

Research and Academic Development Skills

Study programme	YUFE Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies
Academic year	2026/2027
Curriculum component	First year
Year and semester	1st year, semester 1
Course type	Compulsory
ECTS credits	3
Contact hours (L+S+E)	8 + 22 + 0
Language of instruction	English

Contact

Course coordinator

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Course coordinator

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Teaching assistant/associate

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Prerequisites

No requirements.

Course objectives

The course aims to equip students with the foundational knowledge and practical skills required for effective academic communication. Students will develop the ability to apply academic writing conventions and communication skills to produce a well-structured and evidence-based academic paper that thoughtfully engages with diverse viewpoints.

Learning outcomes

- Describe and explain basic concepts and principles of academic communication.
- Critically assess and synthesize academic sources to construct well-reasoned, evidence-based arguments. Apply academic writing conventions and communication skills to produce a structured academic paper engaging with diverse viewpoints.

Course content

- T1: Definition of academic communication principles
- •elements of rhetorical situations

- types of academic writing (research proposal, literature review paper, original research paper, reports, essays, etc.)
- key characteristics of academic text (logical structure, academic style, referencing)
- elements of academic style (correctness, clarity and precision, suitability, simplicity)
- referencing styles (APA, MLA, Vancouver)
- T2: Search for, and evaluate online sources of scientific information
- techniques for efficient academic research (database searches, Boolean operators)
- criteria for evaluating sources (credibility, relevance, bias, etc.)
- T3: Critically assess academic papers
- academic writing structure (introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion)
- visual data presentation (graphs or diagrams)
- argumentation and thesis development
- T4: Writing academic paper
- principles of composition (completeness, coherence, unity)
- importance of peer reviewing and revision in academic work

Teaching and learning methods

lectures and seminars and workshops.

Assessment and grading

Multiple choices quiz 1 = 5 points Multiple choices quiz 2 = 5 points Multiple choices quiz 3 = 5 points Multiple choices quiz 4 = 5 points Evaluation of sources = 5 points Text analysis = 10 points Workshop = first draft = 20 points Workshop = feedback to two student's papers = 15 points Total classes: 70 points Final paper = 30 points

Grading scale

Grade	Percentage
5 (A)	90-100%
4 (B)	75-89.9%
3 (C)	60-74.9%
2 (D)	50-59.9%
1 (F)	0-49.9%