Targeting Language Support for Non-Native English-Speaking Graduate Students at a Canadian University

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ABSTRACT Universities and colleges in Canada and other English-speaking countries have become increasingly concerned with linguistic and cultural diversity and internationalizing their campuses, both to enhance local and international students' experiences on campus and to prepare them to function in their careers and the larger society. Most international students are non-native English-speaking (NNES) and need support to develop the English language proficiency required for engagement in the academic demands of the Canadian university milieu. This small-scale study at a Canadian university, by way of a survey and follow-up interview, addresses the gap in our understanding between academic skills that are required at the graduate level and those that learners of English find difficult. The findings suggest that by targeting academic skills that are both required and difficult, efficiency can be achieved in the design of programmatic supports for developing English for academic purposes (EAP). The findings further suggest that international students may lack independent strategies for advancing their English-language proficiency and that these too can be targeted in an EAP program.
Part time academic English courses are offered to teach non-native English speaking students academic writing, grammar, critical reading, conversation, and pronunciation. These courses are offered throughout the Fall and Winter terms, for both, undergraduate and graduate students. For the 2015-2016 Fall & Winter terms, these part-time academic English courses are being offered at a drastically reduced cost. The tuition fee has been reduced to $30 per course. These courses normally cost between $160 and $180. This tuition fee reduction will make these classes more accessible to students. For more information visit the English Language Centre website. UM Today Staff. english language centre, international students.