Technical Writing – LM Computer Science (40 hours)

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 in class and online. Students will both give a presentation to the class and give feedback on other students’ presentations. The online work extends students skills in assessing the effectiveness and accuracy of writing.

Prerequisiti:

Contenuti del corso:

Text types: Technical manual, problem-solution text, thesis extract, 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
Punctuation
Countable/uncountable nouns

**Text organisation and cohesion:** (as required)
‘This’ cohesion
Linkers and conjunctions
Paraphrasing
Pronoun reference
Lexical cohesion
Placement of known/new information in a sentence

**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.

In the online part of the course, there are 5 modules and quizzes to be completed independently. Three text improvement exercises are submitted online, and students may be required to resubmit one or more of these exercises to meet a suitable standard. After viewing the solutions to the exercises, students have an opportunity to ask questions.

**Modalità di verifica dell’apprendimento:**

A minimum of 75% attendance is required to take the final test.

All activities in the online part of the course must be completed by the deadlines set. This work consists of 5 self-study modules and 5 follow-up quizzes to be completed by a given deadline, then 3 writing tasks, each with its own deadline, for a total of 4 deadlines that must be met to be eligible for the final test.

In accordance with the University’s Code of Ethics (signed by each student at the time of enrolment), answers to the 3 writing tasks must not be copied from the internet or from any other source, as this constitutes plagiarism. Students who submit plagiarized answers to the writing tasks will not be eligible for the final test.

The course is assessed at B2 level on the CEFR.

80% Final test in which the student is asked to write two texts and to complete two tasks that
focus on grammar, vocabulary, cohesion, paragraphing and academic register. 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.