

## LEARNING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

### The Academic Language and Learning (ALL) Unit Program

The purpose of the Academic Language and Learning (ALL), which was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, is to enhance the student learning experience at UNSW@ADFA by providing all students with opportunities to:

- develop their academic skills
- master academic language and literacy strategies
- clarify academic expectations
- achieve their academic potential
- develop the [graduate attributes](#) of UNSW

Under the expert guidance of the ALL lecturers, students can learn to:

- think critically and develop an argument
- read critically and take effective notes
- summarise academic texts
- plan and structure their own academic writing (such as essays, reports, and theses)
- write appropriately for the requirements of different disciplines
- integrate source materials and references into text
- use different referencing styles competently
- avoid unintentional plagiarism
- improve their grammar and expression
- speak clearly
- deliver successful oral presentations
- listen confidently to lectures or discussions and take useful notes
- manage and plan their study time

### The ALL Unit Program

To achieve its purpose, the ALL unit provides an extensive program of:

- [courses and workshops](#)
- [individual consultations](#)
- [online guides and learning resources](#)

### Courses and workshops

The ALL Unit courses and workshops are offered in three ways:

- Supplementary study skills and academic literacy development classes

- ALL work embedded in existing credit courses
- Courses offered for credit as part of existing degree programs

### ***Supplementary study skills and academic literacy development classes***

In both semester one and two, ALL short courses have included:

- Critical reading development in History and Politics 1A (CRD)
- Writing academic essays (WAE)
- Grammar workshop (GW)
- Technical writing for Science and Engineering (TWSE)

The two hour workshops which are repeated twice a week to maximize the opportunity for undergraduates to attend, have included the following:

- Managing your study time (MST)
- Avoiding unintentional plagiarism (AUP)
- Effective citing (EC)
- Preparing for exams (PE)
- Punctuation practices (PP)

Other courses offered for postgraduate research students as well as for coursework students from non-English speaking backgrounds include:

- Doing your research project (four hours)
- Avoiding unintentional plagiarism and effective citing for postgraduate research students (4 hours)
- Postgraduate presentations (PRES) (Two hours a week for four weeks)
- Advanced writing skills for postgraduate research students (AWS) (Two hours a week for ten weeks)
- Pronunciation (PRO) (One hour a week for ten weeks)
- Critical listening and note-taking (CLN) (Two hours a week for ten weeks)

### ***ALL work embedded in existing credit courses***

IN 2006, the ALL team have worked with a number of academics to offer guest lectures, workshops and tutorials on critical reading and/or academic writing for credit courses in the following disciplines:

- History
- Electrical Engineering
- Strategic Studies
- Management
- Geography

## ***Credit courses as part of degree programs***

The credit course ZHSS 8119 *Academic Discourse: Analysis and Writing* is specifically designed for postgraduate coursework students from non-English speaking backgrounds to study academic discourse and improve their critical thinking and writing skills. Course content is designed to complement their major disciplinary areas.

In 2007, the credit course, *Academic Writing: Principles and Practices* will be offered for the first time to undergraduates from any school.

Course evaluations for ALL courses have been consistently high. (I'm preparing a table of these for the Annual Report)

Students can register for any courses online at the ALL Unit website: [www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/all](http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/all)

## **Individual Consultations**

Students can book a consultation with an ALL lecturer online in order to learn how to:

- Plan a study program
- Improve critical reading
- Take effective notes
- Approach the writing of their thesis, report or assignment
- Analyse an assignment question
- Develop a strong argument
- Prepare an essay outline
- Improve the structure of the assignment
- Improve their grammar
- Integrate written sources into text
- Avoid unintentional plagiarism
- Improve presentation skills

ALL lecturers will not proof-read or edit work, grade assignments or evaluate assignment content, as this is dependent on the expertise of the academic staff of the different disciplines. However, staff of the ALL unit will offer expert feedback on assignments and guide students to improve their own work.

## **Learning Resources**

The ALL unit webpage at: [www.unsw.adfa.edu.au](http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au) not only gives full details of every aspect of the ALL Unit and its program, but also provides links to a selection of excellent online learning resources and study guides for those students who are unable to take advantage of other aspects of the program.

The generic email address for the ALL Unit: [knowALL@adfa.edu.au](mailto:knowALL@adfa.edu.au) is designed to encourage students to email any queries about academic language and learning issues of concern to them.