Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills (LEADS) courses

The Language Enhancement and Academic Discourse Skills (LEADS) courses are 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 professional communication 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 and parents. 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 other subjects in the medium of English. The first course strengthens English Language (EL) student teachers' knowledge of pronunciation to implement the MOE English language syllabus more effectively, while the second course increases participants' awareness of how pronunciation impacts the delivery of disciplinary content. All students on the Diploma and Degree courses take a course that helps them understand the practice and conventions of reading and writing in academic contexts.

The LEADS courses include

- Basics of Pronunciation for Teachers (PGDE programme)
- Professional Communication for Teachers (PGDE programme)
- Academic Discourse Skills (Degree programme)
- English for Academic and Professional Purposes (Diploma programme)
- Communication Skills for Teachers (Degree and Diploma programmes)

QLK10/12A: Basics of Pronunciation for Teachers of English Language (13 hours)
for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme: QLK10A(Primary); QLK12A(Secondary/JC))

This course aims to strengthen your knowledge of pronunciation in order to equip you to implement the MOE English language syllabus more effectively. Your learning is situated in diverse and multicultural educational contexts with the varied audiences that you will encounter, and it will support your curriculum studies courses. You will be equipped with an understanding of issues relating to pronunciation in Singapore and learn about multimodal resources to enhance your own pronunciation and to research issues your students may encounter in their speaking. You will engage in a range of listening, speaking and reading activities to raise your awareness of the sounds, rhythm and stress patterns of English and of ways to express meaning. You will also compare significant pronunciation features of the English language varieties spoken in Singapore, develop the ability to differentiate between them, and discuss the issues pertaining to the use of appropriate varieties for oral communication in the classroom.

QLK10/12B Basics of Pronunciation for non-English Language Teachers (13 hours)
for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme: QLK10B(Primary); QLK12B(Secondary/JC)

It is important that all teachers who teach subjects in English provide good models of spoken English. On this course you will identify and compare the significant pronunciation features of the English language varieties spoken in Singapore, develop the ability to differentiate between them, and learn about effective oral communication in the classroom. You will be made aware of how a teacher's pronunciation and speaking may impact the delivery of disciplinary content and will be introduced to a range of resources that will help you investigate language items specific to your own disciplines. With the understanding of language related issues gained on the course, you will be in a better position to help your students develop their spoken competence and encourage them to see the importance of effective speaking for oral discussions and presentations in their content areas.

QLK10/12C Professional Communication for Teachers (13 hours)
for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme: QLK10C(Primary); QLK12C(Secondary/JC)

QLK10C is a course in which you will learn about appropriate communication in educational contexts. You will explore the multiple modes (e.g., verbal, non-verbal, visual) necessary to develop effective communication skills. The course introduces diverse and multicultural educational contexts with the varied audiences that you will encounter as professional educators. It aims to strengthen your language awareness and metacognition to communicate effectively with students, colleagues, school administrators, parents, and external stakeholders.

ALS10A: Academic Discourse Skills (39 hours)
(for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme)

ALK10A a foundation course on academic writing in which we explore and study the practice and conventions of communicating in an academic setting in the 21st century such as representing academic knowledge visually and the ethical use of AI. Specifically, our focus will be on critical reading, researching, and writing in an academic context. We will also examine what it means to be a critical writer – one who is able to formulate workable research questions on his/her own, critically evaluate and present research findings and who is able to use language purposefully and appropriately to accomplish specific rhetorical goals.

ALK10B: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)
(for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme)

This is a practical course designed to expose you to the oral and written skills necessary for effective communication as teachers in a variety of professional contexts and with diverse and multicultural audiences. The course tutorials include active tasks to analyse and improve speaking skills as well as exercises and groupwork tasks involving metacognitive processes and communication strategies across different modes of communication. You will have access to practical instruction and exercises to develop vocal healthcare and vocal quality, with an emphasis on good voice production, pronunciation and articulation.

DLK102: English for Academic and Professional Purposes (26 hours)
(for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme)

English for Academic and Professional Purposes is designed to develop your linguistic and communicative competence towards two desired outcomes. Firstly, you will acquire the metacognitive and language skills needed to produce appropriate texts in course-related writing tasks. Secondly, you will be guided towards adopting an inclusive, reader-focused, socially aware approach to written communication with colleagues, parents and other stakeholders that teachers interact with in the course of their work. In working towards these outcomes, you will become more strategic in how grammar and lexical choices can impact meaning in your writing.

DLK202: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)
(for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme)

DLK 202 is a practical course designed to introduce the principles of oral and written communication for effective professional communication in the 21st century for diverse educational contexts and with varied audiences. Through the analysis of authentic school-based scenarios and relevant readings, you will develop an understanding of how communications need to be tailored based on different purposes, audiences and contexts. The course tutorial sessions are structured as interactive engagements that encourage your critical reflection on communication choices. These activities are aimed at preparing you for your future role as a teacher, with specific emphasis on enhancing pronunciation and articulation of spoken language.