

Module	Thinking, Writing & Presenting
Course code	BACH-TWP
Credits	5
Important Notes	Students need to have a high proficiency in English.
Allocation of marks	100% continuous assessment

Module aims and objectives

This module aims to develop learners' writing skills in the areas of punctuation, grammar, structure, syntax and Harvard referencing so that they can produce well-written academic essays. The module has the objective of developing learners' research skills, and cultivating learners' presentation skills, their confidence in presenting, capacity to develop and critique an argument, and their capacity to prepare well for pitches and presentations using appropriate software and application of research skills. The module also aims to nurture and enhance learners' note-taking and study skills, online and offline research skills, and to cultivate an informed awareness of contemporary social, political, cultural and economic issues.

Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

- (i) Demonstrate a solid grasp of the grammar, syntax, spelling, structure and referencing skills required for college essays.
- (ii) Display a good knowledge and understanding of the guidelines for making successful presentations.
- (iii) Research both academic and media material online and offline.
- (iv) Engage with the contemporary media agenda to the extent that they can successfully discuss media agenda topics in front of and against their peers in an informed manner in front of and against their peers in an informed manner.

Module content, organisation and structure

Presentations Skills: preparation, notes, greetings, posture, diction, confidence, more preparation, dress code, overcoming anxiety, addressing and preparing for questions, using presentation software (e.g.: PowerPoint), printing handouts for audience.

Research Skills: searching and researching online, verifying facts, separating facts from opinion, negotiating the world wide web, finding and using online academic resources (e.g.: academic journal databases, the Griffith library catalogue, Google scholar).

Preparation for RTÉ Current Affairs Show Audience Attendance: weekly in-class, mock-up of current affairs panel discussion TV programme modelled on the Claire Byrne Live TV programme on RTÉ television. It is also arranged that learners must attend in the audience of a live TV show (e.g.: Claire Byrne Live).

This Week's Media Agenda Quiz: covering this week's politics, arts, entertainment and current affairs issues.

This Week's Media Debate: in small teams, learners identify an issue for the following week's in-class debate, where they then demonstrate that they have incorporated into their arguments, the work of, (a) journalists, (b) academics, and (c) civil society organisations, who have written about and have opinions on, the topic at hand.

Press Releases and Press Conferences: how to construct well-written press releases and conduct successful press conferences – examples, audience and media product identification, pre-release prep, media diary date, promoting a photo-op, booking a venue, follow-up on invitees, conducting the press conference (in-class), dealing with questions.

Writing Skills 1: Basics: sentence construction, usage of paragraphs, spelling, punctuation, syntax, writing well.

Writing Skills 2: Using Speech: How to use quotes, how to paraphrase, and incorporating direct and indirect speech.

Essay Skills 1: Using Griffith's Harvard Referencing Essay Style: what is essay referencing, why do we use it, what is plagiarism, explaining the college's plagiarism policy, step-by-step how to integrate Griffith's Harvard referencing essay style into essays throughout the research, writing and editing process, and how to construct a well-structured, alphabetised bibliography.

Essay Skills 2: Title, Resources, Planning: dissection and interpretation of the essay title, contextualising it within the module outline, examining the instructions and details on the assignment brief, exploring relevant resources on Moodle, engaging in essay research, planning each section of the essay.

Essay Skills 3: Introduction, Body, Conclusion, Editing: what is an essay introduction, body and conclusion, how construct them properly, making the most of your research, planning and writing the introduction, the body and the conclusion of the essay, making sure you are still on-topic, how to edit each section for word count.