

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 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 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 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

- 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 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, student teachers will develop an understanding of how communications need to be tailored based on the purpose, audience and context. The course tutorial sessions are structured as interactive engagements that encourage critical reflection on communication choices, with a specific emphasis on enhancing pronunciation and articulation.

ALK10B: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the Degree Programme)

ALK10B is designed to expose student teachers 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. Student teachers will have access to practical instruction and exercises to develop vocal health and vocal quality, with an emphasis on good voice production, pronunciation and articulation.

QLK50D/52D: Communication Skills for Teachers (26 hours)

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

QLK50D/52D is a practical course on which student teachers will learn about effective communication in educational contexts. Participants will explore and practice the multiple modes (e.g., verbal, non-verbal, visual) necessary to develop communication skills. The course is situated in diverse and multicultural educational contexts. It aims to strengthen language awareness and metacognition for effective communication with students, colleagues, school administrators, parents, and external stakeholders.

QLK50G/52G: Practical Pronunciation for Teachers of English Language (13 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme – QLK50G: PGDE(Primary); QLK52G: PGDE(Secondary/JC))

QLK50/52G aims to strengthen student teachers' knowledge of pronunciation to implement the MOE English language syllabus more effectively. Participants will be equipped with an understanding of issues relating to pronunciation in Singapore and learn about multimodal resources to enhance their own pronunciation and to research issues that students may encounter in their speaking. They will engage in a range of listening, speaking and reading activities to raise awareness of the sounds, rhythm and stress patterns of English and of ways to express meaning.

QLK50H/52H: Practical Pronunciation for non-English Language Teachers (13 hours)

(for student teachers enrolled in the PGDE Programme – QLK50H: PGDE(Primary); QLK52H: PGDE(Secondary/JC))

It is important that all teachers who teach subjects in English provide good models of spoken English. In QLK50/52H participants 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. With the understanding of language related issues gained on the course, they will be in a better position to help students develop their spoken competence and encourage them to see the importance of effective speaking for oral discussions and presentations in their content areas.

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

(for student teachers enrolled in the Diploma Programme)

DLK102 is designed to develop student teachers' linguistic and communicative competence. Participants will acquire the metacognitive and language skills needed to produce appropriate texts in course-related writing tasks. They 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.

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 will be on critical reading and writing in an academic context as well as on conducting a mini-research project. The course will look at what it means to be a critical reader and a critical writer.