

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Study Abroad Programme
<b>Course Code</b>	:	SAP101
<b>Study Year</b>	:	Two
<b>Number of credits</b>	:	Six
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	Intensive over 4-week period (45 contact hrs.)
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Required Course
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

The department's Study Abroad Programme takes place at the end of the second year of study. It consists of a summer period of study at an overseas university, in which English is the native language. The programme, designed to be essentially experiential, is a required component of the BACES. The rationale for the mandatory Study Abroad Programme (SAP) is that it is a very good means to enhance the students' learning by articulating between the courses taught in the Department and the Study Abroad experience itself. For example students study literary works before the educational immersion programme and watch films or plays based on the respective texts during the SAP. For the linguistics strand students have the opportunity to observe, experience and study the features of English in a first language immersion context, and, for example, to familiarize themselves with regional differences and language variation.

### **Aims**

1. To develop awareness of the features of English as both a global and local cultural phenomenon;
2. To engage in pragmatic, transactional experiences of using English in an authentically necessary context;
3. To develop sensitivity to people in settings and situations alien to the customary Hong Kong environment;
4. To further develop the skills of analysis and independent learning necessary for the optional final year BACES project;
5. To gain further exposure to a target language-rich environment;

6. To benefit from the experience of interacting with staff and other students from the local university.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be exposed to linguistic and cultural material often of local relevance and will be expected to interact positively with the host environment. They will be expected to demonstrate awareness of the social, historical and geographical factors that affect indigenous language and culture. In addition they will be required to make connections and demonstrate understanding of comparisons and contrasts between the L1 overseas context and issues of Hong Kong linguistic and cultural relevance. In their written work students will need to display sensitivity to and experiential knowledge of the cultural context(s) selected for the immersion programme.

### **Indicative Content**

There are three strands of the programme:

- 1) linguistic
- 2) cultural/ literary
- 3) practical/ creative

The home-stay and combination of intensive small-group classes and cultural/ social/ historical visits and experiences are intended to be complementary. A balance will be achieved between language proficiency development, enhancement of linguistic knowledge and cultural awareness. Classes are tutor-led but based on principles of lively classroom interaction. A significant element of autonomous learning through project work is an intrinsic part of the programme.

The pair-project work is developed according to the interests of the participants. The content is open to negotiation according to local factors and needs and interests of students themselves. Typically students will be required to draft a proposal, suggesting a methodology and the use of various human, electronic and print-based resources.

### **Teaching Method**

Students will work in small groups of approximately fourteen per class with an instructor from the programme provider university. Projects and other assignments will be explored both in class and in independent learning mode, based on literary and linguistic topics connected with the indigenous cultural context. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their language skills and awareness independently as a result of the home-stay experience.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes indicated above will be measured by continuous assessment based on their participation in class activities and presentations as well as written products of the residential programme. After the programme has concluded students will be expected to produce a journal of their experiences which will be submitted to their home institution (Lingnan English Dept.) and graded accordingly by professors. Responsibility for the assignment of overall grades for the SAP will be shared by the overseas institution's director of programme and the English Department at Lingnan, hence a combinatory and negotiated final grade

## **Assessment**

Continuous Assessment : 100% (coursework, including a proposal; tests; a project; presentations; an individual logbook summing up and reflecting on the experience).

## **Required Readings**

This will vary according to the course provider and the needs and interests of students. Students will be expected to read about the indigenous socio-cultural and socio-linguistic features of the host institution's regional and national environments in preparation for the immersion programme.