

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	International Foundation Certificate
4	Programme Title	International Foundation – Humanities and Social Sciences (INTO Newcastle University)
5	UCAS/Programme Code	2960F / 2966F
6	Programme Accreditation	n/a
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	n/a
8	FHEQ Level	3
9	Date written/revised	August 2020

10 Programme Aims

To provide a programme which:

1. equips international students with the English language competence they need to study at Certificate level at Newcastle University or in another UK HEI
2. provides students with the intellectual development they need to be academically capable of studying humanities and social science subjects at Certificate Level at Newcastle University or in another UK HEI
3. builds up students' study skills so that they are capable of entering UK HE, whilst also helping them to get accustomed to student life in the UK
4. provides practical experience of British university teaching methods
5. provides sufficient appreciation of British life, institutions and culture for both studying and living in the UK
6. enables students to develop confidence in communicating with native speakers
7. encourages students to undertake self-evaluation to help them assess their progress
8. aims to comply with University codes of practice.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 have a basic knowledge and understanding of many aspects of British institutions and culture
- A2 understand some basic aspects of aspects of humanities and social sciences including the nature of knowledge and research in these broad areas.
- A3 have an in-depth understanding of a chosen (project or option) topic
- A4 have an appreciation of the culture of UK higher education and its expectations of students
- A5 have an understanding of English grammar and vocabulary, including the conventions of academic English
- A6 understand the basic requirements for writing a competent essay or report

Teaching and Learning Methods

Knowledge and understanding is primarily taught through recorded lectures supported by reading, seminar discussion, tutorials (delivered as present in person or synchronous online) and asynchronous coursework. English is primarily taught in smaller classes and reinforced through practice. The final project involves a large element of student research.

Assessment Strategy
Knowledge and understanding is assessed primarily through written coursework submitted online and tests administered through the VLE, but also through presentations delivered through video conferencing software and the project.
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: B1 Use and interpret data B2 Evaluate arguments and evidence in written/spoken texts B3 Read academic texts with some degree of analytical skill B4 Argue a case orally or in writing B5 (where required) Use quantitative techniques
Teaching and Learning Methods
These skills are best taught and learned through practice, although the Study Skills module will provide students with advice on what is expected of UK students and strategies for developing these skills. The final project in particular reinforces B1-B4.
Assessment Strategy
The final project submitted online through the VLE provides a key piece of assessment of the development of intellectual skills, but so do other pieces of coursework and oral presentations. The Study Skills module will assess B1 and B2 in particular. The optional Maths for Business module directly assesses B5.
Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: C1 Develop strategies for effective note taking in lectures and seminars C2 Read and take notes from an academic text C3 Take part in a discussion in a seminar or tutorial context C4 Write an essay or report in an academic context in understandable English following the conventions of essay or report writing. C5 Present ideas and arguments in a clear and logical manner in written and oral English C6 Apply proper referencing and other aspects of good academic practice.
Teaching and Learning Methods
The study skills module and the project module will deliver C1, but the lessons learned will be reinforced in all the other modules. The English language skills will be taught through the English for Academic Purposes module largely through small group teaching either present in person or in synchronous online seminars with plenty of practice. However, every other module will also use and reinforce these skills through asynchronous activities. Not only will students be taught how to develop these skills, but the academic modules will provide opportunities to put these skills into practice. C6 will be taught through the Project, Study Skills and in some of the EAP modules.
Assessment Strategy
English language competency will be tested directly on an IELTS equivalent basis in the English for academic purposes module using a mixture of online tests and coursework submitted electronically covering reading, writing, speaking and listening. Other modules will indirectly assess English language competence and the ability to take notes and use sources, as they all require an ability to express ideas in English.
Transferable/Key Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 work as a member of a team with colleagues from other backgrounds and cultures D2 make oral presentations D3 use IT skills effectively D4 manage their time effectively D5 use library and information sources effectively D6 think and work effectively on their own when required D7 communicate effectively with native speakers D8 analyse their own strengths and weaknesses and take action accordingly.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The Study Skills module's recorded lectures will introduce students to these key skills and provide guidance on techniques, with practice occurring largely in the other modules and in small group teaching delivered as present in person or as synchronous online in the Study Skills module.

Assessment Strategy

Some groupwork is required and students' success in working in teams will therefore be assessed via the quality of the end product. Several assessed oral presentations are built into the module and will be delivered as present in person or through video conferencing software. D3-D6 will be assessed via coursework assessment and in particular through the project. The study skills module will also assess teamwork and essay writing. D7 will be facilitated through the Study Skills module which will have guest speakers for particular topics requires attendance of an undergraduate module. It will also be developed through the EAP modules and through extra-curricular activities. D8 will be developed particularly via the Study Skills module and the Project.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

A one year 120 credit programme which combines the study of English for academic purposes with the study of study skills, an Introduction to British Institutions & Culture, an Introduction to the Study of Humanities and Social Sciences module and a final project, with specialist modules in Introduction to Sociology and an Introduction to the Study of Business.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The combination of English for academic purposes, study skills and academic content in an environment designed to support international students and bring them up to the standard required for entry to an undergraduate programme.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programmeregandspec/>

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltts/assets/documents/gsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students>

UP Online plus support

In-country support programme, aimed directly at students. This encompasses four main areas: enhancement workshops, designed to help students get the most out of their online programme with topics such as adapting to online learning, understanding overseas study culture; pre-departure briefings, for students who are planning to transition to a centre; engagement and transition: help with students and parent questions about transitioning to centres; onboarding for Academic English – to ensure students get to grips with technological skills in first few weeks of AE term.

