Obiettivi Formativi: The course aims to extend students’ knowledge of and ability to use grammatical, lexical and textual features of written academic English in a scientific context at B2 level, to develop students’ fluency in speaking English and to develop students’ skills in giving an academic presentation. An active approach is used, with students producing written texts and then correcting them individually and as a group. Students will both give a presentation to the class and give feedback on other students’ presentations.

Prerequisiti: Students must have a minimum of B1 level English.

Contenuti del corso:

Text types: Technical manual, problem-solution text, oral presentation on a technical topic

Vocabulary and style in technical and academic writing:
- Formal style
- Writing concisely
- Collocations
- Lexical chunks
- Extracting vocabulary from texts

Grammar: (as required)
- Relative clauses
- Indirect questions
- Participle clauses
- Reduced relative clauses
- Position of adverbs
- Principal tenses in technical writing (present tenses, past simple, present perfect)
- Quantifiers
- Abstract nouns
- Verb agreement
- Articles
- Gerund vs infinitive
- Compound nouns
- Nominalisation
- Passives
Text organisation and cohesion: (as required)
- ‘This’ cohesion
- Linkers and conjunctions
- Paragraphing
- Pronoun reference
- Lexical cohesion

Presentations:
- Lexical chunks for structuring presentations
- Word stress
- Pronunciation of individual words
- Suprasegmental features of pronunciation as necessary (sentence stress, intonation, linking)
- Speaker presence
- Interaction with the audience
- Delivery of information

Metodo didattico:
Lessons consisting of a mixture of teacher explanation, text analysis, practice exercises, and conversation/discussion in pairs or groups. During the lessons students will work together to prepare for writing, and to discuss the texts that they have produced and the presentations given.

Modalità di verifica dell’apprendimento:
A minimum of 75% attendance is required to take the final test.

The course is assessed at B2 level on the CEFR.

80% Final test in which the student is to write two texts. The test accounts for 80% of the final course score.
20% Presentation. The presentation is given during the course.
A minimum final course score of 60% is required to pass. The final grade is recorded as ‘Idoneo’ (60% or more) or ‘Non idoneo’ (59% or less).

Testi di riferimento:
Occasional use is made of the texts Academic Writing for Graduate Students, Swales & Feak (2004) and English Grammar and Technical Writing, Peter Master (2004). Students are not required to have a copy, and copies are available in the university Povo library for those who are interested.