students, researchers, staff, etc.) and to people in scientific settings. Other courses are designed to improve the language skills of professionals and those in the American workplace.

What level are the classes?
Our classes are for the intermediate to advanced-level non-native English speaker. At this time, we do not have any classes for beginner-level students.

How many classes can I take?
Students can choose to take as many or as few classes as they want. Classes listed as I and II can be taken in any order.

Will I receive a certificate after completing these courses?
These are individual, a-la-carte courses. Students will not receive a certificate for completing any courses. However, all classes are recorded on a student’s UC San Diego Extension transcript and a student can order a transcript as confirmation of completing and passing a course. Additionally, the Program Manager can also provide a Letter of Completion if requested by the student.

Will I have to take a language placement exam?
Some classes will require a language placement exam, while others do not. Please see the information in the table on page 3 to confirm if a course requires an exam.

If the course does require an exam, the exam is administered in-person at our La Jolla Campus (9600 N. Torrey Pines Road), typically on the Wednesday before the course begins. Students should plan to attend the exam from 8am-12pm. If the student does not score high enough on the placement exam (to prove they have an advanced-level of English proficiency), then the student will need to drop the course and will receive a full refund. The exam is free of cost. Students must first ENROLL in and pay for the course and then they will be eligible to take the placement exam. If a student does not enroll in the course, then they cannot take the placement exam.

Do I have to take the classes for a grade?
No, you do not. The choice is entirely yours! Students can choose to take the class for a letter grade (A, B, C...etc.), pass/no pass, or not for credit. With “letter grade” and “pass/no pass”, students will still receive credit for the course on their UC San Diego Extension transcript. With “not for credit” students will not receive credit on their transcript.

How long are the classes?
Some classes are as short as 4 weeks and others are as long as 9 weeks. The number of class meetings varies by class. We have classes that meet once, twice, and three times per week. Classes usually meet for 3 hours per week.
How much do classes cost?
Our classes range in price from $200 to $375. Class prices vary depending on length and credit hours. The cost of the class covers the entire date range, from the first class to the last class.

Are there any discounts available?
UC San Diego Extension offers a 10 percent discount, up to $50 per quarter, on eligible courses to eligible students. The following UC San Diego-affiliated persons are eligible to receive the discount:
- UC San Diego fulltime matriculated students
- UC San Diego faculty and their spouse or domestic partner (this includes post-doctoral appointments)
- UC San Diego career status staff and their spouse or domestic partner (casual or contract employees are not eligible)
- UC alumni
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute members
- Chancellor’s Associate members
- UC San Diego Alumni Association members

For additional information on financial assistance, please view our [webpage](#).

How do I enroll?
Students can enroll in classes online, in-person, or via phone. Visit [extension.ucsd.edu/English-language](http://extension.ucsd.edu/English-language) to enroll online. Enroll in-person at our [Student Services Offices](#) at our La Jolla Campus or University City Center. Call our Student Services office at 858-534-3400 to enroll over the phone. Please be sure to have the course Section ID Number ready when you enroll. The Section ID number is a 6-digit number and can be found on the course website.

Who do I contact if I have questions?
Please contact the ESL Program Manager at [esl@ucsd.edu](mailto:esl@ucsd.edu) or by calling 858-534-7418 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.