EPPIC:
Multilingual Student Success

Advanced Academic & Professional English
WHAT IS EPPIC?

EPPIC is an academic support & research center that
– Provides services to international multilingual students for advanced academic English
– Promotes intercultural awareness & exchange across the university community

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
017 Thomas Building
Department of Applied Linguistics
WHAT SERVICES DOES EPPIC OFFER?

EPPIC offers support for advanced academic and professional English to multilingual students through:

- Workshops (writing, presentations, interviews, email)
- EPPIC Individual Consultations (one-on-one)
- Customized programs on specialized English
What is EPPIC?

Connected to the Department of Applied Linguistics

- ESL courses at UP - Undergraduate & Graduate-level
- Research on language analysis
- Research on discipline-specific writing, speaking, teaching (e.g., Economics, Engineering, medicine)
- Multilingual faculty and students
**What does EPPIC do?**

- **Research** on academic communication patterns
- **Services** for international students & scholars
  - **Workshops** on academic English writing & speaking
    - Emails, pronunciation, presentations, and more
  - One-on-one **meetings**: EPPIC Individual Consultations
  - **Speak UP** weekly group: Make time to talk!
Why EPPIC?

- Support complex communication skills required for academic and professional life
  - Email, websites, videos, LinkedIn, social media
- Support multiple types of academic writing & speaking
  - Course papers, teaching, interviews, job applications
- Promote global perspectives and communication
  - Across students, faculty, staff, advisers at Penn State

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Workshop Series

- Applying for Jobs in the U.S.
- Foundational Academic Skills
- Pronunciation
- Research Writing
- Presentations

**Spring 2024 Workshops**

To register for workshops, please visit eppic.la.psu.edu.

### Applying for Jobs in the United States

**Tuesdays, 5:00–6:30 p.m. in 103 Business Building**

- January 23: “Writing Targeted Cover Letters”
- January 30: “Preparing for Industry Job Interviews”
- February 6: “Introducing Yourself and Your Research: Using Elevator Speeches to Network at Conferences”
- February 13: “Preparing for Academic Job Interviews” **final workshop in 215 Business Building**

### Foundational Academic Skills in the United States

**Wednesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in 005 Huck Life Sciences Building**

- January 17: “Strategies for Reading Academic Articles”
- January 24: “Using Critical Reading to Actively Participate in Discussions”
- January 31: “Incorporating Sources in Academic Writing: Strategies for Skillful Paraphrasing”
- February 7: “Structure and Flow in Academic Writing”

### Focus on Pronunciation

**Mondays, 4:00–5:30 p.m. in 121 Thomas Building**

- February 12: “Syllables and Stress in American English”
- February 26: “Intonation in American English”

### Research Writing in English

**Tuesdays, 5:00–6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

- March 12: “Writing Abstracts for Papers and Conferences”
- March 19: “Preparing to Write a Literature Review”
- March 26: “Writing Effective Literature Reviews”
- April 2: “Writing About Data and Results in Research Papers”

### Academic Presentation Skills

**Wednesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m. in 005 Huck Life Sciences Building**

- March 20: “Presenting a Poster: How to Attract and Keep an Audience”
- March 27: “Preparing Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Design”
- April 3: “Giving Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Clear Delivery”
- April 10: “Interacting During Academic Slide Presentations: Tips for Answering Questions”

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EMAILING YOUR PROFESSORS

HOW TO DO IT BETTER

ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES INTERCULTURAL CENTER (EPPIC)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Politeness</th>
<th>Request Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Very polite** | I would be grateful if you could send me...  
I would appreciate if you could...  

| Polite | Could you please send me...?  
Could you send me..., please?  

| Polite but more direct | Could you send me...?  
Would you send me...?  

| Direct | Please send me...  

| Forceful | Send me...  

## PURPOSE: I HAVE A REQUEST

| **your gratitude** + **modal** | I would be grateful if you could send me...  
I would appreciate if you could... |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| **modal** + **please**        | Could you please send me... ?  
Could you send me..., please? |
| **modal**                     | Could you send me... ?  
Would you send me... ? |
| **please**                    | Please send me... |
| *(nothing)*                   | Send me... |
Participating in Group Work
What to Expect & How to Get Involved
WHAT

does participation look like

WHY

is participation valued

HOW

to participate in small groups

to participate in large group discussions
WHAT

does participation look like

WHY

is participation valued

HOW

to participate in small groups

to participate in large group discussions
GROUP ROLES

ORGANIZER
- keep on task
- create subtasks
- involve everyone

SKEPTIC
- push possibilities
- ask questions
- reach understanding

RECORDER
- check consensus
- record solutions
- keep notes

CONCILIATOR
- resolve conflicts
- minimize stress
- promote safe space

EXPLAINER
- emphasize main points
- check understanding of content; of roles

University of Queensland, 2016
SKEPTIC

ENSURES THE GROUP AVOIDS PREMATURE AGREEMENT
ASKS QUESTIONS THAT WILL LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING
PUSHES THE GROUP TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES

“I think that’s a good point, but have you considered...”

