

English for Engineers

Student workload: 2 SWS

Course leader: David Potter

Course materials

The course leader will provide course materials week by week. These will comprise (extracts from) manuals, articles and further authentic resources on technical subject matter as well as worksheets.

Course content

The course materials will cover different branches of engineering, e.g. automotive, electrical and mechanical engineering.

The scope of engineering topics will be agreed in the first session. The course leader is willing to take account of participants' individual, subject-related interests.

Course objectives

To develop participants' English language skills and, in particular, their ability to:

- learn vocabulary,
- describe technical processes orally and in writing,
- understand key ideas in complex texts,
- summarise complex texts orally and in writing,
- describe and discuss technical problems in a group,
- put forward and/or contradict a viewpoint in group discussion.

Prerequisites: B1 (European Language Portfolio)

Method of teaching

Self-study time: students will have the opportunity to prepare for each session by completing tasks (e.g. worksheets). Tasks will include drafting descriptions of technical processes, summarising complex texts, and describing technical problems. See course objectives for further examples.

Class sessions: the course leader will supply the course materials, set the agenda for each class session and ensure that at least two students present their self-study work for group discussion and review. Furthermore, the course leader will provide guidance where required and oral feedback during each session.

Class sessions will thus adopt a classic seminar-type format that encourages presentations and group discussion by students in English. For the sake of clarity, at least two students will present the results of their preparation to the rest of the group during each class session. In this way each student will present his or her work to the group during at least one class session.

Assessment: written examination (60 minutes)

Other matters: if you have any questions, please ask (david.potter@hs-offenburg.de).