Orientation – Preparing for Study

Orientation week will help students prepare for studies at INTO Newcastle University, whether you are undertaking the Flexible Learning course or the Online only course. The Orientation course will be delivered completely online, through Canvas, and will be available in advance of induction week. Students will be asked to complete set tasks to ensure they 1) are able to use the Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas) 2. are able to use technology in the most effective way 3) understand how flexible and online learning work; 4 know what is expected of

them as a student of INTO Newcastle University; 5. become familiar with the University and the City; 6. make friends with other students and become part of a Learning Community; 7. develop new learning skills; 8. understand the range of support services available to them; 9. know what to expect on arrival in the UK; 10. know the importance of Induction Week

Induction

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principal support services and general information about the INTO Newcastle Centre and their programme, as described in the Foundation Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. This will be delivered via a bespoke Canvas course for all students and will allow for some limited drop in sessions for Present-in-Person students.

Technical support

Alongside the University's NUIT helpdesk, and Canvas chat and phone support, we have a dedicated INTO help desk for student support, which covers a range of issues students might have in accessing materials, engaging or joining live seminars and/or submitting online academic tasks/assessments.

Study skills support

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual work.

Academic support

The initial point of contact for a student is with a tutor or module leader, or their personal tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Programme Manager, Deputy Programme Manager, Academic Director or Centre Director may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Student-Staff Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. The personal tutor is the first point of contact used when engagement and attendance become a concern. INTO Newcastle also provides placement and progression support to help students secure appropriate destination degree programmes when progression grades have not been achieved for Newcastle programmes. This provides support students to make applications to Newcastle and elsewhere through UCAS for UG students or through PG portals. In addition the Centre makes use of the range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team.

Support for students with disabilities

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to . It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

The INTO Centre has a SEN coordinator who works across all academic and English programmes, providing support for students and colleagues as appropriate. The SEN

coordinator liaises closely with University Student Wellbeing and Disability service to ensure consistency and coherence of support provision.

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltids/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

15 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark

Academic modules

Modules will be marked on a 0-100 scale. The pass mark for academic modules is 40. The following forms of assessment may be used: class tests, seen and unseen examinations, coursework, oral tests, presentations, group-work.

English for Academic Purposes

These modules are internally assessed, using Newcastle's English Language Proficiency Scale (and benchmarked against IELTS). Modules will be marked on a 0-90 scale with 50 being equivalent to IELTS 5.0, 60 equivalent to IELTS 6.0, 6.5 equivalent to IELTS 6.5, etc. The pass mark for the English for Academic Purposes modules is 60.

Satisfactory completion of the Foundation Certificate requires that:

- (a) the average mark over all academic modules, taking due account of the credit value, is not less than 40;
- (b) no single mark for any academic module is below 35;
- (c) marks of less than 40 are compensated in academic modules, provided the total credit value of these modules does not exceed 20;
- (d) the average mark for English for Academic Purposes is not less than 60 (equivalent to IELTS 6.0) with no competence (reading, writing, listening and speaking) below 55
- (e) no compensation for English for academic Purposes is permitted

A student who fails a module will be able to have one further attempt to achieve a pass for that module. Students will not be permitted to proceed to a degree programme at Newcastle University carrying a failure in any module.

Performance higher than a basic pass (in both academic modules and English for academic Purposes) will be required for entry into Newcastle University degree programmes as specified in the progression requirements for specific degree programmes.

Marking Scheme

INTO Newcastle University employs the following marking scheme:

<40	Fail
40-49	Pass
50-59	Good
60-69	Very Good
70-79	Excellent
80+	Outstanding

Role of the External Examiner

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by the University following recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is required to:

- i. confirm whether the standards of the University's awards meet or exceed the academic standards specified in external reference points such as the Framework for Higher

Education Qualifications, the UK Quality Code, subject benchmark statements, and, where appropriate, the requirements of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies;

- ii. confirm whether the academic standards of the University's awards are consistent with those of similar programmes in other UK higher education institutions;
- iii. report on whether the University's processes for assessment measure student achievement rigorously and fairly and are conducted in line with University policies and regulations;
- iv. identify, where appropriate, examples of exemplary practice and innovation in learning, teaching and assessment;
- v. comment on opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning experience provided to students.

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/>)

The INTO Newcastle University Brochure (see <https://www.intohigher.com/uk/en-gb/our-centres/into-newcastle-university.aspx>)

The University Regulations (see <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations>.)

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.