

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to support multilingual Agrologists in the development of oral English skills applicable to their professional contexts. Participants will learn and practice specific language functions and strategies for effective communication in both informal and formal situations. Students will engage in cross-cultural comparisons to improve their intercultural competence, and gain insight into norms of professional communication in Canada. Participants will also receive instruction on pronunciation, with a focus on improving comprehensibility.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Participate more effectively in conversations, discussions and meetings
- Develop non-verbal communication skills
- Develop pronunciation strategies to improve comprehensibility
- Develop intercultural competencies
- Deliver an effective elevator pitch
- Learn vocabulary/terminology specific to the ag industry in western Canada

Assignments

Details of all assignments will be provided in class.

Attendance & Letter of Completion

Students will receive a “letter of completion” at the end of this course, providing s/he attends a minimum of 80% of classes (8/10 classes).

Grading

Although homework will be assigned, assignments/presentations will not be formally graded. Instead, you will receive constructive feedback from the instructor. The emphasis in this course is on student improvement in the language areas covered in class.

What Will I Learn In Class?

Conversation Strategies

- Informal Speaking: Small Talk
- Participating in Meetings

Intercultural Competencies

- Effects of culture on communication
- Cultural identities

Listening and Pronunciation

- Stress and Intonation patterns
- Connected Speech
- Segmentals
- Vocabulary / Terminology

Formal Speaking Module

- Agreeing/Disagreeing

- Making Requests

- Hedging
- Responding to Questions
- Delay Tactics: What to say to give yourself time to think

Delivery Skills Module

- Speaking with Confidence
- Non-Verbal Communication
- Voice/Volume

Elevator Pitch

- Outlining / Mapping a Speech
- Structure
- Transitions Between Ideas