“I am not so sure I agree with that. The way I see it...”

“I interpreted that differently.”

“I can see how you came to that conclusion, but...”

“Here’s another way to look at it.”

“What exactly do you mean by...?”
Student Participation Guide: Roles & what to say

**ORGANIZER**

- Gets the group organized
- Keeps the group on task
- Organizes tasks into sub-tasks
- Makes sure everyone has a chance to contribute

“[NAME], Do you mind...?”

“So who wants to...?”

“I will...” / “I’ll take...” / “I’ll handle...”

“Okay, I guess we’d better get started.”

“What do you think we should do first?”

“That’s interesting. How about we go around the group and all explain something we understood.”

“I wish we could keep chatting, but we better get some work done.”
PREPARING ACADEMIC SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

TIPS FOR DESIGN

EPPIC ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES INTERCULTURAL CENTER
GIVING ACADEMIC SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

TIPS FOR CLEAR DELIVERY
Focus on Pronunciation

The Rhythm of American English
Thought groups

like punctuation for your speaking

just like punctuation:

can change your meaning

woman without her man is helpless
Thought groups

like punctuation for your speaking

just like punctuation:

can change your meaning

Woman without her man / is helpless.

Woman without her man is helpless.

Woman / without her / man is helpless.

Woman: Without her, man is helpless.
EPPIC Services

- Research on academic communication patterns
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  - Speak UP weekly group: Make time to talk

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Department of Applied Linguistics
EPPIC Individual Consultations
One-on-one meetings

- Bring your work!
  - Projects, presentations, proposals, papers, applications
- Review & discuss with a language specialist
- Appointments via Zoom or in-person

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
Department of Applied Linguistics
I would like to work on:

Academic Writing

- Organizing my ideas and information
- Making my ideas clear and concise
- A specific type of writing (course paper, statement of purpose, cover letter, etc.)
- Working with academic sources (e.g., citation formats, summarizing, paraphrasing, etc.)
- Understanding professor's expectations/feedback on my writing

Speaking Skills

- Speaking more clearly and accurately
- Conversational English skills
- A specific type of speaking (e.g., small talk, elevator speech, service encounter, etc.)
- Participating in class discussions
- Giving oral presentations
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English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
Department of Applied Linguistics
EPPIC Philosophy

- Relevance
- Respect
- Repertoire
- Resources
- Responsiveness

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
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WHAT IS SPEAK UP?

- **Weekly** English conversation group, new topics each week
- Language/cultural **lesson, discussion, practice**
- **Questions** welcome! Weekly topics.
- **All students** are invited (UG & G; international or not)

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
Department of Applied Linguistics
Speak UP

To register, please visit: eppic.la.psu.edu

ADVANCED ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP • MEETS WEEKLY

Speak UP focuses on advanced language use in everyday university contexts. Lessons include cultural information, commonly used phrases, and pronunciation tips. Participants have an opportunity to engage with their new knowledge through group discussions, role-plays, and other activities with peers.

THURSDAYS | 4:30 P.M. | 220A BOUCKE BUILDING

HOUR 1: LANGUAGE LESSON and DISCUSSION
HOUR 2 (optional): ACTIVITIES and PRACTICE

JANUARY
January 25 - Talking with Anyone: Small Talk in the United States

FEBRUARY
February 1 - Talking with Everyone: Conversational Everyday Phrases
February 8 - Talking in Idioms: Understanding Slang and Metaphors
February 15 - Talking with/at/over: Using Phrasal Verbs to Sound Less Formal
February 22 - Talking with Friends: Socializing at a Bar or Restaurant
February 29 - Talking about Americans: Sharing Observations from the U.S. and Discussing Culture Shock

MARCH
March 14 - Talking in Groups: Joining Conversations and Participating in Discussions
March 21 - Talking with Advisers: Negotiating and Being Your Own Advocate
March 28 - Networking: Breaking the Ice at Professional Events

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What Americans say

Slang & Idioms in the U.S.

Speak UP: Session 2
Focus on Interaction
EPPIC Services

- Research on academic communication patterns
- Services for international students & scholars

Not sure which services are right for you? Schedule with EPPIC Advising to learn more about our programs

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
Department of Applied Linguistics
CONNECTING WITH EPPIC

Services are free to students

– Start with EPPIC Advising
– Registration for services on-line at eppic.la.psu.edu
--- Weekly MailChimp message with upcoming events
– Subscribe on EPPIC’s ‘Contact Us’ page

English for Professional Purposes Intercultural Center
Department of Applied Linguistics
Questions?

meredith@psu.edu  EPPIC@psu.edu

Thank you for your attention!

Learn more and register for advising, consultations, groups, or workshops at eppic.la.psu.edu