

English as a Second Language

Dickson College is a diverse and inclusive community, with students from many different countries – exchange students, international students, refugees and migrants. At any one time we might have students from Brazil, Italy, China, India, Burma, Thailand, Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Germany...anywhere in the world!



The ESL faculty is strong and active, whose aim is to support students from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds to access the curriculum and enjoy success at college and in their future lives. In 2010 International Private Students (IPS) at Dickson College achieved the highest average ATAR (87) for IPS in the ACT.

We offer support to all ESL students on a range of issues including housing and medical issues; we assist students with class choices so that their college package suits their abilities and aspirations.

Specialised ESL subjects

- Tertiary ESL
- Accredited ESL
- ESL Accounting
- ESL IT
- Bridging Intensive English Program
- Tutorials

Tertiary ESL – students can study a minor (2 units of ESL), a major (4 units) or a major-minor (6 units). Tertiary classes focus on academic writing and research, with explicit teaching of essay structure including paragraph writing and the use of topic sentences. We teach note-taking and summarising to assist students to avoid the perils of plagiarism. We also cater for more advanced students with units on literature and culture.

Accredited ESL – students improve their general English skills and world knowledge, with units focussing on topics such as multiculturalism, media, celebrations, environment and health.

ESL Accounting – the mainstream accounting course is taught in specialised classes for ESL students, so that the focus on is first and foremost on language to understand the concepts.

ESL IT – specialised classes cater for students with ICT experience who need extra language support and also for those who have had less ICT experience.

Bridging Intensive English Program – this program caters specifically for students who need extra support with language to access the broader curriculum.

Tutorials – students are encouraged to attend ESL tutorials for language assistance with work across a range of subjects.

For more information, contact Jenny Rae, Executive Teacher

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