Web-based resources (for all Nursing and Midwifery students and staff)

During the teaching semester, the FLO site ‘English Language and Communications’ will be open for all students and staff. Interactive learning materials such as quizzes and audio materials will be available, as will study guides and advice on the English language and general communication. Up-to-date schedules of workshop topics and worksheets will also be posted on this site. Topic coordinators will be able to place a link to ‘English Language and Communications’ within their own FLO topic sites. Also, keep an eye on the School of Nursing & Midwifery website for new materials and information.

Lecture series: Fix your writing (open to all students)

This is a hands-on lecture which involves editing. During each lecture, a faulty piece of writing will be presented and students will be asked to find a number of errors. Students will be able to download the exercise in advance, if they wish. The answers will be explained and remedies to the problems offered. Questions may be asked throughout the lecture. The aim is to increase students’ awareness of writing errors and how to fix them.

Lecture series: Start writing (open to all students)

This lecture series provides step-by-step instruction, with examples and small exercises, on how to produce a piece of writing, such as an essay, letter or report. The activities include:

- define the purpose of your writing
- understand the letter, essay and report genre structures
- understand the four types of sentence
- formulate better summaries and take notes
- learn to paraphrase
- avoid plagiarism
- create paragraphs using topic, supporting and summary sentences
- use transition signals
- use correct punctuation.
The aim is to expand students’ knowledge of how to construct a piece of writing, express ideas clearly and match their written expression to the needs of the situation.

**Lecture series: IELTS 7 (specifically for international students)**

Each week a real-life section of a past IELTS test will be presented in the lecture and students will attempt the test. Sample answers and explanations will be provided thereafter. The aim is to give students regular contact with, and practice on, the range of tasks they need to face when they undertake the IELTS test.

**Speech-production workshops (limited places)**

A limited number of students will able to sign up for the intensive speech-production workshops. Workshop activities will involve role play, debate, charades, rapid-swap conversations etc. The aim is to increase students’ involvement in conversation with others and improve spontaneous speech. These workshops will require some voluntary work by native speakers of English.

**Needs-based workshops (limited places)**

A limited number of students will be able to sign up for the needs-based workshops. A different feature of communicative competence, such as improving telephone proficiency, understanding slang and perfecting pronunciation, will be explored each week, and non-verbal communication will also be taught. The aim is to increase students’ ability to communicate across different media, beyond the typical written text or face-to-face speech.