Dear Student,

Welcome to your Academic English course. You are probably wondering what this course will offer you and what you will find in this course. Let me first reassure you about what you are getting yourself into. You are among the 7,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students who will take one of our courses this year – so you are in very experienced hands. Our goal is to assist you with the English you need for your professional and academic development so that you can approach your university studies with more confidence and a greater chance of success.

To achieve this goal you will find yourself in a small group of around twenty students where we encourage English to be spoken at all times. Your teacher will do his or her best to provide an active and supportive learning environment for you by arriving on time, being well prepared, providing tasks to help you engage with your learning, and by giving you feedback on your work in a timely manner. The teacher will also explain the course assignments and assessment criteria to you clearly in advance and answer any questions you may have about the course and about English language learning in general. He or she cannot, however, proofread your work for you or help you with assignments from other courses.

To get the most from your course, however, you need to participate in the class by arriving on time and being well prepared, by speaking in English as much as possible and by taking a full and active part in your classes, for example by working with others in group work. It is also important to attend all classes and to inform the teacher in advance if you need to miss a class.

I hope you enjoy your English course and wish you success in your studies. Good luck!

Prof. Ken Hyland
Director and Chair of Applied Linguistics