Do I need to take any English course in my first year at HKU?

Most students are required to take CAES1000 *Core University English* in either Semester 1 or 2 of their first year at HKU.

This six-credit course serves as a bridge between the English you learnt in secondary school and that at university. It helps you develop the academic literacy skills you will need to complete your degree at HKU. However, if you have attained Level 5 or above in HKDSE English Language (or its equivalent), you are eligible to apply for exemption from this course. Find out more about CAES1000: https://caes.hku.hk/caes1000

How can I enhance my English to achieve disciplinary success at HKU?

You are required to take one six-credit *English-in-the-Discipline* (ED) course in the later years of your programme before you graduate. The ED courses are closely integrated with your disciplinary studies to further enhance your academic literacy skills in your field.

Find out more about the ED courses in your field:

Faculty	Course aim	Direct link to course description
Arts	These courses have been designed to help you use written and spoken English to demonstrate critical learning from your reading of disciplinary texts, including philosophy, language studies, history, creative and visual art, world cultures, and literature.	CAES9201 CAES9202 CAES9203 CAES9204 CAES9205 CAES9206
Architecture	The focus of this course is on the language and communication skills required to facilitate your approach to architectural literacy. Through spontaneous speaking tasks on your personal and social experience of architecture in HK and through critical reading and discussion of selected texts, you will focus on the language needed to express your views on architectural issues.	CAES9121
Business	The course aims to enhance your academic writing and develop your critical understanding of the way texts work to achieve purpose and meet audience expectations. The course further aims to develop your meta-cognitive abilities, in order to be able to judge good quality writing.	CAES9920
Education	These courses will provide you with the opportunity to develop your critical reading skills, report writing skills and oral presentation skills for disciplinary studies and academic purposes.	CAES9420 CAES9421 CAES9423 CAES9430
Engineering	These courses aim to help you improve your technical writing skills through drafting and revising your technical reports relevant to your engineering projects. You are also trained to deliver associated technical presentations with teacher feedback and autonomous learning tasks.	CAES9531 CAES9532 CAES9540 CAES9541 CAES9542 CAES9544

Dentistry	You will develop effective language skills in your written presentation of your Community Health Projects in dentistry. Input will also be given to enhance your ability to deliver a professional oral presentation of your projects, and to critically reflect on a clinical learning experience.	CAES9350
Medicine	These courses aim to improve your academic and communication skills to meet the demands of your MBBS, Nursing, Pharmacy, Chinese Medicine or Biomedical Sciences studies. Each course is tailored to the specific needs of the medical profession or field, and depending on the course, may include medical vocabulary learning, reflective writing, presentation of patient cases or histories, conveying technical information to different audiences (specialist and non-specialist), or delivering a professional oral presentation.	CAES9720 CAES9721 CAES9722 CAES9730 CAES9740
Science	Depending on the course attended you will engage in some of the following communication tasks: (1) repackage expert knowledge from academic research articles for a non-specialist audience in the form of a popular science article; (2) write a case study report after using mathematical techniques such as regression to analyse a set of data and make recommendations based on your findings; (3) perform an oral presentation; and (4) develop a self-access language learning plan, carry this out, and reflect on your learning experience and learning strategies used.	CAES9820 CAES9821
Social Sciences	You (apart from those in the BSW programme) can choose from a range of ED courses on different literacy skills important for your studies and/or future career, such as research writing in the social sciences, public speaking and report writing.	CAES9930 CAES9925 CAES9923 CAES9921 CAES9922

Is there any English support beyond the classroom at HKU?

CAES Communication Support Services (CSS) offer a variety of consultations, workshops and discussions to help you succeed at HKU, and to support your development as a communicator within and beyond the university. CSS comprises four separate strands: General Language Advising, Digital Literacy Lab, Speaking Studio as well as the Writing Centre. Find out more about CAES CSS: https://caes.hku.hk/css

Are there any elective courses that I can take?

The Nurturing Global Leaders (NGL) programme (CAES2001) is a 12-credit free elective course offered in the summer semester, where you will undergo pre-trip training before a teaching internship in different locations across Myanmar, teaching communication skills to marginalized youth. Find out more about NGL: https://caes.hku.hk/ngl

The Online Digital Storytelling in English (CAES2002) is a 6-credit free elective course that adopts a unique new approach to experiential learning, giving you an opportunity to support the learning needs of marginalized youth in the developing world.   Through this experience, you will improve your own online communication skills while empowering others through personal narratives.

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