

Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills (LEADS)

Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills (LEADS) courses are practical courses designed to support student teachers during their course of study and as they move into school settings. All student teachers at NIE take a course on Communication Skills for Teachers that helps provide them with the oral and written skills necessary to communicate effectively as teachers in the classroom and in their professional interaction with colleagues, students, parents and the general public. Student teachers on the PGDE programme take a short course on pronunciation that is differentiated for those who will be teaching English and those teaching in the medium of English. The first strengthens English Language (EL) student-teachers' knowledge of phonetics and pronunciation in order to equip them to implement the MOE EL syllabus more effectively, while the second increases participants' awareness of how pronunciation impacts the delivery of disciplinary content. All students on diploma and degree courses take a course that helps them understand the practice and conventions of reading and writing in academic settings.

The LEADS courses include

- Communication Skills for Teachers (*for ALL student teachers*)
- Practical pronunciation for Teachers (*for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme*)
- English for Academic and Professional Purposes (*for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme*)
- Academic Discourse Skills (*for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme*)

DLK202: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme)

DLK202 is a practical course designed to provide student teachers with the oral and written skills necessary for effective communication as teachers in the classroom and in their professional interaction with colleagues, parents and the general public. Participants will become more aware of the importance of considering the purpose, audience and context in communicating effectively to promote learning in their own future classrooms. As part of the learning process, participants will have opportunities to practice good pronunciation and understand effective voice production.

ALK10B: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme)

ALK10B is a practical course designed to expose student teachers to the oral and written skills necessary for effective communication as teachers in a variety of educational contexts and with varied audiences. The course tutorials include activities and tasks to analyse and improve speaking skills as well as exercises and group tasks involving thinking processes and communication strategies in the context of text type. An emphasis on good voice production, pronunciation and articulation will be integral to every tutorial.

QLK50D/QLK52D: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme – QLK50D: PGDE(Primary); QLK52D: PGDE(Secondary))

This practical course is designed to provide the oral and written skills necessary for effective communication as teachers in the classroom and in their professional interaction with colleagues, parents and the general public. The focus of the course is to raise student teachers' awareness of and work on developing a professional voice. This refers to 'voice' in its widest sense, encompassing both oral and written language to present himself or herself to the audiences they will encounter in their professional life. The course will build on participants' existing knowledge and develop professional communication skills specific to the school context.

QLK50A/QLK50B/QLK52A/QLK52B: Practical Pronunciation for Teachers (13 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme – QLK50A/B: PGDE(Primary); QLK52A/B: PGDE(Secondary))

The whole school approach to effective communication in English emphasizes the importance of teachers providing good models of spoken English. Participants will be made aware of how a teacher's pronunciation may impact his/her ability to deliver disciplinary content effectively to their respective students. They will be introduced to a range of resources that will help them investigate language items related to their subject areas. With greater understanding of language related issues, participants will be in a better position to help their students develop clear pronunciation and appropriate intonation for effective oral discussions or presentations.

DLK102: English for Academic and Professional Purposes (26 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme)

DLK102 is designed to develop student teachers' language and communicative competence towards two desired outcomes. The first is to equip them with the thinking and language skills needed to produce appropriate texts in course-related writing tasks. The second is to guide them towards a reader-focused and socially aware approach to written communications with colleagues, parents, and other people that teachers interact with in the course of their work.

ALS10A: Academic Discourse Skills (39 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme)

ALS10A is designed to explore and study the practice and conventions of reading and writing in an academic setting. Specifically, the focus of the course is on critical reading and writing in an academic context. The course engages student teachers in conducting a mini-research project to hone their writing skills and through the various activities and tasks, aims to raise participants' awareness of what it means to be a critical reader and a critical writer.