

# Academic Writing in English

## Writing a Research Paper

*OPTIONAL WRITING COURSE FOR DEGREE STUDENTS!!!*

### INTRODUCTION

Many Degree programmes (either undergraduate or post-graduate) include one or more courses that require you to write a research paper as part of the course assessment. The skills needed to write an academic research paper are quite different from, for example, the skills needed to write an undocumented academic essay or typical business correspondence. Writing a research paper for an academic audience (e.g. your course professor!) is probably something that you have not had specific training in. If this is the case, then this is a course which will help you acquire this rather specific set of academic writing skills in order to succeed in the course(s) you are currently pursuing, or will be pursuing, as part of your overall Degree programme.

### COURSE FEATURES

This new course will have the following features:

- focus only on the specific skills needed to write a research paper
- be offered on a Pass/Fail basis, based on progress made during the course
- be completely optional, not a required course
- will not teach the skills of writing an undocumented essay (please see our other course “Writing Academic Essays” for these skills)

### COURSE CONTENTS

The course will cover the following topics:

Choosing a suitable topic to research and write about; developing and narrowing your topic; finding and using relevant materials; developing a preliminary bibliography; taking relevant notes and storing them systematically for later use; writing, focusing and revising your thesis statement; writing and revising your outline; learning how to paraphrase and summarize source materials; moving from 1st to final draft; incorporating quotes, paraphrases and summaries into your paper; avoiding plagiarism; formatting the paper and the bibliography; editing for mechanical errors

### WHO CAN APPLY?

This course is primarily targeted at SCOPE students who: 1) are currently enrolled in, or who will be enrolled in, a Degree programme which requires a documented research paper(s) as part of a course or the programme assessment and 2) feel that the lack of these specific writing skills will limit their chances for success in their current Degree programme. The course will be delivered in such a way as to allow for a range of writing levels among the course participants but, to benefit fully from the course, it is expected that a participant’s current writing level will already be at the intermediate level, as a minimum. The goal will be for individual improvement, not competition with your fellow classmates.

### COURSE INFORMATION

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|----------------------|---|
| Code:                | 92628   |
| Start/End Dates:     | 19 September 2009 – 7 November 2009 (every Saturday)                            |
| Meeting Times:       | 2:30 pm – 5:30pm  |
| Total Contact Hours: | 21 hours (7 x 3-hour session)   |
| Venue:               | SCOPE Learning Centre (Kowloon Tong) or other designated SCOPE Learning Centres |
| Instructor:          | SCOPE part-time English instructor  |

### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION

31 August 2009

### FEES

Course fee: HK\$1,500 (for SCOPE students)  
HK\$1,800 (for the Public)