

Birmingham International Academy



- We are part of the university.
- We provide services for all students who speak another language besides English.



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Who benefits from the BIA?

- The BIA provides free study skills and language support for all international students who speak other languages.
- If English is not your first or only language, the BIA is there for you!



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What you may be thinking...

My English is good enough already. I don't need any help!

I am so busy with my PhD, I won't have time for extra English classes!

If I ask for support for language or study skills, my supervisor will think I am not a good PhD candidate.



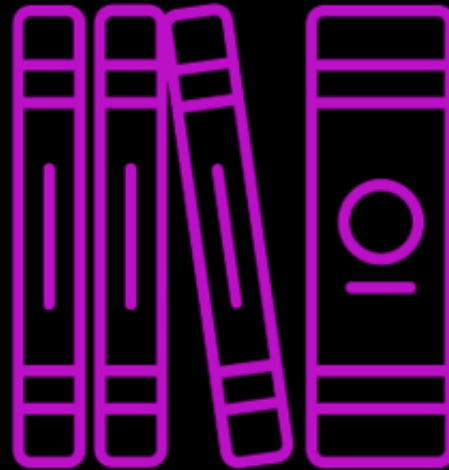
Improving Academic English skills can enhance your PhD

- Build understanding of appropriate AI use e.g. for proofreading and polishing
- Increase writing confidence & motivation
- Improve critical analysis when reading the literature
- Know what your supervisor / examiner expect e.g. showing critical thinking



Summer Term 2026

- We offer several online opportunities for PGR students throughout the summer as well as year-round F2F sessions.



1-1 Tutorials

- Book a 30-minute appointment
- Discuss a section of your thesis writing
- Understand and act on supervisor feedback
- Prepare for and practise your viva (oral skills)
- Mixture of online and on campus
- 1 appointment every 3 weeks
- Sign up via the Academic English Canvas course



Contacts and Canvas course

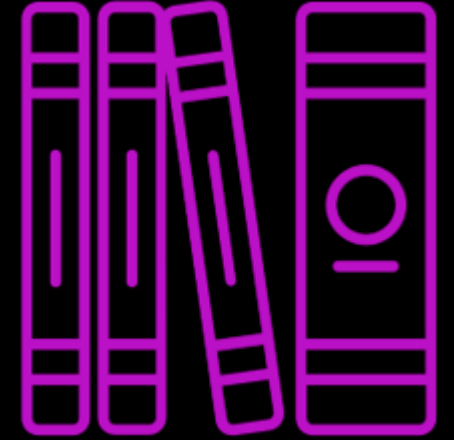
Enrol on the general Academic English Canvas Course.

<https://canvas.bham.ac.uk/enroll/4NJN36>

Email: bia@contacts.bham.ac.uk

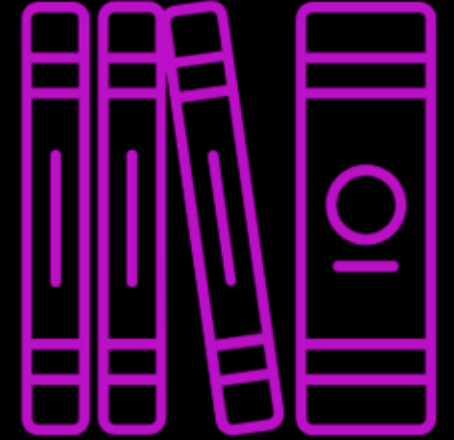


Thesis and Dissertation Writing [Online]



- Focus on writing thesis sections / chapters
- Improve writing confidence
- Gain motivation to start / continue writing
- Two strands: STEMM or Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities
- Monday 20 July - Friday 24 July 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Sign up via the Academic English Canvas course

Academic English for PGRs [Online]



- Understanding supervisor feedback
- Avoiding plagiarism
- The language of literature reviews
- Writing critically
- Proofreading techniques and appropriate use of AI
- Tuesdays and Thursdays 28 July – 11 August 13.00 – 15.00
- Sign up via the Academic English Canvas course

Year- Round Learning & Support

- Academic English for UG and PG
- Drop in sessions and small workshops
- UK culture
- Academic writing
- Building vocabulary and improving grammar
- Speaking and presentation skills
- Critical thinking
- Employment skills (e.g. CV writing)



What students say

“The sessions held by the BIA were really interesting and broaden my understanding.”

“The teachers are helpful and the environment is friendly.”

“Lunchtime English is super helpful and fantastic.”

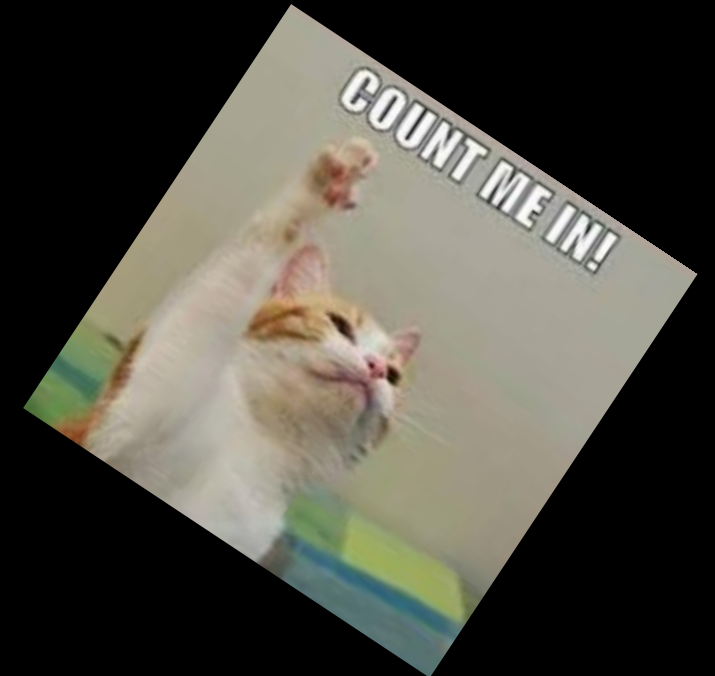
“Lessons did not just teach us English – they taught us the value of communication and understanding in a global context.”



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Are you ready for the challenge?



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